

Prairie Falcon -- Documentation

On the morning of Friday, November 23, 1990, I spotted the first Prairie Falcon of the winter some five miles east of Hawarden in western Sioux County. The bird was perched on top of a telephone pole. As I approached, it took off and flew low ahead of me. As it flew I could clearly see its sandy brown upper parts. Some distance ahead of me it veered to the right, beautifully displaying its black wing axillars. It lit on another telephone pole, easily within range of my Zoom Balscope. A view through the scope further revealed its relatively light head markings, especially its thin mustache.

The Prairie Falcon is rapidly becoming a common winter bird in northwest Iowa. I now see them virtually every winter. Last winter I saw at least five of them! So this Falcon is now a very familiar bird to me. I have also seen them in Alberta, Nevada, and California.

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