

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2016-02-26 08:36:10
Observer's Name	Philip Smith
E-mail	Philsmith@pa.gov
Phone	814-332-6184
Observer's Address	Street Address: 30543 Russell Road City: Townville State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 16360 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Taylor Smith, Laurel Smith
Species (Common Name)	Gyr Falcon
Species (Scientific Name)	Falco rusticolus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Immature, grey phase, male
Observation Date and Time	02-20-2016 1:00 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Clarion
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Tylersburg
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Route 36, approx 2-4 miles west of Tylersburg
Habitat	large agricultural field
Distance to bird	approx 30 -50 ft
Viewing conditions	sunny, clear
Optical equipment used	naked eye
Description	bird sighted on telephone pole along route 36. After passing pole, I turned and observed for several minutes from around 100 yds. Then approached in car to within approx. 30-50 ft of pole. Bird did not flush for almost 2 minutes. My daughter took video from her I phone. Grey phase gyr falcon, immature, male or small female. I have seen female captive bred gyr, and gyr hybrids. The bird sighted appeared to me smaller. Good view of both tarsus, which had no bands (falconry, artif propagation or USFW) of any kind present

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

Bird hunting from pole. Appeared very naïve, as it allowed so a close approach by car, even with my daughters arms and phone flailing outside the car window. After approx. 2 min the bird flushed. Video shorter in length than actual time I was able to view. Strong wingbeat with intermittent soar/glide, estimated bird covered half mile distance and achieved 600-700 ft elevation in less than a minute.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Size, Plumage

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Yes, familiarity with raptors, previously held master class falconry permit for 32 years

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Video

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[IMG_4689.MOV](#)

Click to edit

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