



Schlarbaum

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LARRY J. WILSON, DIRECTOR

Wildlife Research Station
RR #1 Boone IA 50036
29 November 1990

Mr. Carl Bendorf
Fall Field Report Editor
845 Cypress Court
Iowa City IA 52245

Dear Carl:

This letter is to report a golden eagle sighted in Decatur County, Iowa on Sunday, November 25, 1990. While preparing Sunday dinner at my parent's farm at 11:33 a.m., my sister called out to come look at the large, dark bird flying over the house. At a height of approximately 75 yards, in perfect lighting, a dark eagle was indeed soaring by with a distinctive flat flight profile of the wings. Its tail had a distinctive white band and white on the underside of the wings was visible. The belly, head, wing edges and tail tip were black. There was an absence of white splotching throughout the body noted.

My work with the Nongame Program with the DNR includes numerous hawk watches and Bald Eagle Appreciation Days each year. At these events, upwards of 180 bald eagles per day have been observed, including numerous immature bald eagles. Considering the flat flight plane, size of bird, the white tail band, the white on the wings' undersides, we were convinced the bird was an immature golden eagle. The complete list of observers follows:

Kathy Schlarbaum
1283 School St.
Des Moines IA 50133

Pat Schlarbaum
RR 2
Ames IA 50010

Dale and Mildred Schlarbaum
RR 1
Leon IA 50144

The legal description is T69N R24W Sec. 17.

Good birding to you.

Sincerely,

Pat Schlarbaum
Nongame Wildlife Technician

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