

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

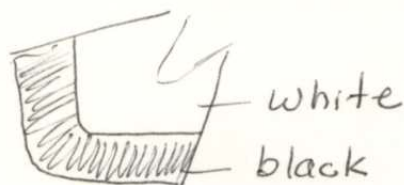
What species? Golden Eagle, immature How many? 1Location? Grammer Grove WA, n. Marshall County, central IowaType of habitat? fields adjacent to wooded ridge paralleling Iowa RiverWhen? date(s): October 18, 1990 time: 2:10 to 2:12 PMWho? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa

others with you: _____

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.

I was watching for hawks at Grammer Grove when I spotted a large dark bird low in the gap between a pine planting and a row of spruces. I ran to see it in the open as it was soaring lazily toward me, low over the open area. Seeing white on the tail I thought "Rough-leg". But this bird had absolutely flat wings as it approached head-on, not with the Rough-legs' "up-and-out" wing pattern. Then it tilted and I saw the white patches at the base of the flight feathers underneath - not as vivid as some I've seen, but rather subdued. And finally the long fanned tail with the white tail base & wide black terminal band. Three spots of white on an otherwise



dark bird - no splotchiness as on a Bald Eagle, no dihedral as in a Turkey Vulture, and I knew I was seeing an immature Golden Eagle.

Similar species and how eliminated: Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Rough-legged Hawk - explained above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain: _____

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
 Clear skies, sun behind me, 100-150 yards, 8x30 Nikon binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen all of them several to many times,

References and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? at once this form completed? October 18, 1990

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