

Gyr Falcon  
27 Oct 1946  
Cheever Lake, Emmet Co., IA  
J. Musgrove, Mrs. Musgrove, M. Reece  
Musgrove 1949

Record Number: 81-FC  
Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Musgrove, J.W. 1949. A 1946 record of the Gyr Falcon in Emmet County. IBL 19:22-23.

VOTE (1981): 1-II, 4-III, 2-IV

III, Reliable observer, barely adequate description.

III, Good observer, good view but brief.

IV, Sparse details; despite competence of observer. And a difficult-to-identify species.

III, obs. together.

IV, Multiple observer field record in October by experienced ornithologist (who apparently had never seen this species before). The only descriptive marks mentioned were (1) size, (2) 'dusty gray' color, (3) streaked and 'light' upperparts, and (4) 'rather robust' body. Points (1) and (4) require some measure in the field for comparison -- none is given. Points (2) and (3) are not sufficient to distinguish the species from a young or poorly marked Peregrine. No specific characteristics are mentioned that would distinguish this bird from a Peregrine. Finally, no mention is made of the flying style of the bird -- reputedly significantly distinctive of gyrfalcons.

III, Would like more details on head markings, but pale underparts and experience of observer along with what details were given are satisfactory.

## Gyr Falcon

Musgrove, J. W. 1949. A 1946 record of the Gyr Falcon in Emmet County.  
IBL 19:22-23.

**A 1946 Record of the Gyr Falcon in Emmet County.**—On October 27, 1946, while hunting ducks on Cheever Lake, three miles south of Estherville, Emmet County, Iowa, we observed a gray Gyr Falcon at rather close range. The bird approached from the south and flew directly overhead. It just cleared the tree tops and gave our party an excellent view. Its large size, typical falcon build with sharply pointed wings and rather robust body were very evident. Its under parts were light in color and showed some dark streaking. We were also able to get a good view of the bird's back as it banked after passing overhead. The back showed even dusty gray coloration. I am positive of the identification of this bird, as it was identified at once by three of the members of our party—myself, Maynard Reece, and Mrs. Musgrove, all of whom are acquainted with other birds of similar appearance and have had previous experience with the Duck Hawk and Prairie Falcon, which might be confused with this species. The autumn of 1946 showed Gyr Falcons in other states not far away from Iowa; others were reported in Dakota about the same time of year.—**JACK W. MUSGROVE**, Museum Director, Dept. of History & Archives, Des Moines, Iowa.