

Prairie Falcon  
29 Nov 1992  
northwest of Spencer, Clay Co., IA  
\*Schoenewe  
IBL 63:18, 70

Record Number: 92-32  
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION

Lee A. Schoenewe, 518 W. 4th Street, Spencer, IA 51301  
(6/30/93)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 63:18  
Records Committee: IBL 63:70

VOTE: 3 A-D, 4 NA

NA, I feel underwings need to be seen to make a positive identification.

NA, The overall coloration, buffy breast, and thin mustache mark are suggestive of an immature Prairie Falcon. Date and location are also consistent with sightings of this species in Iowa. However, without seeing the one really diagnostic mark -- black axillars -- it is difficult from the description given to eliminate Merlin or northern race immature Peregrine Falcon. How much larger was the falcon than the prey it was carrying? Was the tail widely barred as in Merlin or narrow and faintly-bared as in Prairie Falcon? Most probably a Prairie Falcon but other species cannot be eliminated with certainty.

A-D, Date location and coloration favor this species. This may be shading "beyond reasonable doubt."

NA, Light coloration F.p. tundrius not considered or eliminated in the documentation. Dark axillaries not seen to confirm Prairie Falcon.

A-D, Despite not seeing the dark underwing coverts on this bird as a clincher, I feel good, adequate details were presented to identify this as a Prairie Falcon. An immature Peregrine of the tundra race is the only Peregrine showing an eyeline at all and it is still darker coloration overall than a Prairie Falcon. All details fit precisely for a Prairie Falcon. I feel identifying details were provided to make this a Prairie Falcon.

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species            How many? PRAIRIE FALCON - 1  
 Location?\_ NW OF SPENCER, CLAY CO., IA.  
 Type of habitat? OPEN FARMLAND NEAR LITTLE SIOUX RIVER  
 When? date(s):        Time: . Nov. 29, 1992 12:15 PM  
 Who? your name and address  
 LEE A. SCHOENEWE 518 W. 4<sup>th</sup> ST. SPENCER, IA. 51301  
 Others with you NONE

Others before and after you NONE

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also describe voice and behavior. A LARGE FALCON CARRYING A BLACKBIRD OR STARLING LANDED IN A HARVESTED SOYBEAN FIELD AND MOVED AWAY FROM ME INTO CORN STUBBLE. THE BIRD FED ON ITS PREY AT EACH OF SEVERAL STOPS. THE BIRD HAD POINTED WINGS AND A LONG, BANDED TAIL, THE WINGS AND BACK WERE LIGHT BROWN, THE CHEST WAS BUFF STREAKED WITH DARK BROWN. THERE WAS A BUFF EYE LINE AND A THIN MOUSTACHE LINE. I DID NOT GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE UNDERWINGS IN FLIGHT.

Similar species and how eliminated:

: IMMATURE PEREGRINE - LACKED DARK HEAD AND HEAVY MOUSTACHE

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification?

If yes, explain: N/A

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: OVERCAST DAYLIGHT, 50 - 200 YDS.

8X40 BINOCULARS + 20X-60X SPOTTING SCOPE

Previous experience with this species and similar ones:

2 PRIOR PRAIRIE FALCON SIGHTINGS AND SEVERAL PEREGRINE

References and persons consulted before writing description:

PETERSON FIELD GUIDE

How long before field notes made? 6 hrs.

this form completed? 6 hrs.

Mail original form to field editor for this season.