

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon (immature) How many? 1Location? East side of Iowa State University CampusType of habitat? Tree top approximately 40-45 ft. east of Heady Hall (East Hall)When? date(s): Tuesday, Janr 31, 1984 time: ~~8:00~~ 5:10 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.Who? your name and address: Kelly Bostian, G4 Fulmer, Lindenothers with you: noneothers before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

From a distance of more than 50 yards the bird first appeared as only a large bird in a tree. However, the posture was wrong for a crow. Crows are common on campus. This bird sat more erect and looked more broad at the shoulders. I was looking into the sun. It made a swoop and flapped its wings once or twice and perched in a higher tree. Then I knew I was looking at one of Falconidae ~~and~~ it was much larger than an American Kestrel.

There is a construction sight below the tree and against the building with a snow fence up. I didn't want to cause a commotion crossing the fence so I was only able to approach within 10 or 15 feet of the base of the tree. From there the cheek patches were visible, a hooked bill was apparent, the under tail was barred and the chest showed a distinct barred pattern on a predominately golden colored chest and belly. I was standing in the shade of the building approximately the same distance away from the building as the bird. The setting sun was still high enough to shine directly on the bird in the top of the tree.

I ran inside the building and proceeded to climb the stairs to the third floor. The bird had moved to the tree it had originally been sighted in. I hung my head out an office window and was no more than 40 ft. from the bird. The bird was facing away and the back appeared

Similar species and how eliminated:

(over please)

Prairie Falcon: Absence of dark terminal band on tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? n/a

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

unaided eye, stepped off distance from building to tree. (see description)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have never seen prairie falcon

Have watched peregrines with Tony Selch (Roland Ia.)

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Tony Selch (master falconer) James Dinsmore (Professor Animal Ecl. ISU)

How long before field notes made? 30 min. this form completed? 4 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

(dark cap + cheek patch)

black. Again, the bill was definitely hooked, but I couldn't honestly state that it was blueish or black. I am saying it was an immature peregrine because of the darkness of its plumage.

I know a master falconer and have been very close to peregrines in both adult and first-year plumage.

Your name and address: Kelly Hoelzer, 54 Palmer, Linden

Others with you: none

Others before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, breast, belly, under tail, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

From a distance of more than 50 yards the bird first appeared as only a large bird in a tree. However, the posture was wrong for a crow. Crows are common on campus. This bird sat more erect and looked more proud at the shoulders. I was looking into the sun. It made a swoop and flipped its wings once or twice and perched in a higher tree. Then I knew I was looking at one of falconidae - it was much larger than an American kestrel.

There is a construction sign below the tree and against the building with a snow fence up. I didn't want to cause a connection crossing the fence so I was only able to see the bird in the tree. From here the cheek patches were visible, a hooked bill was apparent, the under tail was barred and the chest showed a distinct barred pattern on a predominantly golden colored chest and belly. I was standing in the shade of the building approximately the same distance away from the building as the bird. The setting sun was still high enough to shine directly on the bird in the top of the tree.

I ran inside the building and proceeded to climb the stairs to the third floor. The bird had moved to the tree it had originally been sitting in. I went up next to an office window and saw no more than 20 ft. from the bird. The bird was facing away and the back appeared

Stellar species and how estimated: (see above)

Bird's falcon: Absence of dark terminal band on tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Unaided eye, stepped off distance from building to tree. (see above)

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have never seen prairie falcon

Have you done previous work with this species (include date):

References and persons consulted before writing description: Tom Selch (master falconer), James Dinsmore (Iowa Department of Natural Resources)