

LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE  
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: ✓ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Louisiana Hwy 99 X 1126
4. Date(s) when seen: February 16, 1992
5. Times of day when seen: 3:30 - 4:00 P.M.
6. Reporting observer and address: Phillip Wallace, 4515 S. Prieur St.,  
New Orleans, LA 70125
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
Curt Sorrells
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird:
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):  
Good to fair; initially to the northeast of us and Hwy 99, then soaring to the WNW.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
Zeiss 10X40 binoculars
11. Distance to bird: 100 - 400 yd.
12. Duration of observation: 10 minutes
13. Habitat (general and specific):  
Soaring over highway and fields.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc.; include and stress any habits used in identification):  
Flying; soaring
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):  
Very large raptor; dark.  
Tail primarily white with large, dark terminal band.  
White at the base of the primaries on the underwing.  
Golden sheen on head (back of head and nape)  
Small headed for such a large raptor.

1. Field notes: (If available, please refer to the field notes for a more detailed description of the bird.)

2. Photographs: (If available, please refer to the photographs for a more detailed description of the bird.)

16. Voice: *None*

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

*Bald Eagle has more extensive white in under wings and less well defined tail pattern; no golden sheen on head.*

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

*Slides by Wallace accompanying report.*

19. Previous experience with this species:

*Seen a few times out west and in south Texas.*

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

a) at time of observation;

b) after observation: *NGS Field Guide*

21. This description written from:  notes made during observation; \_\_\_\_\_ notes made after observation; \_\_\_\_\_ memory. *Notes taken by Sorrells*

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

23. Signature of reporter: *Shelly Wallace*

24. Date and time of writing this account:

*June 15, 1992*

## REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the LBRC Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or this format when submitting records for review (to assure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please print or type. Attach drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos if an obscurely marked species. When completed, mail to: LBRC Secretary, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216.

1. English and scientific name: GOLDEN EAGLE (AQUILA CHRYSAETOS)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2ad. in breeding plumage): ONE, IMMATURE
3. Locality: LA. JEFFERSON DAVIS  
state parish  
ONE-TWO MILES SOUTH OF WELSH, LA. ON HIGHWAY LA. 99.  
specific locality AT INTERSECTION OF LA. 1126.
4. Date(s) when seen: FEBRUARY 16, 1992
5. Times of day when seen: 3:50 - 4:00 P.M.
6. Reporting observer and address: CURTIS SORRELLS  
8654 PONTCHARTRAIN BLVD No. 8  
NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70124
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:  
PHILLIP WALLACE
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird: NONE
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): GOOD. SUN WAS TO OUR BACKS, ABOUT 30° ABOVE THE HORIZON SHINING ON THE BIRD WHILE IT WAS FLYING.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):  
ZEISS 10X 40B - GOOD CONDITION
11. Distance to bird: 100 YDS - 400+ YDS.
12. Duration of observation: 10 MINUTES
13. Habitat: BIRD WAS FLYING OVER OPEN FIELDS, WITH OCCASIONAL WOODED FENCE ROWS AND WOOD LOTS.
14. Behavior (flying, feeding, resting, etc. - include and stress any habits used in identification):  
BIRD WAS FLYING - PRIMARILY SAILING WITH NO OR LITTLE WING FLAPPING. IT WAS ABOUT 100 YDS. AWAY. AT FIRST OBSERVATION, AND GRADUALLY INCREASED THE HEIGHT AND DISTANCE AWAY FROM US, AS IT ROSE ON AIR CURRENTS, DRIFTING TO THE NORTHWEST.

15. Description (Include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen). Include if possible: total length or relative size compared to other species present or familiar species; body bulk; shape, bill, eye, leg and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species:

A VERY LARGE RAPTOR. HEAD, WINGS, AND BODY WERE DARK BROWN. A WHITE SPOT WAS PRESENT ON EACH WING, AT THE BASE OF THE PRIMARIES, ONE-THIRD OF THE WAY IN FROM THE TIP; NEAR THE "WRIST". THE TAIL WAS WHITE WITH WIDE, DARK TERMINAL BAND ON THE OUTER ONE-THIRD OF THE TAIL. A GOLDEN SHEEN WAS OBSERVED ON TOP OF HEAD AND NECK. HEAD SEEMED RELATIVELY SMALL. WINGS HELD FLAT WHILE SOARING.

16. Voice:

NONE

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

IMMATURE BALD EAGLES HAVE BLOCHY WHITE ON BROWN UNDERPARTS AND DOES NOT HAVE THE SHARPLY DEFINED WHITE AND BROWN, TWO-TONED TAIL. NEITHER SPECIE OF VULTURE HAS WHITE ON TAIL. ALL OTHER DARK OR DARK-PHASED HAWKS ARE SMALLER, AND DO NOT HAVE THE WHITE SPOTS ON THE WINGS, AND THE SHARPLY DEFINED TWO-TONED TAIL. ALL KITES, ACCIPITERS, AND FALCONS ARE SMALLER WITH DIFFERENT WING AND BODY SHAPES. BLACK HAWK IS SMALLER, WITH RELATIVELY WIDER WINGS, SHORTER TAIL WITH A NARROW WHITE BAND ON THE TIP OF THE TAIL.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained (By whom? Attached?):

PHOTOGRAPHS OBTAINED BY PHILLIP WALLACE (QUALITY ?)

19. Previous experience with this species:

LIMITED - SEEN 2 PREVIOUSLY OUT WEST.

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

a) at time of observation: NGS GUIDE, PETERSON, AUDUBON MASTER GUIDE

b) after observation: " " " " " "

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

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

23. Signature of reporter:

Curtis C. Sorells

24. Date and time of writing this account:

8:00 P.M.

MARCH 18, 1992