





# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
RR 1, BOX 114  
MISSOURI VALLEY, IOWA 51555  
(712) 642-4121

September 23, 1981

Dr. Jim Dinsmore  
Department of Animal Ecology  
Science Hall II  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011

Dear Dr. Dinsmore:

On August 8, 1981, two adult and one immature least tern (Sterna albifrons) were sighted at California Bend Wildlife Management Area (ICC). They were present on a sandy area exposed by low water conditions at the east edge of the outlet (marked by X on attached map). The other observer and his current address is:

Ken Grannemen  
Squaw Creek NWR  
P.O. Box 101  
Mound City, Missouri 64470

Least terns have also been intermittently sighted at DeSoto NWR throughout summer 1981. We have not kept record whether they were mature or immatures, however. Although my memory tells me I saw immatures, I cannot verify it. We do not know of any least tern nesting attempts on the refuge in 1981.

Thanks for the information you sent.

Sincerely,

*Rick*

Rick Sojda  
Assistant Refuge Manager

Enclosure



What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1Location? DeSoto National Wildlife RefugeType of habitat? Open Country, Cropfields, Scattered treesWhen? date(s): Nov. 8, 1981 time: 9 AM to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: ERWIN E. KLAASothers with you: Ben KLAAS

others before or after you: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Obviously, a large falcon (Crow size) with pointed wings and long narrow tail. Bird was seen in flight moving slowly into strong headwind at about 30 yards. Upper parts were brown or chestnut and facial markings were clearly seen. Presence of dark axillar markings distinguished it from immature peregrine falcon. Underparts were light with a few dark streaks.

Similar species and how eliminated: See above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: Dave Menke, Asst. Refuge Manager, said that a Prairie Falcon has been sighted several times this fall on refuge.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Bright sunlight with sun behind observer. Distance estimated

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen both in the wild, including Peregrine Falcon only 2 weeks

References and persons consulted before writing description: None Previously

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 24 hrs.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240