

Goellner

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
XI/6/85

Prof. Jim Dinsmore
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Ames, Iowa 50010 (sorry!)

Dear Jim,

The comments on Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) in Iowa Birds prompt us to submit the following documentation. I don't have Tom Kent's suggested form at hand but will try to cover salient points.

We saw one Golden Eagle yesterday, Nov. 5, 1985, over the Wapsipinicon R. in Maine Twp., Linn Co. at about 2 p.m.

Weather clear, sky bright blue, little wind, temp. about 54 degrees F.

Two observers, Ruth E. and Karl E. Goellner, with 8x 40 and 9x 35 binocs at as close as 250 ft. (est.) as the bird soared past, heading east.

Terrain heavily wooded, river margins low and sandy, lowland tree species.

Light was perfect (from behind us- full brilliant sun) and we saw a) rusty-golden head, nape and neck; b) dark, heavy eagle wings with no windows in primaries; c) clear bright white in crissum area and rump, between body and end of tail; d) dark, heavy single band at end of tail.

In the golden November light, it was a beautiful sighting!

Judging by comments in Vol. I, Master Guide (Audubon Society), p. 254, by David L. Evans, we think this may have been a subadult, with primary windows already replaced but white feathers at crissum and rump- very clear and visible. The golden head, nape, and upper neck were unmistakable.
