

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle How many? 1

Location? Coralville Res, near A Hunt Bridge, Polk Co., IA

Type of Habitat? Upper area of reservoir - open areas

When? date(s): 26 March 1988 time: 6 p.m. to 1-2 a.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Keat, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Dick Tevandt (did not see bird)

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

I noticed a large, bateo-type bird soaring. It appeared all dark, but when I put binoculars on it I could see a distinct white area at base of inner primary and white to base of tail. White seen on wing and tail from above and below. Otherwise bird was all dark. Wings were long and broad; tail was long appearing as bird flew in strong NW wind. Wing tended to be held above horizontal and I never saw the bird flap its wings.

There was no other white on bird.

My initial impression of size suggested an eagle, but there were no other birds for comparison.



Similar species; how eliminated:

The pattern of white was too restricted for a dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk and too specific for other dark phase bateos. An immature Bald Eagle would have patchy white on wing coverts, axillars, and tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? _____
If yes, explain:

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

Sun behind and to my left. 1/4 mile at closest. Bird gradually soared away to south. 10x binocs.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen many

References and persons consulted before writing description: ~~Bob~~ Peterson

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? 15 hours

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).