

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 pertinent information is accounted for). Attach additional pages as necessary. Please print or type. Attach xerox of field notes, 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 canadensis*)**
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
One in juvenal plumage
3. Locality: LOUISIANA: (parish) **Madison Parish**

Specific Locality: **Greenlea Bend Wildlife Drive off Quebec Rd. at Tensas River NWR (ca. 1.5 miles from origin of road at visitor center/ headquarters bldg.)**
4. Date(s) when observed: **Friday, 17 December 2021**
5. Time(s) of day when observed: **~11:25 AM CST**
6. Reporting observer and address: **Devin Bosler
13803 Crossing Way West
Edmond, OK 73013**
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **None.**
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s): **No other observers.**
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light):
Generally partly cloudy sky with optimal late morning sunlight. Sun angle fairly high. Backlighting or glare not problematic.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Zeiss Victory FL 8x42, Kowa TSN 881 Series (20-60x) angled-eyepiece spotting scope (optics in fair to good condition).**

11. Distance to bird(s): **within 100-150 meters**

12. Duration of observation: **~2-3 min.**

13. Habitat: **Heavily disturbed early successional growth, secondary-tertiary bottomland hardwood forest, open fallow fields, wet ditches, freshwater pools, grassy edges, brushy hedgerows, roadside scrub, rural residential, etc.**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation):

First observed in powered flight heading generally south along western tree line of Tensas River bottoms. It was apparently attempting to hunt while in flight, as it made an unsuccessful pass at a prey item during my observation. It continued off toward the south and eventually out of view. Never vocalized throughout observation.

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: 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):

A large, nearly all-dark brown raptor with shorter neck and head projection from body and longer tailed. Rather obvious golden crown and nape feathers popped with spotting scope views. Only observed in flight, so diagnostic white flashes at base of primaries and broad white subterminal tail band caught my attention immediately. It flew with a slight dihedral in wings and dropped down in failed attempt at prey once before continuing off along the western tree line and south out of sight. Brownish feathering covered the legs down to the feet, which were yellowish. Relatively dark irides and tricolored bill with yellow cere noticeable in spotting scope; even in eye-level flight just above trees. I watched it with both binocular and spotting scope for an extended period of time.

16. Voice: **Silent. Not applicable at time of observation.**

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

Bald Eagle (BAEA) eliminated by overall size, shape, and structure. Fairly distinct golden crown and nape feathers, proportionately smaller head size, obvious white wing patches (seen well at base of remiges/ primaries in flight), bright white tail base with dark brown distally, all rule out BAEA. Also observed power-diving (almost from a hovering position), which is unusual in BAEA.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **No, unfortunately.**

19. Previous experience with this species:

Extremely familiar with this species from their normal range and distribution throughout the intermountain Western U.S. and several individuals in the Eastern U.S.

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: **Yes** notes made during the observation (____ notes attached?); **Yes** notes made after the observation (date: _____); **Yes** memory.

22. Are you positive of your identification if not, explain: **Yes, absolutely positive.**

23. Signature of reporter: **Devin Bosler** Date: **28 December 2021** Time: **4:30 PM CST**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display this report or portions of this report on its website? **Yes, please.**

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **Yes, please.**