

COLORADO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - SIGHT RECORD FORM

accepted

NEW STATE RECORD ☐UNUSUAL RECORD ☒

Please print or type. Attach photographs and additional pages if necessary.

Species: Gyr Falcon / Falco rusticolus
(Vernacular Name) (Scientific Name)Date(s): (2/2/94 - Probable); 2/9/94 & 2/23/94Number of birds seen: 1 Sex: UNKNOWN Plumage: ADULT GRAY PHASELatilong: 4 Distribution Code: _____ Habitat Code: CRLocality: E of LONGMONT. 1/2 mi. W. of HAMM'S POND Elevation: 5200' (APPROX.)Nearest town: LONGMONT County: BOULDERTime(s) observed: 2:15 - 3:30 PM 9TH; 12 - 1 PM 23RDDuration of observation (e.g. 1 sec., 5 min., etc.): 1 HR 15 MIN & 35 MIN.

Other observers who saw the bird with you (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

NONE

Other observers who saw the bird independently (give names, addresses, telephone numbers):

UNKNOWN

Light conditions (position of bird to light and shade, direction and strength of light):

25°. CLEAR. SAW BIRD FROM ALL ANGLES.Optical equipment used (e.g. power, types): 8X BINOCLES & 15-60X SCOPE.Distance and how measured: 50 FEET TO 300+ YARDS. ESTIMATED.If photographed, type of equipment and film: CANON A1, VIVITAR SERIES 1 70-210, KODACHROME 64.Who else photographed the bird: —

Describe the bird's behavior (e.g. flying, feeding, or habits used in identifying):

FLYING & PERCHED ON TOWER / PHONE POLES.

Describe in detail the bird's relative size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern. Include details of bill, wing and tail shape. Give particular emphasis to marks you used to identify the bird. Reference to its resemblance to field guide descriptions and illustrations is not enough. Describe only what you actually observed in the field:

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

Description (continued):

Describe the bird's song and call, if given, including method of delivery, (i.e. from perch, in flight, duration):

Describe the general and specific habitat in which you observed the bird:

How did you eliminate similarly appearing species?

What is your prior experience with this and similarly appearing species?

was familiar with PEREGRINE & PRAIRIE FALCONS
& GOSHAWK. 1st SIGHTING of a GYR.

List books, illustration, recordings, other birders, etc. consulted and how this influenced your identification:

a) At time of observation: NAT'L. GEOGRAPHIC field GUIDE USED TO
FIND UNIQUE fieldMARKS TO CONCENTRATE ON.

b) After observation: PETERSON GUIDE & SEVERAL OTHER RAPTOR BOOKS
LOOKED AT TO RECONFIRM INITIAL INFO.

This report was written from reports made during X, after observation _____, from memory _____

Date and time report was written: 8/27/94

Reporting observer: MARK NIKAS

Signature: Mark Nikas

Address: 2820 9TH PL SW, LOVELAND, CO 80537

All reports will be maintained permanently at the address below:

Return to: CURATOR, DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CITY PARK
DENVER, CO 80205

2/9/94 TRANSCRIPTION OF GYRFALCON NOTES.

INITIALLY DROVE BY THIS BIRD PERCHED ON A PHONE POLE JUST OFF THE ROAD. IMMEDIATELY FELT IT WAS A GYRFALCON AS IT'S SILHOUETTE WAS OBVIOUSLY FALCONIN BUT IT WAS BY FAR THE LARGEST FALCON I'D EVER SEEN. I DROVE PAST, STOPPED, & TURNED & SLOWLY DROVE BACK TOWARDS THE BIRD. IT OF COURSE FLEW OFF AND I HAD TO BE AT WORK. DROVE INTO LONGMONT AND ARRANGED FOR TIME OFF AND WAS BACK IN 45 MINUTES. THE BIRD WAS PERCHED ON A LARGE CEMENT POWER POLE ABOUT 300 YARDS NORTH. IT FLEW IN TO IT'S ORIGINAL PERCH WHILE I WAS WATCHING. THE BIRD WAS QUITE CLOSE AS I COULDN'T EVEN FOCUS MY SCOPE ON IT.

IT'S PLUMAGE WAS SLATE GRAY ABOVE - DARKER THAN A CALIFORNIA GULL. THE UNDERSIDES WERE WHITE WITH BOL DARK STREAKS FROM THE UPPER BREAST TO UNDERTAIL. FLANKS, LOWER BELLY AND UNDERTAIL COVERTS BARKED. TAIL WAS LONG - EXTENDING WELL PAST THE WINGTIPS AND REMINISCENT OF A HAWK OWL. BRIGHT YELLOW CERE. THIN MUSTACHIAL STRIPE LIKE A PRAIRIE FALCON. CROWN, NAPE AND FACE PALE AND FINELY STREAKED WITH GRAY. LEGS HEAVILY FEATHERED DOWN TO FEET. TOES YELLOW. NO JESSES OR BANDS. EYES DARK. TAIL PALE GRAY-WHITE EVENLY Banded WITH DARK GRAY. CHIN WHITE THIN PALE GRAY FRINGE TO COVERTS, SECONDARIES. PRIMARIES SAME SHADE OF GRAY AS BACK. PALE BAND ON FOREHEAD AT BASE OF CERE. IN FLIGHT THE UNDERSIDE OF WINGS WERE A UNIFORM MOTTLED GRAY ON WHITE. IT DID A FAIR AMOUNT OF SOARING BETWEEN STRONG FLAPPING TO ALI

THE ATTACHED PRINTS WERE MADE FROM THE
ENCLOSED SLIDES. THE UNDERLYING PATTERN IS
DISCERNIBLE IF HELD UNDER BRIGHT LIGHT.

ON 2/2/94, I FLUSHED AN ^{GR. HORNET} OWL FROM HAMMIS POND
AND A LARGE FALCON DROVE ON IT AND CHASED IT OFF.
I ONLY SAW IT FOR A FEW SECONDS BUT NOTED THE
GRAY TOPSIDE AND LACK OF DARK AXILLARIES BELOW.
I COULDN'T BE SURE IT WASN'T A PEREGRINE. THIS
BIRD GAVE A RAPTOR-LIKE "SCREE" CALL.

SIZE AND TAIL LENGTH AND LACK OF "HELMET"
ELIMINATED PEREGRINE. SIZE AND COLORING ELIMINATED
PRATTLE FALCON. SIZE, LACK OF EYEBROW, TAIL PATTERN
AND MUSTACHE STRIPE ELIMINATED GOSHAWK.



12. 54. 18.

2-94-2m

Gy. Wilson

1000 m