

SD

6/2/87

Bob,

I forgot to mention a couple of bird reports when I talked to you last. Both of these people reported the sightings directly to me with good details.

Peregrine Falcon - 3/7/87, n. of Cedar Rapids - Bart Ballard

details he gave me - "Very large falcon, sitting on telephone pole. Much larger than a nearby Am. kestrel, upperparts dark, underparts and underwings light with dark spotting. Hood seen well!"

20 L. Golden Plovers - 3/28/87 - Riverton

15 Pectoral Sandpipers - 3/28/87 - s. of Ferry L.

1 Lincoln's Sparrow - 3/28/87 - Riverton

} all Dan Nivens

Bart has seen a couple of Peregrines with me and is 100% sure the bird he saw was a Peregrine Falcon. He said he watched the bird for a couple of minutes before it flew.

Dan Nivens is working out of MBO, and visited his girlfriend in Iowa in late March. He is a very sharp birder, familiar with all of the species listed above. I questioned him about the Lincoln's Sparrow and he gave me very good verbal details of the bird - gray crown and back, fine streaking on breast, etc. I am sure the bird he saw was indeed a Lincoln's Sparrow.

I've been very busy the last few days. I was out on Monomoy on 30-31 May with R. Humphrey (the refuge manager), B. Nikula, and several other excellent birders. Highlights included a Reeve, 3 Black Skimmers, and several Arctic Terns on the 30th and an imm. ♂ Wilson's Plover (about the 70th state record), an imm. Little Gull, and an ad. C. Black-headed Gull (possibly nesting) on the 31st. We also saw a Philadelphia Vireo and a Mourning Warbler on S. Monomoy - these are very rare on the island. Spring migration has really slowed down - lots of Mourning Warblers around, but not much else. Last night we had 2 imm. Little Gulls in the Newburyport Harbor. One other thing - my cruise was rescheduled for 15-27 Jun, so I wouldn't be here if you were to come out. Take care and have a great summer!

Steve