

**L. O. S. Bird Record's Committee Report Form**

- 1. English and scientific name:** Golden Eagle. Aquila chrysaetos.
- 2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 immature.
- 3. Locality. Louisiana:** Jefferson Davis Parish. Hiway LA-99; the nearest intersecting hiway was 7-99-C; just south of Bayou Chene, about 5 miles north of intersection of Hiway 99 and Hiway LA-14.
- 4. Date(s) seen:** 24 October 1991.
- 5. Times of day seen:** 10:06 AM.
- 6. Reporting observer and address:** Al Smalley and Gwen Smalley, 88 Egret Street, New Orleans, LA 70124.
- 7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** Joseph Feldner.
- 8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:** None.
- 9. Light conditions:** Partly cloudy; excellent light.
- 10. Optical equipment:** 7X Zeiss; 10X Zeiss; 10X Leitz binoculars.
- 11. Distance to bird:** Difficult for us to estimate, but the "gold" nape was clearly visible, and Joseph noted the darker shafts of the basal part of the primaries. Photographs were not obtained until bird was at a greater distance.
- 12. Duration of observation:** About 15 minutes, part of this time "chasing" it in the car.
- 13. Habitat:** Ricefields with scattered woodland and weedy overgrown fields.
- 14. Behavior:** Circling in flight.
- 15. Description:** Broad wings and tail with very steady flight and slight dihedral - immediately recognized from vehicle as not a TV and not a Red-

tailed Hawk. Head relatively small compared to Bald Eagle. Nape and back of head golden brown. Wing coverts both above and below completely dark, primaries white basally both above and below. White on the lower surface of the wing elongate, evidently extending to the secondaries although not mentioned in Al's field notes. The white without dark mottling or streaking. White on upper surface of wings not as elongate, more of a round patch, also obviously confined to the primaries; i.e., a sharp line between the primaries and the coverts. Tips of primaries frequently raised in flight. Tail long compared with Bald Eagle (also compared with Haliaeetus albicilla by Joseph). Tail white above and below with broad black terminal band.

**16. Voice:** Not heard.

**17. Similar species:** The wing pattern and head and nape color of immature Golden Eagle is diagnostic; there are no closely similar species.

**18. Photographs:** Two photos by Joseph Feldner and Al Smalley. Best seen with loupe.

**19. Previous experience with species:** Al and Gwen in Colorado, Arizona, Alaska, Scotland, Spain; Joseph grew up with them in Austria. Neither Gwen nor Al can remember ever seeing an immature Golden Eagle.

**20. Aids: Books etc. (a) at time of observation:** "Geo" Guide.

**(b) after observation:** Porter et al. "Flight Identification of European Raptors".

**21. This description written from:**  notes made during observation;  notes made after observation;  memory. The attached field notes and sketch were completed at about 10 PM the day of the observation.

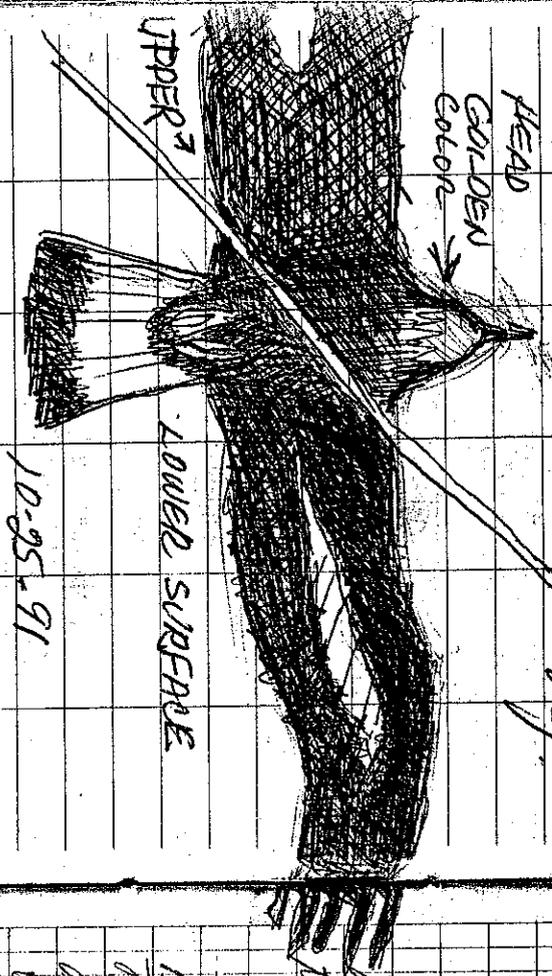
**22. Are you positive of your observation?** Yes.

**23. Signatures of reporters:**

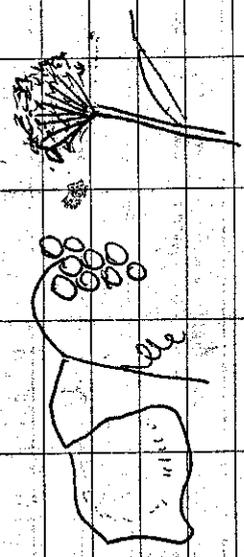
*Al Smalley* *Thomas D. May*

**24. Date and time of this account:** 30 October 1991; 11:00 AM.

1  
 I have the head too  
 10/9



10-25-91



11:35 Golden Eagle.  
 25 Oct 91

LA 99 + 7-99-E  
 p. 5 m. N. LA 14 14 99

Broad wings + Tail nearly equal  
 black and steady evidence of flight also -  
 tinged from TV

Head relatively small (compared to  
 B. e.) Nape + back of head golden

Both surfaces of wings white to light  
 part coverts have some of primary of  
 white,

Tail white above and below with  
 broad black terminal band.

White on lower surface of wing  
 plumes very white with just  
 and wing edge. But for feet tail  
 part very white and in primary  
 part very white. The white  
 on fine upper surface not so  
 elongate as of B. e. and white  
 also extremely confined to primary.

The tips of the primaries are raised  
in flight, ~~no~~ character of these  
spp.

Ricefield country with  
scattered woodland.

Given - Josef additionally  
noted longer tail than Bald  
Eagle (or less Eagle for Josef).

These notes completed about 10 PM.

25 Oct 91