

What species? Falcon sp. (large) How many? 1Location? 2 mi. N. and 2 mi. F of Denver, IowaType of habitat? Barren open farmland - very few treesWhen? date(s): Dec. 31, 1983 time: 4:00 pm to 4:03 pm.Who? your name and address: Robert K. Myers 1236 Sylvan Ave Waterloo Iowaothers with you: Viola Beboutothers 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.

The bird was sitting on the cross-bar of a telephone pole on the left side of the road as we approached from the north. (we were in the open country looking for snow buntings) From a distance I assumed the bird was a red-tailed hawk facing away from us. (by size + color) At about 75 yd. away I decided the bird wasn't probably big enough or dark enough for a red-tail and tried to stop the car. The icy road made my car go sideways before stopping and this apparently spooked the bird. It swooped down to about fence post height and flew very rapidly across the field. I yelled "falcon" as it disappeared. It had long narrow pointed wings and narrow tail and was basically med. brown all over. We drove around and around the mile sections then on following days but could not relocate the bird.

I did not notice the dark axillars a prairie falcon should show. Similar species and how eliminated: I know the bird was a falcon and as it was much too large for a kestrel or merlin I suspect a prairie (also by habitat ^{↑ seas})

A young peregrine can not be ruled out however.
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? I did - as to species

If yes, explain:

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

Sun was to our right - dis. about 75 yd. (stepped off) -

B&L 7X35 binocs were used.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen merlins, kestrels, and one adult peregrine but no prairie falcons

References and persons consulted before writing description:

How long before field notes made? 1 hr. this form completed? same day

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