

**LOUISIANA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE
REPORT FORM**

1. **Common and scientific name:** Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
2. **Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage:** 1 juvenile plumage
3. **Locality: State (Louisiana) Parish:** Cameron

Exact Location: Lacassine NWR
4. **Date(s) seen:** December 9, 2000
5. **Time(s) of day seen:** 12:45-12:55 p.m.
6. **Reporting observer and address:** Phillip Wallace
4515 S. Prieur St.
New Orleans, LA 70125-5044
7. **Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird:** none
8. **Other observers who independently identified the bird:** none, unless same bird was seen on Thornwell-Lacassine CBC
9. **Light conditions:** Good to excellent; thin, high clouds
10. **Optical equipment:** Zeiss 10 x 40 bins
11. **Distance to the bird:** 200+ yards
12. **Duration of observation:** 10 minutes
13. **Habitat (general and specific):** Soaring over marsh and scrub
14. **Behavior:** Soaring; trying to ignore Red-tailed Hawk, which was harassing it.
15. **Description:**
Size and General Impression Large, dark eagle. Much larger than the Red-tailed hawk which was harassing it.
Head Relatively small-headed. Head did not project far beyond spread wings in flight. From the distance at which the bird was observed, its head appeared all dark.
Upper Parts Dark.
Wings Wings were long and dark, except for white patch at the base of the primaries.
Underparts Dark

Tail The tail was long with white base on the undertail and uppertail. The distal one-third of the tail was dark and the proximal two-thirds was white.

Bill Not noted.

Eye Not noted.

Legs Not noted.

16. **Voice:** none

17. **Similar species and how they were eliminated:** Size eliminates all contenders except Bald Eagle. Pattern of wings and tail, along with small head and long tail eliminate Bald Eagle.

18. **Photographs?** Slide accompany report. (1 slide)

19. **Previous experience with this species:** I've seen several times out west and in Louisiana.

20. **Aids used in identification:**

a) **at time of observation:** None

b) **after observation:** Sibley; Clark.

21. **This description written from:** x notes made during observation;
 notes made after observation; from memory.

22. **Are you positive of your identification?** yes

23. **Signature of reporter:**

Philip Walker

24. **Date and time of writing this account:** March 3, 2001
9:30 a.m.

Photo

Golden Eagle

Lacaille NWR

12/9/00

Juv. plumage

12:45 - 12:55

200 yds +

Soaring

Large dark eagle. Long winged

Long tail with white base above and below.

Dark distal $\frac{1}{2}$ of tail

White patch a base of primaries in

dark underwings

Relatively small headed; little projection beyond wings.

Was harassed (one buzzed by RT HA)

~~Doesn't~~ Dived the RT HA.

Photos.

Notes made at time of sighting.

Consulted Sibley immediately after sighting for age.

Light good to excellent; few, high clouds