

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Bald Eagle - unusual date 2. Number 1
3. Location Coraville Reservoir (Hawkeye Wildlife Area)
4. Date: Aug 4, 1979 5. Time Bird Seen: 0630 hrs to 0645 hrs
6. 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):

A very dark bird of prey was spotted sitting in the crotch of a large dead tree in the reservoir eating unidentified prey. Its size compared with the body size of several Gt. Blue herons perched in dead trees the same distance away (about 2 scope fields). The bird was initially seen in side view, had a strong hooked beak and was generally dark all over - ~~nothing~~ nothing was apparent. As it fed it carried a morsel out a nearby branch, walking up it with its wings extended but drooped - to balance itself. The entire upper surface of the left wing was dark except for a suggestion of white flecking near the base of the primaries. Later the bird flew - leaving the perch & heading away from the observer. The tail was not clearly seen.

7. Description of voice, if heard: no
8. Description of behavior: see above
9. Habitat - general: large flooded area (reservoir) filled with dead trees
specific:
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
habitat, absence of strong white patch at base of upper primaries make it unlikely for it to be a Golden Eagle.
11. Distance (how measured)? estimated 1/2 mile. 12. Optical equipment: 20x scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
light behind, rising sun not quite over the trees.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
15. Other observers: Helmi has reported an eagle in area before & identified it as a Golden
16. Did the others agree with your identification?
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
T. Kent observed an eagle in the area later in the week & identified it as a Bald
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Signature: Thomas K. Shires Address: 301 Woodridge
Date: Aug 7, 1979 City, State: IC, IA 52242