

1. Species: Prairie Falcon Number seen: 1
 (If known) Age: imm Sex: ? Plumage: _____

2. Location (including county): Utah Ave at Mississippi River - West edge of

3. Date(s): 12 Jan. 1989 Time of day: 11:00 AM to 11:10 AM

4. Observers -- Your name: Peter C. Peterson Phone: (319) 355-7051

Address: 235 McClellan Blvd. Davenport, IA Zip 52803

Others present: none

Others before or after you: Larry Fisher - later

5. Describe the habitat the bird(s) was found in and the surrounding habitat:
First seen working river edge then chasing Rock Doves at grain terminal, finally perched on top of grain elevator.

6. Description: Describe in great detail (but only include what actually was seen in the field (the size, shape and color pattern of the bird(s)). Include a description of the bill, eye, legs, feet, tail, body and wings as well as other diagnostic characteristics.

Large Falcon - grey brown above, wings pointed, tail long, rounded & barred. Head grey brown on top, with grey moustache mark on face, throat & cheek white white below streaked grey brown a xillaries black and black bar up center of wing several inches toward tip. Legs & feet yellow, cere yellow, bill grey.

Species: Prairie Falcon Date seen: 12 Jan, 1989 Observer: Petersen

7. Similar species (explain how eliminated):
Peregrine Falcon - back darker, moustache black, no black underwing
Merlin, smaller, no black underwing
8. Describe the bird's behavior: Chasing pigeons, perched on elevator
9. Describe the song or call notes heard: not heard
10. Viewing conditions:
Optical equipment used (type, power): 10X40 Zeiss binocs, 30-40 X60 scope when perched
Closest distance to bird (how measured): 200-400 yards - 400 when perched - measured by car odometer later
Lighting and weather: sun behind observer when perched, variable light
Was the bird photographed? no By whom? _____ Attached? _____
11. Summarize previous experience with this species and similar species:
Have seen twice previously in Iowa & several times in Western U.S.
12. Other observers who did not agree with the identification (explain): none
13. List books and illustrations consulted and advice received. How did these influence this description?
Checked Geo guide during observation, did not influence description
14. How long after observing the bird(s) before field notes completed? 5 min.
15. How long after observing the bird(s) before this form completed? 5 hours

Mail this completed form to: Avian Ecology Program, Natural Heritage Division
Dept. of Conservation, Springfield, IL 62701

If you have observed a common bird species during a season of abundance, verification is achieved simply by returning there again in season. If, however, the observation involves a rare species, or a common species out of season or at an unusual location, and you wish to share this experience with the scientific community, special documentation is necessary.

An acceptable documentation consists of one or more of the following: a collected, diagnostic specimen; a diagnostic photograph; a diagnostic recording of the bird's voice; or, an accurate and detailed written description of the observation. It must be emphasized that a request for documentation is not an affront, but an effort to perpetuate a record by obtaining concrete evidence which may be permanently preserved for all to examine. This procedure is required for every extraordinary observation irrespective of the observer.