

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** (e.g. 2 ad.in breeding or alternate plumage): one immature
3. **Locality: LOUISIANA:** Jefferson Davis:
(parish)
just E Hwy. 382 on Mouton Road
(specific locality)
4. **Date(s) when observed:** 17 December 1999
5. **Time(s) of day when observed:** during our lunch break, around 1:00 PM
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Donna L. Dittmann
Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA 70803
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):** presumably the same bird was observed later by Kenneth V. Rosenberg (and videotaped) and Robb Brumfield, and Darren Clark.
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):** none
9. **Light conditions** (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): excellent
10. **Optical equipment** (type, power, condition): 10 X 42 Leica binocular
11. **Distance to bird(s):** the bird was flying high, well over the treetops.
12. **Duration of observation:** probably not more than 10 seconds (probably less)- I just happened to look up and saw the bird through a gap in the trees.
13. **Habitat:** bird was flying over deciduous woodland
14. **Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation** (flying, feeding, resting;

include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

flying

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

large dark, long and broad-winged raptor; immediately recognizable as a Golden Eagle by its shape—long broad wings and long tail, relatively "small" head (as compared to a Bald Eagle); it was an immature bird with conspicuous white patches at the base of the primaries and the base of the tail; after I got a decent look I ran back to the car to see if Steve could also see it between the trees, but it must have veered off in a different direction and he never got to see it.

16. **Voice:** not heard

17. **Similar species** (include how they were eliminated by your observation):

no other species with combination of shape, and position of white patches in wings and tail

18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained?** (by whom? attached?):

none

19. **Previous experience with this species:**

I've seen lots of Golden Eagles in the US, several now in Louisiana. I am quite competent at the identification of this species, whether it's up close and personal, or a distant stratospheric speck.

20. **Identification aids:** (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

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: _____); ___X___ memory. (I am writing this up to include with the record packet for review)

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

23. **Signature of reporter:** Donald L. Dittman
September 7, 2000
(date) (time)