

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Peregrine Falcon 2. Number 1
3. Location Dunbar Slough, Greene Co Iowa
4. Date: 9/21/80 5. Time Bird Seen: ~ 7:10 Am to 7:15
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- A moderate sized fast flying hawk landed atop a pine tree at 225 yds, sun behind. With Questar scope could see little detail except for definite strong facial mark by eye. After a few minutes the bird flew south - fast, direct flight, pointed wings. Flew down the marsh and did not return. Estimated size twice that of a Merlin (later seen in same tree). Identification based on face mark, pointed wings, direct fast flight and size.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: see above
9. Habitat - general: long narrow marsh with a few trees at edge  
specific: Dunbar S.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
Shaped definitely that of falcon. Size and flight differed from Merlin. Face mark heavier than Prairie Falcon
11. Distance (how measured)? 225 yds (paced)
12. Optical equipment: 8x Leitz Thruvid, Questar scope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
Clear, back light
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
seen at nest site in Iowa in 1949, in Texas in early 70's
15. Other observers:  
Mike + Carol Nelson, Tom Shivers
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:  
not used
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
about 1 hour
- Signature: Thomas H Kent Address: 211 Richards St
- Date: 9/24/80 City, State: Iowa CA IA