

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle How many? 1Location? Ames, Story County - flying overType of habitat? migrating over townWhen? date(s): 17 March, 1985 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010others with you: James Dinsmore, Ames

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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A very large hawk as evidenced by the slow, deep wingbeats and the fact that it appeared big, even at our distance away from it.

The wings were held straight out and flat, not tilted up.

The bird was all dark except for a small, white crescent on the underside of each wing, near the tip, and a narrow, white band near the base of the tail. The tip of the tail was dark.

Similar species and how eliminated:

other hawks eliminated by size and dark color white tail with dark terminal band,
Immature Bald Eagle eliminated by all dark color contrasting with ~~the~~ white tail that was sharply cut off by a dark terminal band

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain: _____

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

Light was excellent - sky clear, sun behind us. Viewing distance was estimated to be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mile, straight up. I used a B+L 20x Spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen Bald and Golden Eagles in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

NGS Field Guide to Birds of North America and an American Birds article on eagle identification, ~~1984~~ 1984

How long before field notes made? 3 hours this form completed? 2 weeks

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