

English and Scientific names: Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Number of individuals: 1 male 1 female - adults

Locality: LOUISIANA: Mollicy Wildlife Management Area,
Morehouse Parish

Specific Locality: Mollicy - bird was a stake out for the winter LOS meeting. Refuge manager led all field trips right to it.

Date(s) when observed: 1/24/2004 Was also seen the 23rd on the field trip

Time(s) of day when observed: Both am and pm field trips

Reporting observer and address: Rosemary Seidler

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Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s): Trip leader, Beth and Sammy Maniscalco, Mare Ellen Lewis, Nancy Menasco, Jerry Bertrand

Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): People on other field trips

Light conditions: Conditions were not good. It was raining. We were in a shed with spotting scopes set up. View was through the scope through the rain.

Optical equipment: Swarovski scope and 10X binoculars

Distance to bird(s): a city block

Duration of observation:

About 30 minutes total. Male was in a pine tree on a bare branch when we arrived. Female joined him but only for about 5 minutes.

Habitat: Piney woods and open fields with very flooded fields. More ducks than I'd ever seen at one place at one time.

Behavior of bird: Perched in tree. We did not approach very closely in order to not disturb the bird (so later field trips would be able to see it.) When the 2nd bird approached there was a lot of wing flapping till it settled down then shortly flew off.

Description: Definitely a very large raptor - much larger than the Red-tailed Hawks in the area. Hooked bill, bulky appearance, dark brown with light brown highlights.

Voice: Did not vocalize

Similar species Bald Eagle. Overall coloration and the fact that the bird has appeared in the very same place for the past three years and had been identified by the refuge managers.

Photographs or tape recordings obtained? Will send a digital photo taken through the scope in the rain.

Previous experience: Seen out west on many occasions.

Identification aids: at time of observation:

Sibley's and National Geographic and a hard-covered hawk ID book (don't recall the name.)

notes from memory? yes

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

Reporter: Rosemary Seidler

Date and time: 1/24/2004 about 9 am.

permission to display report and accompanying documentation? yes