

Peregrine Falcon - 1

April 24, 1984

Willow Slough, Mills County, Iowa

Description: I quote notes taken ~~at~~ right after it disappeared.

"Perched in high small branches of a cottonwood east of ford in the road. The branches wouldn't hold it up, I guess - it kept flapping. I stopped and pulled out binocs. It flew; I saw it on the wing. Buteo size. Pointed wings. Wings seem dark grey. Under parts tawny, a warm tan, with darker marks. Face strongly patterned - whitish, with black sharply-defined pattern. Flew away north."

Similar species: I believed this to be a buteo until it flew + I saw the pointed wings. Gray color + sharply contrasting face pattern would be very unusual in a buteo. Prairie Falcon would have dark in axillar area. I could easily have seen this dark pattern if the bird had had P, but I did not. Face pattern is also wrong for Prairie falcon - too solid + too black-and-white. Face pattern eliminates Gyrfalcon

Viewing conditions: About 6:00 pm. Bird east of me, flying north. I saw it a few seconds - not bad for a falcon sighting. No birds. Sun or bright overcast - I didn't note that down, but saw the bird clearly. 100 yds or maybe less. Not really far, anyway. 8x binocs.

Written 5/25/84 from notes taken immediately.

- Barb Wilson
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