

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):
One. Juvenile
3. Parish:
Red River Parish

Specific Locality:
Lat:32.127 Long:-93.479 Acc: 10m (2617-2871 Hwy 1, Mansfield, LA)
4. Date(s) when observed:
October 21, 2018
5. Time(s) of day when observed:
between 12:40 and 12:45pm (CDT)
6. Reporting observer and city/state address
Reporting observer: Chris Merritt
City: Shreveport
State: Louisiana
7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s):
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):

The subject bird was in flight, well lit from above by direct full Sun.

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition):

Binocular- Leupold BX-2 Acadia (10x42)

Camera- Nikon Coolpix P100

11. Distance to bird(s):

About 20 meters at closest point.

12. Duration of observation:

About five minutes of quality viewing followed by glimpses near the horizon. I cannot be certain how long or how many times the subject bird had been in my field of vision before I began tracking it for identification.

13. Habitat:

Managed wetland adjacent to the Red River

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

I first assessed the subject bird in full stoop, descending upon a mixed group of wading birds including: white ibis, little blue heron and great egret: the attempt was not successful. Having scattered the flock, the subject bird circled for several minutes moving steadily south and west.

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*):

I observed a large, dark, diurnal raptor stooping. My initial view was dorsal.

I observed that the wingspan of the subject bird was visibly greater than that of an adjacent great egret.

I observed that white was present at the base of the subject birds tail, while the rump was dark.

I observed large areas of white at the base of some of the primaries creating a white patch on the wing.

I observed that the underparts of the subject were uniformly dark, apart from the aforementioned areas of white.

I realized that the bird was too large to be an osprey or any buteo or accipiter with which I am familiar.

I realized that this was not the plumage of an adult or immature bald eagle.

I identified the bird as a juvenile aquila chrysaetos.

16. Voice:

Either the subject bird never made vocalizations, or the vocalizations were not audible above the alarm of the waders.

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

There are no similar species known to me. I attempted to, but did not find an alternative ID.

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?):

I took several photos during the observation which I have included in my iNaturalist record of the observation.

<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/17734133>

19. Previous experience with this species:

None whatsoever.

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

- a. at time of observation:
- b.
- c. Sibley Birds Ap.
Birds of North America Ap (Petersons)
iNaturalist
Merlin (eBird)

b. after observation:

21. This description is written from:

- notes made during the observation. Are notes attached?
- notes made after the observation. At what date?
- memory
- study of images

Both my memory and a study of the images during and shortly after the actual observation.

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

I am positive that I believe that, within the taxonomy known to me, the subject bird is most likely to be aquila chrysaetos AND I am not aware of any other specie not eliminated by the findings of my observation.

23. Date:

Today is Wednesday, October 24th, 2018

Time: 12:20pm CDT

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





