

LOUISIANA BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

REPORT FORM

This form is intended as a convenience in reporting observations of species on the Louisiana Bird Records Committee (LBRC) Review List. The LBRC recommends the use of this form or a similar format when submitting records for review to assure that all pertinent information is accounted for. Attach additional pages or files as necessary. Please print or type for hard copy. For electronic copy, be sure to save this file to your computer before entering text. Attach field notes, drawings, photographs, or tape recordings, if available. Include all photos for more obscurely marked species. When completed (if hard copy), mail to Secretary, Louisiana Bird Records Committee, c/o Museum of Natural Science, 119 Foster Hall, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-3216, or e-mail electronic copy as an attachment to Paul Edward Conover at <zoiseaux@lusfiber.net> .

1. English and Scientific names: **Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)**

2. Number of individuals, sexes, ages, general plumage (e.g., 2 in alternate plumage): **1 adult**

3. Parish: **Calcasieu**

Specific Locality: **30°3'39.132" N, 93°1'33.486" W**

4. Date(s) when observed: **18-December-2022**

5. Time(s) of day when observed: **at 11:00:33 AM**

6. Reporting observer and city/state address

Reporting observer: Charles Battaglia (LDWF)
City: Lafayette
State: LA

7. Other observers accompanying reporter who also *identified* the bird(s): **Michael Seymour (LDWF)**

8. Other observers who *independently identified* the bird(s): **None known**

9. Light conditions (position of bird in relation to shade and to direction and amount of light): **The sun was behind observers completely illuminating the bird in front of us (i.e. not backlit). Bright midday sky with no/few clouds.**

10. Optical equipment (type, power, condition): **Binoculars Swarovski EL 10x42 6,4° ; Canon EF Ultrasonic 400mm 1:5.6 L series lens attached to a Canon EOS 7D Mark II; Vortex 22X-66X Spotting Scope (all in good shape)**

11. Distance to bird(s): **200 yards**

12. Duration of observation: **10 minutes**

13. Habitat: **Barren/fallow field**

14. Behavior of bird / circumstances of observation (flying, feeding, resting; include and stress habits used in identification; relate events surrounding observation): **Bird was first seen flying across fallow field, bird was lost and subsequently refound resting on a mud clump in a field. After approaching close enough to confirm ID, bird was noted being mobbed by AMKE and flushed. Bird continued flying Northeast while being mobbed by AMKE.**

15. Description (include only what was actually seen, *not what "should" have been seen*; include if possible: total length/relative size compared to other familiar species; body bulk, shape, proportions; bill, eye, leg, and plumage characteristics. Stress features that separate it from similar species, *or for species that are known to hybridize frequently, stress features that help eliminate possible hybrids*): **Large brown bird with quick strong wingbeats and no white rump patch was seen flying across a fallow field. Bird was subsequently lost and refound a few minutes later with spotting scope resting on mud clump in the same fallow field. Bird was mobbed by AMKE and flushed, clearly revealing dark wingpits/axillaries as it flew northeast.**

16. Voice: **Individual did not vocalize**

17. Similar species (include how they were eliminated by your observation): **American Kestrel (AMKE) eliminated by size of individual relative to AMKE in photograph; Merlin eliminated by size of individual relative to AMKE in photograph; Peregrine Falcon eliminated by presence of dark wingpits/axillaries**

18. Photographs or tape recordings obtained? (by whom? attached?): **Photographs obtained by Charles Battaglia (LDWF) and Michael Seymour (LDWF). Battaglia photos attached.**

19. Previous experience with this species: **Battaglia has not seen a Prairie Falcon before, but has seen numerous AMKE, MERL, and PEFA**

20. Identification aids: (list books, illustrations, other birders, etc. used in identification):

a. at time of observation: **Photographs, Sibley Birds East Field Guide, and Merlin Bird ID Phone application**

b. after observation: **Photographs, Sibley Birds East Field Guide, and Merlin Bird ID Phone application**

21. This description is written from:

<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made during the observation.	Are notes attached?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	notes made after the observation.	At what date?	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	memory		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	study of images		

22. Are you positive of your identification? If not, explain:

Yes, positive identification made at time of observation and photographs show key characteristics indicative of the species

23. Date: **02 February 2022**

Time: **10:55:00 AM**

24. May the LBRC have permission to display in whole or in part this report and accompanying photos on the LOS-LBRC website and LBRC Facebook page? **YES, please also include affiliation (LDWF)**_____

If yes, may we include your name with the report? **YES, please also include affiliation (LDWF)**__







