

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1Location? 3 miles west of Webb, Clay CountyType of habitat? Open farm groundWhen? date(s): march 7, 1991 time: 2:10 PM to 2:20 PMWho? your name and address: Dick Bierman 901 Harris Cherokee Iowaothers with you: Jeff Brown, Jerry Fifieldothers 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 appeared to be about crow sized but smaller than a red tail. IT was light brown on the back, wings, and tail with a light (cream) front speckled with brown. The head was also light brown with a white eyebrow stripe. The malar stripe was darker than the other brown color of the head. Between or above the malar ~~it~~ was a clear light patch and then a brown area behind the eye extending back to the nape. The throat was light with no brown speckles. The feet & legs were yellow. The bill <sup>was</sup> dark with a yellow cere. I then flushed the bird from the pole (50' away). I wanted to see the dark axillars and wing linings. The bird flew to another pole and I flushed it again. Both times the dark axillars and wing linings were very noticeable as were the pointed wing tips and strong rapid flight.

Having seen several prairie falcons in Arizona, Wyoming, and Colorado, PLUS Steve Dueckers captive birds, I am ~~a~~ 100% certain that this was a typical plumage adult prairie falcon

Similar species and how eliminated: merlin - this bird was larger and lighter.

Perognine - This birds malar was not wide enough.

Accipiters - This bird had distinctly pointed wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

10x40 Binocs. Clear, sun to my back. 50' from edge of road to fence line (R.O.W.)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen many prairie falcons in Wyoming, Arizona and South Dakota.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's Hawk Guide

How long before field notes made? when seen this form completed? 2 hrs.

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