

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle - immature How many? 1Location? West of Union - (Hardin Co.)Type of habitat? Rolling fields near a small creekWhen? date(s): April 14, 1989 time: 2:30 p.m. to 2:35 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Box 65, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: noneothers 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.

I was driving along the highway when I saw a small accipiter soaring. I slowed down and stopped, and then I saw this large dark bird soaring further away. It was a large bird flying with its wings held more or less straight across. I knew it was an eagle and thought it must be a Bald Eagle. But to my surprise and delight I saw white patches at the base of the primaries on the underside of the wings. Later when it banked, I saw a large white area on the tail at the base on the upper side with a large dark area at the tail tip. After a while a Redtail was soaring with the eagle and was much smaller and lighter in color than the eagle.

Similar species and how eliminated: An immature Bald Eagle has white markings in the wing linings and not at the base of the primaries. A Turkey Vulture has 2-toned wings and no white in the wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Partly sunny with sun behind me. Distances estimated at 300-500 yards.
8X30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few Golden Eagles and lots of Bald Eagles.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

R.T. Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds.

How long before field notes made? that evening this form completed? May 29, 1989

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240