

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1
 Location? TOMAHAWK MARSH SAC COUNTY
 Type of habitat? MARSH, ~~OUT~~ GRAIN FIELDS
 When? date(s): Sept 24, 1994 time: _____ to _____
 Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen Spirit Lake, Iowa 51368
 others with you: ROB Thelen
 others before or after you: _____

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.

Scanning the marsh from the north road at Tomahawk marsh I spotted a large falcon. He flew over the marsh and landed on a knoll on the south side of the marsh. After looking at it with the spotting scope I knew it was either a prairie falcon or peregrine. It was too large to be a merlin. We then drove to the east blacktop and was able to get within 100-150 yds.

Its dark malar stripe on side of face and belly striped breast and belly-spots on head identified it as an immature peregrine. Also when it eventually flew it passed within 30 yds and I could plainly see that its underwings were light

Similar species and how eliminated:

Prairie falcon eliminated by dark malar stripe colored, and also by light colored axillars.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

cloudy some drizzle
 Distance estimated

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Swift Audubon and Discoverer Telescope
 I've seen several peregrines in captivity

References and persons consulted before writing description:

also I've seen many merlins and 2 prairie falcons

How long before field notes made? next day this form completed? Nov 30

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