

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

Species golden eagle 2. Number: 1

Location Coralville Reservoir, NW of Iowa City IA

Date: 28 Oct. 1975 5. Time Bird seen: ~ 11 AM to _____

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):

large hawk, long wings for size of bird (compared to say a redtail). no white visible anywhere (including primaries, secondaries, tail). flight profile very flat; once it showed a slight dihedral. neck fairly short, more like a rough-leg than a bald eagle. tail shorted and more widely fanned than bald, (again more like r-1 than b. eagle). Bill smaller for size of bird than a bald eagle's.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: soaring, turning into wind and flapping upwind, then soaring downwind.

9. Habitat - general: Coralville Res. - wooded ridge to N., extensive water and bare
specific: grassy flats in Res. area, then farmland to S.

0. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
imm bald eagle: proportions of head, neck and tail, no white in wing-linings
black r-1 hawk: lack of any white in primaries and secondaries, large size.

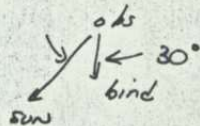
1. Distance (how measured)? 100 yds to 1 mile (est) 12. Optical equipment: 10X50 binocs. 20x60 scope.

3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Not the best - sun at a 30° angle. could easily see the pattern on a red-tail (belly band contrasting to light underparts, light wing-linings) at about the same angle, seen a few min. later.

4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
have seen 20-30 golden in my life (Pa, Wash state, Wyoming, Mont.) and many bald eagles and r-1 hawks

5. Other observers: none

6. Did the others agree with your identification? —



7. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: None
this is a 'soft' record but thought would send it in anyway. Debatable points: did not see white in primaries or 'gold' on neck, white in tail. I suppose that it could have been a coal-black-all-over roughleg, but the size of the bird would argue against it.

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? notes made on the spot, transcribed later in the day.

Signature Michael C Newlon Address: 128 GROVE ST

Date: 20 Nov. 75 City, State: Iowa City IA