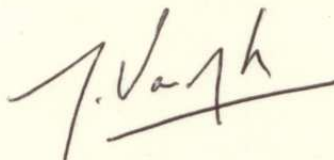


Documentation of Sight Record

- Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)
- one individual, observed approximately three miles south-west of Sioux Center (Sioux Co.), on February 6, 1982, at 9 a.m. The weather was clear, winds south-west 10-15 mph, temperature -6 F. Observation made by myself and my 12-year old son John Kevin.
- we discovered the bird roosting on an old abandoned schoolhouse, on the east side of the roof where the roof meets the gutter. Thus the bird was protected from the wind and was situated in full sunlight. We approached the bird from the east, with the sun behind us, thus providing an excellent view. We noted the light brownish color and the narrow mustaches. The bird allowed us to approach to within 75 feet, then flew off towards the west, circling to the north and east and landed in a corn field to the south-east of us. As it flew we could see the black axillaries very clearly. The falcon remained in the cornfield only momentarily, then disappeared over the crest of a hill.
- we observed the bird, as it was sitting on the roof, with 8x40 binoculars.
- Both of us have seen Prairie Falcons before in Nevada and in California. Two winters ago we observed a Gyrfalcon in Manitoba. And just last month, in early January, I closely observed both a female and male Peregrine Falcon in the Ladner, B.C., Canada, area. So we are somewhat familiar with falcons. It was, in fact, helpful to have seen a female Peregrine just a month earlier.



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