

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

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Golden Eagle (immatures) 2. Number: 2

3. Location Allamakee County, Hanover Twp.

4. Date: Nov 11, 1978 5. Time Bird seen: 2:00 p.m. to 2:05 p.m.

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):

Very large size, long broad wings, large white patches (visible both above and below) at base of primaries, white tail with broad dark terminal band, large head and beak, body uniformly dark colored

7. Description of voice, if heard: a rapid, high pitched kyip; having a "peeping" quality

8. Description of behavior: soaring along the face of a bluff, one bird about 100 yds behind the other

9. Habitat - general: rugged hills with open fields and timber interspersed
specific: soaring along a long ridge which rises about 200 ft above the Upper Iowa River valley

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Rough-legged Hawk (dark phase)--smaller, different proportions (long, narrow, tapered wings, small head and bill), underwings usually have more white and the white patches rarely show on the upper wing surface

11. Distance (how measured)? about 150 yds out and 200 ft up
topo map

12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): partly cloudy, sun behind and slightly to left of me as I viewed birds

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: 20 yrs birdwatching; numerous observations of GE in NE Iowa and 2yrs in Utah

15. Other observers: None

16. Did the others agree with your identification?
NA

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
NA

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
None

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?
Notes taken at time of observation

Signature Darwin Koenig Address: RR4

Date: 12/1/78 City, State: Decorah, Iowa 52101