

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Report Form

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

1. English and Scientific names: Golden Eagle ([?]*Aquila chrysaetos*)
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage: one in immature plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA; Cameron Par.; No of Laccasine NWR, Coto Plot
4. Date(s) when observed: 29 December 1998
5. Time(s) of day when observed: about 4:00 PM
6. Reporting observer and address: Donna L. Dittmann & Steven W. Cardiff
Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): none
8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): none
9. Light conditions: good.
10. Optical equipment: both observers used 10 X 42 Leica binocular; Kowa zoom telescope
11. Distance to bird(s): 300-500 ft.
12. Duration of observation: 1 minute.
13. Habitat: The bird was observed perched in a leafless tallow tree at the edge of a large set of flooded fields. Behind the eagle's perch, the habitat switched to woods/scrub.
14. Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation: DLD noted the bird from quite a distance as it perched in a bare tree. She noted that it looked ^{like} a VERY BIG RAPTOR through bouncing vision observed through binoculars in the moving vehicle. We drove closer to get a better look and the bird almost immediately took flight and disappeared out of sight over a set of trees.
15. Description: *Aquila*. The large size, large broad wings, eliminated all *Buteo* or vulture species. It was immediately recognizable as an eagle. When it launched out of the tree, a hint of golden sheen could be observed around the bird's collar (=hackles). It turned away from the observers and flew up over a set of trees out of sight. The

primaries were black with white bases forming a flash. The tail was white broadly banded by black. We also noted the relatively small bill (compared to the larger bill of a Bald Eagle) and the feathered tarsi (tarsi of Bald Eagle are not feathered). We had brief, but excellent looks at the bird perched and in flight from above and below as it took off and banked away.

16. Voice: not heard

17. Similar species and how they were eliminated: Combination of size, white bases to primaries and tail, golden sides of head, and feathered tarsi eliminates all similar species.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): The bird left the area before we could obtain photos.

19. Previous experience with this species: We are both familiar with this species from California, as well as having observed and documented at least six others in Louisiana.

20. Identification aids:

a. at time of observation: none

b. after observation: none

21. This description is written from: _____ notes made during the observation; notes made (immediately) after the observation (date: _____); or memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: yes

23. Signature of reporter: Steven W. Cusick 3/31/99 (date) (time)

Signature of reporter: Donal Ottman 3/31/99 (date) (time)