

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle (immature) How many? 1Location? Grundy County - approximately 1 1/2 miles N. of ConradType of habitat? Open fields of corn and beans, evergreen grove by farmsteadWhen? date(s): October 7, 1985 time: 11:10 to 11:13 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers 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.

As I was driving along toward Conrad, a large dark "hawk" came from behind a large evergreen grove at a farmstead about 50-70 yards away in front of me. I dug for my binoculars and watched it from 100-200 yards away as it soared away from me. There were strong SE winds that morning and it was soaring in a southwesterly direction. This was a big bird and I thought it might be a turkey vulture at first until I had better looks at it. As it was soaring away, it was turning around and I had good looks at both top and under sides of bird several times.



Similar species and how eliminated: A dark-phase Rough-legged Hawk has lots of white on the underwing flight feathers. Immature Bald Eagles show varying degrees of white on wing linings and body. Turkey Vultures show no white on them.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy with sunlight filtering through. The sunlight or sun's position was at my side while viewing - good visibility. Distances estimated, 7x35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen one immature Golden Eagle, many immature Bald Eagles and TVs, some dark-phase Rough-legs.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Birds East of the Rockies guide, Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, and American Birds

How long before field notes made? immediately this form completed? Oct. 9, 1985

afterwards including rough sketches

and American Birds  
sept.-oct.  
1983