DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle How many? 1 imm.

Location? Badger Creek State Park

Type of habitat? Timbered area around small man-made lake

When? date(s): October 30, 1982 time: 12:15pm to 12:30pm

Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, RR2, Box 153 Perry, Iowa 50220

others with you: Eugene + Eloise Armstrong

others before or after you: —

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.

This bird was observed as it soared and circled while moving north to south. The shape was of a very large, buteo (hawk-like) bird being much larger than a red-tailed hawk. Bird had long, wide wings. The overall color was dark brown on dorsal and ventral sides. The bird's tail was white with a fairly wide black (or dark) Terminal band. The width of the band was about 20% of the length of the tail. The bird also had white patches at the base of the inner primaries and outer secondaries. These patches were visible on dorsal and ventral side of each wing. As the bird banked in the sunlight it was very easy to note a very golden sheen to the feathers of the eagle's neck.

There were no other whitish marks on the bird other than the wing patches and the tail, and the wing patches did not touch in to the underwing lining.

Similar species and how eliminated: Imm. Bald eagle is eliminated by the tail pattern, by the lack of white spots on wing linings, and by the golden sheen seen on the birds neck.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Bright sunny day but good light from side - distance was probably at least 300 yd. - used 20 + 45 X scope + 10x40 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen goldens many times

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? NONE MADE this form completed? 1 day

MAIL TO: E. H. [redacted] Spring, Field Reports Editor, [redacted], [redacted] IA [redacted]
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