

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? golden eagle How many? 2
Location? on Wren ave - at Claybanks Preserve, Cerro Gordo Co
Type of Habitat? wooded & river
When? date(s): Nov 23-97 time: 4:10 PM to _____
Who? your name and address: Rita Goranson
115 Lakeview Dr.
Mason City, IA 50401
Others with you: Curt Nelson, Carolyn Fischer, Jan Walter
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.

2 large ^{dark} birds - flew up and out of trees circling around - ~~the~~ the wings were held fairly straight but the bird was larger than a red tail hawk. As the one circled the light reflected the golden colored head & neck + into breast area. The large head & beak of an eagle species was observed. The other bird was dark & could not get coloring - probably an immature. Carolyn identified as an immature bald eagle

Similar species; how eliminated:

~~Later~~ later we saw (white head white tail) adult eagles - not the coloring of the first one

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO
If yes, explain:

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

4:10-4:20 pm so had sun beginning to go down & some shadows - 200 ft.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen several along river here.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? immediate this form completed? 2 wks

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