

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? PEREGRINE FALCON How many? 1 ADULTLocation? GEORGE WYTH S.P., BLACK HAWK Co.Type of habitat? FLYING DOWN RIVER OVER CEDAR RIVER ON BOUNDRY OF G.W.S.P.When? date(s): 28 SEPTEMBER 1986 time: 10:30 am to 10:31 a.m.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None that I know of

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.

A large falcon was flying down river along the Cedar River adjacent to George Wyth S.P. The first thing noticed was the falcon-like pointed wings and wedge shaped tail, dark blue-black back. As the bird flew in front of me and flared away I got a good look at the black patches on the side of the head forming a helmeted appearance, sideburn type. The breast was a very light gray color. This bird had very powerful flight characteristics and after it saw me it went down river at a fast pace disappearing from view very fast.

Similar species and how eliminated: Merlin would be darker on breast and lacks helmeted look this bird had. Prairie Falcon would be sandy brown overall, this bird was not.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Slight overcast, very good light; guesstimate of approx. 150' to 200' using 10x40 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Peregrines and quite a few Merlin but no experience with Prairie Falcon.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 6 hrs. this form completed? 24 hrs.

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