

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Bald Eagle How many? 1Location? Farmland-Southeast corner of Cass County, IowaType of habitat? Cropland with scattered treesWhen? date(s): December 30, 1981 time: 1:00 pm to 1:05 pmWho? your name and address: Craig Hensley, 13 Ridge Road Atlantic, Iowa 50022others with you: Dennis Sierck, Ed Ritterothers before or after you: None

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.

A large raptor first seen perching in a tree. Unmistakenly a Bald Eagle as it had a white head and tail and brownish body, including brown underparts. It flew directly overhead but made no sounds. No questions about the identification. This was the first eagle I have seen or heard about in Cass County.

Similar species and how eliminated: Only the Golden Eagle is similar, that being when the bald eagle is immature. The mature bald eagle stands alone.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Partly Cloudy, first seen from an estimated 300 feet away and then from as close as 50 feet as the bird flew overhead, no optical equipment necessary or used.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen many of these while in Arkansas

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 30 minutes this form completed? several weeks

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