

23 May 1986

Dr. Tom Kent
211 Richards St.
Iowa City, IA 52240

Dear Dr. Kent:

Enclosed is a field reports form for sightings in April and May. As always, I mentioned these to Bob Cecil and he encouraged me to write to you.

The sighting he was extremely excited about was that of an adult bald eagle north of Toolesboro. I was traveling from Columbus Junction to Burlington on 99 at about 2:30 PM on 14 May 1986 when I saw the bird circling and moving west. I pulled over and observed the bird, which was coming from the direction of Lake Odessa, for almost ten minutes. Another car pulled over, and I pointed out the bird to the man and woman who had stopped. The bird was absolutely unmistakable - white head, white tail, brownish-black body, wings held straight out. The bird circled, moving west, quite low, until it was directly over our cars (so low, in fact, we could see the sun shining through its wings, highlighting individual feathers).

Bob said that any sighting of a mature bald eagle at this time of the year in southeast Iowa means that it must be nesting. The sighting was just north of the turn-off sign to Lake Odessa, five miles off 99. Since the bird was coming from that direction, possibly it found a suitable nesting site. I'll be going up there this weekend to see if I can find the eagle again.

If you have any questions, please call or write.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Christiansen

4120 Y camp Rd.
Burlington, Ia.
52601

