

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Golden Eagle 2. Number: 1 immature
 3. Location Des Moines River, just below Saylorville Dam
 4. Date: 12/4/85 5. Time Bird seen: 10:00 AM to 10:15

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): Immediately appeared different than the immature Bald Eagles commonly seen in this area: contrast on tail and at base of primaries was vivid, & brown of body was much richer.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: flew away low over river; sat in tree for a while; flew up river, circled back directly over head

9. Habitat - general: Des Moines river channel below Saylorville dam
 specific: open water, modest sized maple, cottonwood, mallards and few other ducks in area (goldeneye, C. merganser)

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: white in wing of imm. Bald is less vivid, blotchy and on coverts, not base of primaries. also white on tail not so vivid or banded as was this one. Body color was darker than Bald.

11. Distance (how measured)? 100 feet overhead, 50 yds flying low & away (estimate) 12. Optical equipment: 7x50

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): Sunny, snow on ground, north of me.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: first encounter; Bald Eagle common in this area.

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: Peterson - confirmed

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 hour

Obery Engelberson Address: 6492 James Francis Place
 Signature

Date: 12/4/85 City, State: IA 50131