

Lawrence, Douglas Co., Kansas

March 23, 1956

The following information from a letter from Dad on his investigation of the golden eagle in Utah. "March 23rd was the day to investigate nesting golden eagles - specifically the pair using the Goshute Pass, Utah Co. aerie. This date was chosen as many eggs of this species collected April 1st and later were advanced in incubation - skeletal elements showing. The day was sunny and springlike with midday temperature in the 60's. Grandson Dan B. Jensen accepted an invitation to accompany me and before the day was far spent he was thoroughly enjoying the delving into the marvels of the out-of-way places.

The usual roadside birds were noted - English sparrow, robin, meadowlark, horned lark, crested gull, red-wing and yellow-headed blackbirds and the Calif. gull. Five tared grebes were enjoying the waters of Spring Lake Reservoir. Near Goshute, on a shallow pond fed approx. 25 migrating pintails. They were nervous, when we stopped the car for a count, there were those among them which began swimming toward the off shore while others made short flights to increase the distance between us. Five canvas-back ducks swam on the waters of Gilbert Reservoir. Two Treganza blue heron flushed from the shore of the same. A ferruginous rough leg hawk and three raven were observed along the power pole line southwest of Masida. A short-eared owl left the edge of a stack of tumbleweeds to make a short flight.

As the car was stopped approx a quarter of a mile east of the known golden eagle aerie of Goshute Pass, we observed a bird of this species flying slowly over the nesting ledge, reconnoitering the while. The appearance of the eagle was encouraging and we hoped the aerie would furnish a nesting record. Shouldering the cameras and collecting box we made our way toward the talus slope. Beginning the ascent of the slope, the nesting eagle flushed to join aloft her mate. Approaching humans on the eagles nesting terrain is usually considered ill-omen by these birds. They leave immediately when intruders are seen to enter on their domain and the eagles remain a safe distance until the unwanted leave. As we proceeded the female returned to alight on the nest for a