

UTAH FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SIGNIFICANT SIGHTING RECORD DOCUMENTATION

2005-36 (R83)
1983-01 wfo

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE FOR U.F.O. RECORDS AND DOCUMENTATION CODES ONLY.

Lat/long _____ Reporter _____ Sci Name _____
Habitat _____ Record type _____ Serial No. APR - 6 1983 004
Date/time _____ Disposition _____ Cx Nos. _____

Common Name Gyr Falcon
Scientific Name Falco Rusticolus
Sight date 2/1/83 time 3:00pm duration 2 hours
Distance from bird 50 yards
Light conditions excellent
Optical equip. Bushnell binoculars 7X35
Photo. equip. Bushnell spacemaster spotting scope
Nikon Fe 200mm lens
Number of this species seen one
Notes made at time of sighting Date this report was prepared. _____
Notes made later from memory
Photo available Photo enclosed 3/26/83

Weather at time of this observation.
clear
Prior weather & number of days since chan
Mild warm no snow
last snowfall was in Dec 15
Locality
Directly west of Kaysville
exit on I-15 western most
road bordering lake front.

Male Adult Age unk. Basic Plumage Light Phase
Female Subadult ♀ or Imm Breeding Dark Phase
Sex Unk. Juv/Imm 2/3 year bird Eclipse/Winter Molting

Description of bird: Size, Colors, all field marks OBSERVED - Unique features of this bird, if any

The Gyr Falcon is a large falcon females weigh around 53 ounces. They are heavy marked on the breast, they are broad across the shoulders and have a small head in comparison to their body immatures have a rather long tail.

The falcon was observed flying it came over head and stooped at a pheasant we saw running ahead of us. I ran to flush the pheasant thinking the falcon would give chase. The Gyr Falcon flew straight away then a Barn owl flushed from the side of a stream bank the Gyr turned and chased the owl forcing the owl to take cover in some cattails along the stream. The Gyr then flew to a dead tree where it was photographed. It sat in the tree for twenty minutes then flew low and powerful a good distance pumping its wings continuously it struck at something on the ground then it flew to a fence post where a rough-legged hawk bueto logopus was perched it forced the bueto from its post and remained perched for ten minutes and then flew again in the same fashion east flying low to the ground it was lost from sight. I walked in the direction it disappeared, it was then spotted on another fence post, it was last seen flying west toward the lake.

Field marks which were not seen. Why not?

None

Variations from expected field marks.

None

List similar species and describe why or how you eliminated them.

Prairie falcon is much smaller and lighter on the breast than an immature Gyrfalcon. Goshawk do not make long powerful approaches at quarry in open country and prefer to hunt in cover.

Behavior of this bird. Include names of other birds with this one and any interaction.

See front

Habitat this location and near by or adjacent habitat if significant.

Very flat void of cover used for grazing cattle occupied by pheasants and ducks and canada geese.

Describe birds song or sounds.

None

Names of other observers. A/C+phone#

Larry M. Barker ph. 363-0563
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What is your experience with this or similar birds?

I have trained and flown three gyrfalcons in falconry observing hunting and flying have seen these gyrfalcons make over 600 kills.

Print name & mailing address below

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A/C and Phone No. _____