

DETAILS FOR RARE BIRD SIGHTING:

PRAIRIE FALCON:

16 March, 1999 (9 AM)

This bird was flying about two miles north of Fairfield. I stopped the car and got out to watch this bird. It was a large falcon that was a light brown (tan) color overall. It came directly toward me flying south, and when it passed almost overhead, I could see the dark axillaries. It was flapping briefly and then gliding, and finally disappeared behind a line of trees to the southeast.

KING RAIL:

14 May, 1999 (10:45 AM)

While walking on the north dike at Otter Creek Marsh, I heard what I thought was a King Rail very close on the south side of the dike. I was about two hundreds yard from the car, and I hurried back to listen to the tape I had there of both King Rail and Virginia Rail. I also got my boots, came back and then waded into the marsh at the location. About 15-20 yards out I flushed a large (small chicken sized) rail that showed a great deal of rusty brown, and had a long, thick bill. The bird flew southwest and landed back in the marsh about 50 yards away. The size alone differentiated it from Virginia Rail.