

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1Location? in Liscomb - (Marshall County)Type of habitat? Small townWhen? date(s): February 15, 1989 time: 9:00 a.m. to 9:01 a.m. - (15-20 seconds)Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers 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.

I was coming home from the post office when I happened to glance up and saw a large falcon (Peregrine-size) zipping just above the tree tops and over the houses. It was light brownish and had very distinctive dark axillars. It did not have a barred tail. I ran home, hopped in the car, and drove in the direction it was going but did not see it again.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Peregrine is darker colored and lacks the dark axillars. A Merlin is smaller and has a barred tail.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

the light was behind me. It was partly cloudy but bright. I saw it with my eyes only, but saw it very well. 50-60 yards away.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Have seen some Prairie Falcons and quite a few Peregrine Falcons.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None

How long before field notes made? 9:20 a.m. that morning this form completed? Feb. 27, 1989

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