

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle - immature How many? 1Location? Western Grundy County - southwest of HollandType of habitat? Corn fields and bean fieldsWhen? date(s): Oct. 6, 1990 time: 5:10 pm. to 5:12 pm. - approximatelyWho? 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 a gravel road and watching for hawks when I saw a large dark buteo soaring. It looked all dark except for the large dark white spots on the upper wings and the underside of the wings. The undertail side was $\frac{1}{2}$ white to the base of the tail and $\frac{1}{2}$ dark to the end of the tail. I didn't see the top side of the tail. Through the window-mounted scope I saw a golden, tawny sheen on the head once. A buteo was in the field of view for a bit & the eagle was much larger than it. When soaring, the large dark wing tips were visible. A large grain truck was bearing down on me in a cloud of dust just a little after I was scoping the eagle. I chased ^{after} it across the fields along the roads and eventually lost it.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Immature Bald Eagles have white in different areas and lack the white areas in the wings of a Golden Eagle. Harlan's Redtails do not have the white spots in the wings or the definite white in the tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain: _____

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

Sunny - sun at the side, Distances were 150-200 yards estimated, Strong north wind, 8X30 Binocs and 22x Scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen quite a few Golden Eagles now, many Bald Eagles, a few Harlan's

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? a few minutes this form completed? Oct. 18, 1990

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