

## LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

89-68

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of unusual birds. It may be used flexibly and need not be used at all. Leave blank any details not observed. Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, etc.; include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to the Secretary of the LOS Bird Records Committee.

1. Common and scientific name: Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g. 2ad. in breeding plumage): 1 immature
3. Locality: Louisiana: Jefferson Davis Parish: 6 mi. S Welsh  
on Hwy. 99
4. Date(s) when seen: found injured 26 November 1986
5. Times of day when seen: —
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann, LSU Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge LA 70803. [did not find bird.]
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
NA
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:  
→ William Evans, US Fish and Wildlife Service found bird and brought it to LSUMNS.
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
NA
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
NA
11. Distance to bird: NA
12. Duration of observation: NA
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
found on bank of crayfish pond
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):  
found on ground - injured; W. Evans brought this bird to the Museum, he thought the bird was near death; S. Cardiff and I received the bird... and it was far from death. Angelo Capparella transported the bird to the LSU Raptor Rehabilitation Unit at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.
15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen. Include if possible: total length; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, and leg characteristics; color and pattern of plumage, etc. Stress field marks):  
The moment I peered into the bird's cardboard box, it was obvious that it was an immature Golden Eagle. It is large size, much larger than a Red-tailed Hawk, dark brownish-black plumage and pointed "golden" hackles around the bird's nape immediately eliminated Bald Eagle.  
When I was employed by the Raptor Rehabilitation Unit in April '87, the bird was still a patient. The bird was admitted with a ruptured crop - a "fist-sized" hole was repaired. Radiographs of the initial wound showed no traces of gunshot fragments.

The bird was released at Laccasine NWR on May 1, 1987 by myself, a number of the unit's student volunteers. The release was "covered" by State Times/Morning Advocate reporter Sarah Sue Goldsmith. An article about the bird appeared in the Sunday magazine section. Pre-release coverage was carried in a "short" by Leo Haneycutt on local Channel 2 - WBRZ-TV. and in Lake Charles.

16. Voice: silent

17. Similar species (include how they are eliminated by your observations):

Bald Eagle eliminated by golden hackles - broad white bases to flight feathers of the underwing and tail [tail primarily white, banded at tip ~~white~~ with blackish brown.]

see attached photograph.

18. Photographs (Was it photographed? By whom? Attached?):

published in Morning Advocate/State Times Sunday Magazine, video tape coverage from TV spots, photos by myself  
[one color print attached - taken by unknown student]

19. Previous experience with this species:

extensive experience in California.

20. Aids: List books, illustrations, birders, etc. used in identification

a) at time of observation;

b) after observation:

21. This description written from: \_\_\_\_\_ notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation;  memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification? . If not, explain:

23. Signature of reporter: Donna L. Dittmann

24. Date and time of writing this account:

20 March 1989.



Imm. Golden Eagle  
LSU Raptor Rehabilitation Unit  
photo taken Feb. 1987

Golden Eagle: found 26 NOV 86, Jefferson Davis  
Par.; 6 mi S Welsh by William Evans;  
brought alive to RRU with ruptured crop  
released: Cameron Par.; Lacassine NWR  
1 MAY 87 by Donna L. Dittmann