

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings
In Iowa

Species? Golden Eagle (immature) No. 1

Location Ledges State Park, Boone County

Habitat NOT applicable - bird was flying high over area

Date(s) March 25, 1988 Time: 11:05 to 11:10

Name and Address: Douglas A. Reeves

Other Observers: K. Pat Schlarbaum, James Kienzler

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 behavior and voice.

Distinguishing marks we observed were ① a large soaring bird, mostly dark with white "windows" of elongated shape about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way out the wing; ② a whitening whitish upper (proximal) part of the tail and a dark outer band at the end of the tail. A very large raptor - larger than the 2 red-tailed hawks that were screaming at it and circling near it when we first discovered the bird.

Similar species and how eliminated:

① Black Vulture is @ out-of-range and ⑥ does not have white tail with black band - also white on wings is in primary feathers. ② Immature bald eagle does not have such a distinct oval patch of white on under wings and does not generally have a white tail with a black terminal band

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudless sky, bird above us. wing patches + tail showed up nicely because of overhead lighting. Used Swift 8.5x44 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

my first immature golden eagle. Pat has seen many in Idaho + Colorado. Jim has seen immatures in the west. U.S.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None - I am writing this at 11:25 same day. Looked at NWF Field I.D. pamphlet for North American Raptors.

How long before field notes made? 15 minutes this form completed?

15 minutes

P.S. - Saw a Cooper's Hawk on the way in this morning - by Dick Kaduce's house.

DAR

Mail to: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240