

Prairie Falcon
28 Dec 1983
Dallas Co., IA
*Ken Herring
IBL 54:17, 38

Record Number: 83-32
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ken Herring

LETTERS

Tom Kent to Ken Herring, 20 Jan 1984

Herring to Kent, reply written on above letter

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 54:17

Records Committee: IBL 54:38

VOTE: 6-III, 1-IV

III, Ken is ISU grad and has had an ornithology course so should know falcons.

III, Description not very elegant but details convincing and date and location reasonable.

IV, Poor, not thoroughly convincing details.

III, Critical field mark (axillaries) seen.

III, Black patches near body diagnostic.

REVOTE (by mail): 7-III

III, Location, date as expected. Critical field mark seen.

III, Not elaborate, but what is noted is what is necessary to ID this bird.

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FIELD REPORTS EDITOR

DR. THOMAS KENT
211 Richards Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

83-32

20 Jan 84

Dear Ken,

Thanks for your documentation on the Prairie Falcon. I'm glad you got a good look at the black axillaries. If the bird is heading around the area, I would consider coming out to look for it. We would also like to get as many more birds reported to the Iowa Bird Hotline as possible (319-622-3353). But your documentation is more important.

I'll be back in that area this weekend can see him again in touch!

Can I assume it was seen in Dallas Co.?

Yes

Distance from the nearest town or public area is what I usually use to record locations.

I should have put that down, sorry.

Thanks for your interest.

Tom Kent

Summary of Review of an Ornithologic Observation

83-32

by the Records Committee
of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

SPECIES: PRAIRIE FALCON

DATE SEEN: Dec 28, 1983

SITE OF OBSERVATION: Dallas County

OBSERVERS: Ken Herring

DATE OF REVIEW: 1983

METHOD_OF REVIEW: Circulation to Committee by mail, recirculation by mail.

CLASSIFICATION OF RECORD: III

COMMENTS:

While this documentation was rather sketchy, the Committee felt that the critical field marks allowing identification of Prairie Falcon were seen and noted.

The opinions expressed here are based on the information available to the Committee and should not necessarily preclude an alternate interpretation by those who observed the bird firsthand.

Any action may be re-reviewed upon submission of additional evidence.

Explanation of Classification:

- I = labeled, diagnostic specimen, photograph, or recording available for review by the Committee
- II = acceptable sight record documented independently by 3 or more observers
- III = acceptable sight record documented by 1 or 2 observers
- IV = probably correct record, but not beyond doubt
- V = record with insufficient evidence to judge
- VI = probably incorrect identification, escapee, or otherwise unacceptable record

Classification is based on the highest category agreed upon by six of seven committee members.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings
In Iowa

83-32
III

Species? Prairie Falcon No. 1000 Co. Dallas

Location Section 27, T-79N, R-29W

Habitat Brushy cover along mesquite Creek valley

Date(s) December 28, 1983 Time: 12:30 pm to 12:31

Name and Address: KEN HERRING - Wildlife Biologist
Iowa Conservation Commission

Other Observers:

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 behavior and voice.

One falcon, observed. The bird flew directly overhead turned and flew up a small draw and out of sight. Characteristic falcon shape was noticed prior to flying overhead. Noticed the light color and blackish patches near the body. Rapid flight and large size.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Peregrine falcon, Absence of black ~~mustach~~ mustach, NO barring on the belly. But the blackish patches near body was very evident.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Excellent light. Snowy conditions. Closest observation occurred directly overhead at 40 yards. Measured by experience in many previous experience with species and similar ones: bird sightings and hunting conditions. Considerable experience as a Biologist w other hawks but none w this species.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson: Field Guide

How long before field notes made? JAN 9, 1984 this form completed?

NOTE: consulted bird guide upon return to vehicle
Approx: 1 hr.

Mail to: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240