

Filed Reports - fall of 1989

Immature Peregrine Falcon sighted just north of Grinnell, Iowa, Poweshiek County, on October 7 at 11:54 a.m.

Observed Field Marks

Long, pointed wings and long tail
flight-style was obviously a falcon
dark underwings, streaked breast (buffy)
mustache, although quite thin, was clearly visible
the crown was fairly light

First spotted the bird on the north edge of Grinnell along highway 146. I watched it work its way from the east side of the highway to the west side and then followed it for about 7 minutes as it worked its way north.

Weather Conditions - Sunny and clear, NW winds between 5-15 mph (estimated), barometric pressure was high, temperature somewhere in mid to upper 50's (I think). It seemed like an ideal migration day, I had already observed several migrating raptors (two accipiters, a Red-tail and a N. Harrier).

I used 8x binoculars and viewed the bird from several distances ranging from 60 feet to about 1/8th mile.

I suspected it was a Peregrine at first glance and was then able to confirm it as I watched from several different angles for 7 to 8 minutes. I was positive it was a Peregrine because of the wings, mustache and mostly because of flight style.

Note: I had just returned from working on a raptor migration project during the entire month of September in the Goshute Mountain Range of northeastern Nevada where we observed and captured both Peregrine and Prairie Falcons.

87 Double-crested Cormorants at Red Rock Lake, Marion County, Iowa, on the morning of October 31, 1989 - all morning.

Actually the Cormorants have been at Red Rock all fall, but this was such a good-sized group and they stayed together most of the morning that I thought it was note worthy.

Sincerely,
John Shavers

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