

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Waterloo Greenbelt along Black Hawk CreekType of habitat? Riverbottom timberWhen? date(s): Sept. 10, 1984 time: 9:00AM to 9:01AMWho? your name and address: Robert K. Myers, 1236 Sylvia Ave, Waterloo, 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.

The bird was being bothered by crows and thinking it was an owl I wasn't much interested. When I neared the crows I looked up (I was chasing warblers down low) and saw a very large "hawk" and for a split second thought "red-tail". I knew this wasn't correct and was able to view the falcon through binoculars as it viewed me from its perch for a short time before it flew. The crows did not give chase.

The large size would suggest a big ♀. The "helmet", back + wings were gray - lighter than others I've seen. Breast was light gray with dark cross markings. ^(whitish) The mustaches on sides of head were very prominent and were squared off on bottom. Eye was dark + feet yellowish.

In flight I noted long fairly pointed wings and a fairly long narrow tail.

→ Upper breast + throat were clear.

Similar species and how eliminated: The bird was so obvious I can't imagine anyone mistaking it for anything else

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Dis = approx. 100' by eye - cloudy day but good light - TX35 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen several peregrines in past 2 yrs.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? — this form completed? Sept. 10

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240