

4 December 1994

Joanna Stickler  
RD 1 Box 307  
Lawrenceville, PA 16929

Dear Joanna,

Thank you for submitting details on the Gyrfalcon you saw near Lawrenceville on 23 March 1994 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we cannot accept this record. Most committee members felt the description given did not conclusively rule out the possibility of the bird being a Peregrine Falcon. This does not mean of course that the bird wasn't a Gyrfalcon, merely that the details did not allow for a concrete determination.

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible.

Sincerely

Nick Pulcinella  
Chairman

Record # 200-03-1994

200-02-1994

T1092

PO1, Box 307  
Lawrenceville, PA 16929  
March 24, 1994

Dear Bob,

Tried to call you yesterday, with no success, to tell you of a gyrfalcon near you. About 2 PM, between Rts 6+287 junction and Dresser Mfg. plant, I observed it chasing a pigeon. They were maneuvering frantically about, high ahead of me, with the sun behind me. The pigeon headed straight for traffic and the gyrfalcon pulled up less than 40 ft above + ahead of me, presenting both ~~the~~ top + bottom, coming and going views. It was magnificent! Had never seen a gyrfalcon before; didn't realize they were so large. But, all my books seem to indicate that the mustashes are faint; this had long, narrow, bright black ones. The underside was nearly white, with faint speckling - topside was a darker, more speckled glossy silver. Hope you get to see him. (Her?)

Frank/Barb - RmR

- Bird report: **I tried but could not locate this bird.**
- Have had Redpolls <sup>100+</sup> most days 1/6 through 3/23 - they like miger seed on ground
  - 1/1-3/23 about 50 Horned Larks frequent feed lot next door + a few have been at our feeder
  - 3/3 6 snow buntings at our feeding area - on-ground
  - Sharpshinned + Cooper's Hawks have been here at least 10 days this quarter
  - 7/6 Great Blue Heron + Mallards in Cowanesque River ~~then~~ below C. Lake outlet. They have been in the open water all winter.
  - 3/12 1 pr black ducks + many <sup>(201)</sup> Common Mergansers in open water below Cowanesque Lake outlet.
  - 3/20 1st Turkey Vulture of the year near Tioga, PA.
  - 3/21 Pair of Ravens <sup>back</sup> at John Deming's compost pile. They've been away since early January. They nest nearby every year. (1 mi S. of here.) John Deming has also had bluebirds a few times this winter.
- We have found several dead songbirds - downy woodpecker, house finch, junco. Gravel shortage? ~~severe~~ weather? old age? Disease? Other?
- I understand the local <sup>deputy</sup> game protectors are finding dead turkeys with crops full of corn, but no grinding gravel in them -

Best wishes, Joanna Stickler P.S. Thanks for the article from Jack. I sent it on.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: Gyr Falcon (Falco rusticolus)

Date of Sighting: 23 March 1994 to 23 March 1994

Location: NEAR LAWRENCEVILLE

County: TIOGA

Observer(s): Joanna Stickler

Date of Submission: 1994

Submitted by: Joanna Stickler

Written Description: YES Photo: NO Specimen: NO

Recording: NONE

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas						X		
N. Pulcinella						X		
E. Kwater				X				
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams							X	
P. Schwalbe						X		
J. Skinner						X		
TOTALS			1	1		4	1	
DECISION						X		

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C Haas*

Date:

9-25-94