

29 JANUARY 1991

DEAR ELLA,

I'M SORRY — I STRUGGLED WITH THESE PHOTOS, PROJECTED THEM, LOOKED AT THEM EVERY WHICH WAY, AND ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THEY SEEM TO DEPICT A GOOD-SIZED WHITE BIRD OF PREY. OBVIOUSLY, ANY BIRD CAN BE ALL-WHITE, SO COLOR ALONE MEANS NOTHING. IN ONE OF THESE SHOTS, WHERE WE SEEM TO BE SEEING THE BIRD HEAD-ON (IF IT ISN'T A WHITE MUSHROOM), THE POSTURE DOES SUGGEST A GYRFALCON; BUT IN THE SIDE VIEW, IT ALMOST LOOKS MORE LIKE A BUTEO. DID THE OBSERVERS TAKE GOOD, DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS? AS I MENTIONED ON THE PHONE, THIS LAST FALL HAD A GOOD FLIGHT OF GYRS, SO THIS WOULD BE A LOGICAL SEASON FOR ONE TO SHOW UP; BUT ~~IN~~ IN MY OPINION, THESE TWO PHOTOS BY THEMSELVES AREN'T ENOUGH TO ESTABLISH THE RECORD.

ON ANOTHER TOPIC, I THINK YOUR DRAFT ON IBISES READS WELL, & I CERTAINLY HOPE IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. AS FOR MYSELF, FROM NOW ON, ANY TIME I GET CLOSE TO A PLEGADIS I'M GOING TO STARE AT ITS LEGS!

THANKS ALSO FOR SENDING THE COPY OF THE NED JOHNSON LETTER. GLAD TO SEE THAT HE AGREES WITH YOU ON ALL THOSE IDENTIFICATIONS. SMART MAN! HIS COMMENTS ON THE REPEATED OCCURRENCE OF SUCH ♀ SAPSUCKERS, & ON THE NAPE PATTERN OF MUSEUM SKINS, ARE QUITE VALUABLE.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF (FOR A CHANGE), OKAY? AND GIVE MY BEST WISHES TO RICHARD, KRISTI, JEREMY, AND SCOTT. I DON'T KNOW IF I SAID THIS EARLIER, BUT YOU'VE GOT A GREAT FAMILY, & YOU'RE ALL LUCKY TO HAVE EACH OTHER.

WARMEST REGARDS
KENN