

IOWA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS DOCUMENTATION FORM

What species? Golden Eagle How many? one
 Location: County Fayette Block 155 Auburn Township
 Location in detail Section 3 n, Three miles northeast of St
Lucas. Observed in flight heading due south
 Habitat? Paleozoic Plateau region, bluffs, scattered timber
 When? date? 28 May 1986 Time: 6:24 PM to 6:25 PM
 Observer? Name: Mark A. Dietzenbach
 Address: RRT #1 P.O. Box 72 Fort Atkinson Iowa 52144
 Telephone: (319) 534-7775

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Very large dark bird, gliding flat winged toward me from the north at a height of about 500 feet. As it passed over the following observations were made. The underside appeared uniformly dark with the wing linings appearing black. The head was definitely feathered, the tail slightly fanned. The entire bird proportioned like that of a Buteo except the wings were much longer. As I continued to observe I took note of the distinct flight pattern, soaring flat winged with occasional wing-beats, usually three or four in succession then another long glide. Flight was steady and in one direction, no tilting or rocking. Estimated flight speed 45 miles per hour.

Similar species and how eliminated: Turkey Vultures are smaller, their head is small and not feathered. They soar in a dihedral rocking and tilting unsteadily. Bald Eagle imm. has white areas in the wing linings, and shorter tail.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain: no

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used. Clear sky, evening sun shining on subject below and from behind me. Height approximately 500 feet. equipment used; 8 X 40 - 16 X 40 binoculars, with zoom.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

Golden Eagle; several have been observed during past winter, and spring migration. One at close range while it was perched on rocky ledge. I am familiar with their flight pattern.

Turkey Vultures; common summer resident, seen frequently, I am very familiar with their physical and behavioral characteristics.

Bald Eagle imm. common migrant, winter resident, seen often along river.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

No evidence of nesting at this time, other than bird observed in area during breeding season.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

A Field Guide To the Birds East of the Rockies; Roger Tory Peterson
Iowa Birds; Linsmore, Kent, Koenig, Peterson, Roosa
Darwin Koenig, was consulted

How long after observation were field notes made?
Field notes were made on the spot.

How long after observation was this form completed?

Same evening