

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle How many? 1Location? 1 mile north of Cherokee, Cherokee CountyType of habitat? Little Sioux River Valley. Hilly, woods, pasturesWhen? date(s): 28 October 1989 time: 10:45 to 11:00Who? your name and address: Dick Bierman 901 Harris Cherokee 51012others with you: Jim Quinnothers before or after you: None

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.

The bird was soaring overhead. When it flapped its wings I knew it was an eagle. Since bald eagles are fairly common this time of year I just commented to my friend that there was an eagle, probably an immature bald. I stopped and put my spotting scope on him. To my surprise I saw the large white tail band on the portion nearest the rump. I then looked for more conclusive marks. It had the white wrist spots on the underside of the wings. The rest of the bird was all dark. No light feathers. As it continued to circle above me I could also see the gold colored head and nape.

Similar species and how eliminated: Bald Eagle - An immature bald eagle has some white feathers on the body & wings. This bird was all dark except for the above mentioned places. Dark Phase Rough Leg - This bird was much larger and chunkier.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Bright overcast. 300 yards. 15x60 spotting scopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: I've seen Golden eagles many times in Wyoming and Arizona, also 2 or 3 times in Cherokee Co.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? ~~2 hrs.~~ this form completed? 2 hrs.

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