

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Golden Eagle 2. Number 2 (1 adult, 1 imm.)
3. Location North east Iowa - along Hwy A-26 in Allamakee County
4. Date: Nov. 14, 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: Both were seen probably in A.M. to around 10 or 10:30
birds were not together but in same area
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):
- 1. Size - very large - much bigger than red-tails also soaring in area ^{about} - same as bald eagles also present
 - 2. Shape - very long rounded wings - wide fanned tail -
 - 3. Color - Both were dark brown overall except that:
 - 1. Imm. had white tail with wide dark brown terminal band and some white patches on underside of wings (windows - just inside primaries)
 - 2. Adult showed no white except for ~~some~~ a little on underside near base of tail and the head + neck appeared lighter brown (light was not right to give good view of golden color)
7. Description of voice, if heard: NA
8. Description of behavior: Both birds were soaring over rocky hills - both were with bald eagles
9. Habitat - general: hilly, forested area of northeast Iowa
specific: birds were apparently catching updrafts along rocky ridges
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Imm. bald eagle is somewhat similar but appears more mottled with white and does not have white tail with wide terminal black band as in imm. golden
11. Distance (how measured)? 100 yd. (closest) to 300 yd. - by guess?
12. Optical equipment: B+L 7x35 roof prism binoculars
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Partly cloudy to overcast (fairly bright) day - birds were north of us - sun behind
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I have seen 2 other golden in Iowa and several in Ariz. - I am very familiar with the immature bald eagle.
15. Other observers:
Francis Moore
Darwin Koenig
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Darwin Koenig
Francis Moore
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
None
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 week
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: 11-21-81 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa 50601