

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle, immature How many? 1Location? n.w. Jasper County, along #330, south of #65 intersectionType of habitat? above fields along highwayWhen? date(s): April 30, 1990 time: 11:25 to 11:25 1/2 AMWho? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa

others with you: _____

others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

As we drove along highway #330 heading south I spotted 3 birds soaring in circles, all different sizes. The middle-sized appeared to be a buteo, but I concentrated on the largest bird. It was huge, with a slight dihedral, holding steady in the north wind. Seen against the bright sky it was an all-dark bird except for 3 white areas— 2 brilliant large white circles at the base of the primaries, showing like lights on the dark body. Also white was the base of the tail that had a dark terminal band. Looking like an overgrown buteo it flew directly overhead & slightly to my right, fairly low, as our car sped on. With the white areas where they were on an otherwise dark body it could have been nothing but an immature Golden Eagle.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Rough-leg dark-morph adult ♀ has a similar tail, but does not have an all-dark body & the white on underwings is near wing tips.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

A few light clouds, sun nearly south & high, distance (fairly low) estimated— no optical equipment— none necessary really.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a few Golden Eagles,References and persons consulted before writing description: none— Hawk books later written in, but memorized in my mindHow long before field notes made? 8 hours this form completed? April 30, 1990

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