

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) How many? 2 (1 ad., 1 im.)Location? County Road A26 in Allamakee County, IowaType of habitat? Limestone bluffs near upper Mississippi River in IowaWhen? date(s): November 21, 1982 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 264 Western Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701others with you: Bob Myers, Joe Schaufenbuel, John Robinson, Peter Peterson, m.ob.others before or after you: Hank Zalatel saw this species the day before in same general vicinity.

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.

Birds seen were very large, eagle size birds. The immature bird had some white showing near the base of the primaries on the under wing surface. Not nearly as much as ~~was~~ the immature Bald Eagles seen in the same general vicinity before and after this bird. This immature Golden Eagle also had a wide band of white on the upper part of its tail with a broad dark brown terminal band. The bird was an overall dark brown on the belly, head, neck and upper and lower wings. The neck had an area of lighter or more golden brown on it on the upper neck. The adult bird seen a few minutes after the ~~adult~~ immature had the same general coloration with the exceptions the the tail contained no white in it and there was no white in the wings at the base of the primaries. The adult bird did have the golden colored feathers at the back of the neck as the immature bird did. Neither bird had a particularly massive looking bill as an immature Bald Eagle would seem to have.

Similar species and how eliminated: Immature Bald Eagle has a more massive looking bill and are more mottled with white or light colored areas on the upper and lower surfaces of the wings. These birds did not have this characteristic.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Viewing conditions were bright overcast to sunny. Birds viewed from approx. 150 to 200 yards at closest with 7x35 mm B&L Roof Prism binoculars and 20x60 Bushnell Spacemaster telescope mounted on a gun-stock type mount.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen Golden Eagles in N.E. Iowa for last couple of years and have lots of experience with immature Bald Eagles.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? time of observation this form completed? 2 days

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