

# 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 or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <[zoiseaux@lusfiber.net](mailto:zoiseaux@lusfiber.net)> .

1. English and Scientific names: Golden Eagle, *Aquila chrysaetos*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): 1 adult
3. Parish: Jefferson  
Specific Locality: Marrero
4. Date(s) when observed: 20 March 2017
5. Time(s) of day when observed: 1745
6. Reporting observer and address: James W. Beck 5077 Highland Dr. Marrero, LA 70072
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): Linda Kingsland
8. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): blue sky, no clouds absolute sunshine on the bird as it was initially soaring West.
10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Vortex 8x42
11. Distance to bird(s): I honestly couldn't gauge the distance...several hundred feet in the air, I imagine.
12. Duration of observation: ca. two minutes

13. Habitat: open sky

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): soaring on flat (versus dihedral) wings, steady...never flapping.

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, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): Large dark chocolate raptor with a rich, golden nape and patagials. Tail was dark, no white detected, although I was not satisfied with the scrutiny I obtained. Soft parts (i.e. cere, feet) were yellow (could not see tarsi, obviously). This bird was big-headed, but not to the extreme as in *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. Much larger and flatter-winged than any dark *Buteo* (or *Geranoaetus albicaudatus*). Vultures of both species were readily eliminated by cere color and (especially *Cathartes aura*) soaring on flat wings. Primaries, secondaries (inner and outer) were slightly lighter brown.

16. Voice: n/a

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

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): no

19. Previous experience with this species: Arizona and West Texas. I also have experience working with this species in captivity (imprinted educational animal).

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

a. at time of observation: n/a

b. after observation: Sibley

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain: 98% sure...my only displeasure is that I did not get a better look at the tail. The angle in which the bird was soaring never allowed me a satisfactory examination of the base.

23. Date: 21 March 2017

Time: 1633

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page?

\_\_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, may we include your name with the report? \_\_\_\_yes\_\_\_\_\_