

12-93-81

Species: Gyrfalcon - *Falco rusticolus*

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Date: Mar. 16, 1993 Time bird seen: 9 AM to 9:05 AM.

Locality: 11 miles West of New Raymer on a fence N.E. and Parallel to Highway 14.

Optical equipment: 8x30 Nikon F Series W.A.

Number of birds seen: 1 Sex:

Plumage: Gray Morph - Spotted-Striped Breast - Broadly

Light conditions: Cloudy but bright

Distance from bird: 20 yards

Describe the bird's overall behavior: Perched on fence & watched us closely when we stopped - finally flew - low, strong, flight - ^{Broadly} Painted Wings

Other observers: Mike Spoon (an infrequent birder)

Describe in detail the bird which you saw. Emphasize particularly the field marks used to identify the bird. Include size, overall shape, plumage and color pattern, details on shape or size of bill, wings, and tail.

A large falcon, Dark Gray Back. Spotted Striping on Breast, Very light Sideburns, Barred Flank, yellowish Eyering & Cere, yellow legs, wings extended about 3/3 down tail, Tail barred & tapered in flight, Coverts on underwing contrasted with flight feathers but not black like prairie falcon.

Describe the bird's calls or sounds, if heard; including methods of delivery -- i.e., from perch, in flight, etc.: Didn't hear call

List similar species and how you eliminated them: Peregrine, Prairie, Goshawk

This was a large falcon - Shape of wings & tail - Markings on head - Type of flight

Prior experience with this and similar species: Many sightings of the other three species - 3 other times with the Gyrfalcon once extensively in Alaska.

This report was written from notes made: during observation ☒
immediately after observation ☐
from memory ☐

Signature:

David W. Bolton