

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species golden eagle, imm. 2. Number: 1
3. Location Kent Park, ~ 10 miles west of Iowa City IA
4. Date: 12-6-75 5. Time Bird seen: 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm  
(seen twice) (total ~ 20 min)
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):  
plumage: completely blackish, except for a broad white band occupying the basal 2/3 of the tail. bill dark. Bird seen twice, once being harassed by crows, once soaring with an imm. bald eagle. Its wingspan was about 4 1/2 x that of crows, and was equal to that of the bald eagle. The more massive neck, head, bill of the bald eagle were quite conspicuous compared to the golden.
7. Description of voice, if heard: —  
[Only 'classic' field mark not obs was white at base of primaries - feel sure that I could have seen it if present since could easily see the white feathering in the plumage of the imm bald (body + wing linings) and the yellow of the bald's bill.]
8. Description of behavior: 1<sup>st</sup> seen being chased by a flock of crows; it soared, gained altitude, rose above them to a great height, moved off to north on a long slant. Second time was soaring with imm. bald eagle, in circles at several hundred feet up;
9. Habitat - general: soaring over area of stubble  
specific: fields, old fields growing up to brush, farms
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: watched for 10-15 min; did not flap once during this time.  
'ringed' tail; proportions of head, neck, bill; lack of any white in wing-linings on body plumage: all eliminate imm. bald eagle.  
great size, lack of white in primaries eliminate black rough-leg.
11. Distance (how measured)? 1000' - 1 mile (est.) 12. Optical equipment: 10x50 binoc.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sky clear, sun behind observer.
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Have seen bald + golden eagles on numerous occasions, in Md., Mass, Pa (Hawk Mtn), Wash State, Mont., Wyoming. also familiar with eastern Buteo; and have some field experience with western (of Swainson's, Ferruginous)
15. Other observers: NONE
16. Did the others agree with your identification? —
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —
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? 2 hr.

Michael C Newlon  
Signature

Address: 128 Grove St

Date: 12-9-75

City, State: Iowa City, IA, 52240