

Louisiana Ornithological Society's
LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

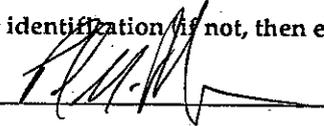
Rare Bird Report Form

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 ensure that all information involving an observation is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach fieldnotes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for 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
2. Number of individuals, age, sex, general plumage (e. g., "2 adult males in alternate <breeding> plumage"): 1 adult
3. Locality: LOUISIANA Caddo
(parish)
2 miles Northwest of Elm Grove, Louisiana, Red River mile 209
(specific locality)
4. Date(s) when observed:
November 9, 2000
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
9:00 AM
6. Reporting observer and address:
Paul M. Dickson
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 (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
overcast, bird soaring and flying south just below the clouds
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):
Swarovski 10x50
11. Distance to bird(s):
appoximately 150 meters high, 75 meters distant at closest, I watched the bird until it dissapeared
12. Duration of observation:
5 minutes

13. **Habitat:**
open river, sand bar
14. **Behavior of bird/circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding the observation):**
sailing, circling, moving south downriver..
15. **Description (include only what was actually seen, not what "should" have been seen; if possible, give details on 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. Attach additional pages as necessary):**

Dark, large, long-winged raptor. Wings long, broad with slight dyhedral. Overall massive bird with small head and seemingly no neck. Tail broad, rounded, faint white at base of tail. Underwing coverts all dark. Due to distance and flat lighting, all other parts appeared dark. In sillouette: Wings longer than Buteo. Buteo further eliminated by massive size and proportions. Bald Eagle eliminated by head size and shape. In color pattern white base of tail coupled with completely dark underwing unique to Golden Eagle. Though I am aware that some Golden Eagles show white flashes on the underwings this bird definitely did not. No buteo is so dark below. Vultures eliminated by wing shape and profile, slimmer body. This species has now been recorded 4 times during this migratory period in the last 3 fall seasons. The annual presence of the species as a winter resident of central and SW La. is consistent with these fall migratory sightings along the Red River in Caddo Parish.

16. **Voice:**
none heard
17. **Similar species (and how are they eliminated by your description?):**
see above
18. **Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):**
no
19. **Previous experience with this species:**
Extensive. Many years in the Rocky Mountains, many seen there.. Two 1998 Red River sightings.
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 after the observation (date: _____); X memory. Same Day**
22. **Are you positive of your identification (if not, then explain)?:**
yes
23. **Signature of reporter:**  11-10-00
(date)