

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Golden Eagle, adult 2. Number 1
 3. Location s.e. Story County, north + west from Hendrickson's Marsh
 4. Date: March 19, 1983 5. Time Bird Seen: 1:30 P.M. to 1:40 P.M.
 6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
The huge body of the uniformly dark bird with its long, rounded wings, + its big head + powerful bill made it apparent it was an eagle + not a buteo. The dark wing linings seen as it passed directly overhead separated it from an immature Bald Eagle, + as it titted twice the whitish at the base of the tail (on the upper surface only) provided further proof that it was an adult Golden Eagle.
 7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
 8. Description of behavior: Lazily gliding and soaring over the fields all the time it was in view
 9. Habitat - general: farmland about 3 miles from Hendrickson's Marsh
specific: open, flat fields, bare with no crops
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Bald Eagle - no white head + tail of adult, + not an immature Bald Eagle as it had dark wing linings, not white in the linings.
Buteo - much too big for a buteo
 11. Distance (how measured)? closest was 40-50' above us, and further as it lazily soared + glided - (estimated)
 12. Optical equipment: binoculars 6x30, 7x35, 10x50 between us
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): overcast sky, but the light was behind us + on the bird as it approached + gradually flew off
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have seen a few Golden Eagles - and many Bald Eagles + buteos of various species
 15. Other observers: Mark Proescholdt, Phyllis Harris
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none that I know of
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Birds of N. America, Robbins, et al.; Field Guide to the Birds, 1980 and 1956 editions, Roger Tory Peterson; Audubon Guides, Richard Pough, Natural History of American Birds, Forbush + May - verified our observations + descriptions
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? wrote it immediately
- Signature: Beth Proescholdt Address: _____
Date: March 30, 1983 City, State: Liscomb, Iowa