

Documentation of Bird Sighting.

1. Species - Peregrine Falcon

2. Number - One

3. De Soto Wildlife Refuge

RR 1-B

Missouri Valley, Iowa - 51555

4. Date - Febr. 24, 1978.

5. Time seen - about 12:30 P.M.

6. Description -

Large falcon with 3 to 3 1/2 ft. wingspan

Brown plumage on back

Underside of wing brown near

the body, lighter near wing

tip, with dark brown sharply

pointed tip. Breast white

and brown toward belly -

7. Voice - none heard

8. Very rapid flight - banked with

underside toward viewers before

disappearing behind grove of

trees - Flight was low - 40-50 ft.

9. Habitat - seen in refuge in an area

between a lake that has some open

water and the Missouri River which

was open and filled with Mallards

(plus a few mergansers) -

10. Similar species - because of size

could only be a prairie falcon,

but observers were certain they

saw no black axillars at base of

wing nor was the wing white near

the body.

11. Falcon flew over car viewers were

riding in - it followed the road for

Moustache?

about 1/4 mile, banked with belly side toward us before disappearing behind trees. The refuge was closed to the public (except for ice-fishermen), and the refuge staff permitted us to drive around slowly to look for birds in the area since we were volunteer trained teacher-naturalists from Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue, Neb. In return we were to make a report on our sightings to them. When we sighted the bird we stopped the car and the three observers followed his flight with the use of binoculars. As soon as he disappeared we consulted the Golden Field Guide to Birds of North America and Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to Eastern Birds. To the best of our knowledge, by discussing what each of us saw we felt certain it was a juvenile Peregrine Falcon.

11-12 - Covered

13. Light - slight haze

14. I have seen Peregrine Falcons in Aransas, Texas, Padre Island, Texas, and on my farm along the Missouri River north of Omaha.

15. Other observers - Mrs. Jerry Runic, and Mrs. Julie Schroeder -

16 - Yes

17 - None

18 - Already mentioned - used the underside pictures of the prairie + peregrine falcons in Golden Field Guide to determine which falcon it was since the size determined it had to be one or the other

(continued)

A sighting
~~the~~ report was turned in to the Oa Soto
Refuge that day. I reported the sighting
the next day to an Ornithology
Workshop at Fontenelle Forest Nature
Center. Again that same day I
gave a detailed oral report of the
sighting to Mr. Andy Saunders,
the chief naturalist at the forest -
I am writing this report for the first
time 2 1/2 weeks after the sighting -

Mrs. Walter J. Deeda
13205 North River Drive
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March 14, 1978.