

LBRC Report Form

1. English and Scientific names: Golden Eagle - *Aquila chrysaetos*
2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage):
1 immature
3. Parish:
Jefferson Davis
4. Specific Locality:
Arceneaux Rd.
5. Date(s) when observed: 12/17/23
6. Time(s) of day when observed: mid day, around noon
7. Reporting observer: Esme Rosen
8. Other observers accompanying reporter who also identified the bird(s):
Kevin Perozeni
9. Other observers who independently identified the bird(s):
10. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): somewhat backlit
11. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): Zeiss binoculars
12. Distance to bird(s): initially very distant, the bird came a bit closer before soaring off in the distance
13. Duration of observation: ~10 minutes
14. Habitat: agricultural fields
15. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): seen soaring
16. 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):

Kevin initially noted a distant unusual raptor, but was unsure if the ID. As it came closer, he showed me some photos, which we both thought were suggestive of Golden Eagle. I got out of the car and got some photos as well, and the bird came close enough to secure the identification. Large raptor with broad wings, proportionally small head. Dark below and on wings, besides white patches on base of primaries and white tail band. The tail band especially stood out because of the backlighting on the bird, and is very evident in the photos. The bird appeared to have the characteristic golden nape as well, though this was not the easiest to see due to the angle and distance. However, the other markings noted above are still diagnostic for Golden Eagle

17. Voice: not heard (unsurprisingly)

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

Immature Bald Eagle would have proportionally larger head and lack the white base to the tail as well as the white patches on the wings. Larger and structurally different than any Buteo, any species of which would also have much more pale and barring on the underside of the wing

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

20. Previous experience with this species: I've seen this species many times in the west, and once in Minnesota

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

none

22. Identification aids used when?

None used

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

yes

24. Date report completed:

1/9/23

25. 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

26. If yes, may we include your name with the report?

Yes



