

strongly. It was in its natural habitat, a wooded pond, and was associated with its North American relative, the Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). I carefully examined the specimen and found its plumage to be full, brilliant, and immaculate—in contrast to the usually dull and frayed appearance of pen-raised birds.

The Mandarin Duck has been naturalized in Western Europe for a number of years (*A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*, Peterson et. al., 1966). It is my suggestion that this individual, like the Eurasian Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) and European Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) strayed from there. The skin is now preserved as a mounted specimen in the collection of Ralph Morris.

[See "Policy Statement on Exotic Waterfowl Records" published elsewhere in this issue of *Chat*.—DEPT. ED.]

## Golden Eagle in Eastern North Carolina

WILLIAM BROWN JR.  
415 Charles Court, Cary, N.C. 27511  
JOSHUA A. LEE  
5104 Newcastle Road, Raleigh, N.C.

At 14:00 on 23 October 1973, we observed a mature Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) at the Upper Coastal Plains Research Station about 10 miles SE of Tarboro, N.C. When first seen the eagle was flapping and gliding over a cleared area on the edge of the station property. A Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was circling nearby, and the contrast in wingspan, angle of wings, and mode of flapping allowed us to identify the bird as a eagle immediately.

As the eagle sailed overhead at about 100 feet altitude, we noted that it was deep brown in color with the base of the tail feathers white. The wings were proportionally broader in relation to their length than in the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). The secondaries shortened abruptly next to the body. All of the above features are helpful in separating the Golden Eagle from the Bald Eagle.

After gaining an altitude of about 300 feet the eagle glided about 2 miles on set wings to the vicinity of a small swamp south of the station. We followed the bird and again observed it from about 100 feet as it glided over a small pasture. William Brown at this time noted small white wing patches as the bird wheeled to fly over the swamp. In the Golden Eagle, white shoulder patches occur in birds from Scotland and eastern Canada (Amadon and Brown, *Hawks, Eagles and Vultures of the World*). We concluded that the bird was a mature Golden Eagle, and probably a female as we estimated the wingspread at over 7 feet.

## Red Phalarope in Wake County, N.C.

CHRIS MARSH  
1213 Duplin Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27607  
ROBERT J. HADER  
3313 Cheswick Drive, Raleigh, N.C. 27609

1 February 1974

On 27 October 1973 Robert J. Hader spotted a phalarope while scanning Lake Benson for waterfowl; however, he was unable to see it well enough for satisfactory specific identification. On the following day Chris Marsh and David Whitehurst found the bird, and Marsh was able to wade to within 30 feet of where it was feeding on an island mud-flat. From the black eye patch, uniform gray back, white forehead, wing pattern, and thick bill, it was identified as a Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*). The solid black bill was