

1980 Yellow River Forest, Iowa CBC

Golden Eagle (immature)

Three observers watched the eagle for about 3 minutes as it soared over a small valley at distances from 500 feet to $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile. Sky clear. Observers with 7x and 10x binoculars. Two observers with previous field experience with both Bald and Golden Eagles. Red-tailed Hawk flying in same vicinity as eagle.

Field marks: much larger size (as compared to redtail); head and body uniform dark brown or black except for a large white patch at base of primaries and white tail with broad dark terminal band; wings held flat in soaring.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (immature)

Five observers watched it for about 5 minutes at a distance of 10 feet. All observers with previous field observations of sapsuckers, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. Sky clear.

Field marks: head brown checkered with black, white malar and eyelines; whitish throat; back brown checkered with black; wings black with long white patch; breast light brown with scattered dark spots; belly brownish white. No verticle white stripe on back as found on Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Eastern Phoebe

Four observers watched the bird for about 10 minutes at distances as close as 10 feet. All observers with previous field experience with phoebes and all observers were aware of the unusual nature of the sighting at the time (i.e., that phoebes, though quite common in the area during summer, are not found in Iowa or even close to Iowa in winter. Sky clear. All observers with 7x binoculars.

Field marks: black upper and lower mandibles; throat, breast, belly and undertail coverts a dull white; head (except throat) a dark grey almost black and noticeably darker than back and tail; no eyering; back, tail and wings a brownish grey color, fairly uniform though both wings and tail appeared darker than back; 2 indistinct light wingbars; constant tail wagging when perched. The bird was found in the same area the next day.

It was found in a deep wooded valley that has a small trout stream running through it. Numerous springs along this section of the stream stay open in even the hardest winters. The phoebe stayed near open stretches of water, perching close to the water surface on weed stalks or willow branches. It was frequently observed to swoop over the surface of the water, presumeably catching insects.