

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Prairie Falcon 2. Number: one  
 3. Location 2 miles east of Lester, Lyon County, along state highway #9  
 4. Date: March 9, 1984 5. Time Bird seen: 2:02 PM to 2:03 PM

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):

Large falcon first spotted perched on roadside fence post. Noted thin moustache, trailing from below the eyes, basically brown coloring, very light buffy breast, with vertical streaks. After about 30 seconds the bird flew and displayed typical falcon wings and tail (barring was noted on tail). Flight was strong and somewhat slow, with the bird flying fairly close to ground. Flight was observed for about 25 seconds before bird disappeared.

7. Description of voice, if heard:

8. Description of behavior: (see notes on flight, above)

9. Habitat - general: Seen along open, unplowed fields in NW Iowa plains.  
 specific: Sitting on fence post along field/highway edge.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:

Peregrine falcon--Prairie falcon observed had lighter breast, finer (thinner) moustache, no horizontal bars on breast, barring absent on undersides of wings.

11. Distance (how measured)? estimated 75 ft. to perch from car when sighted 12. Optical equipment: 7x50 binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): sun shining from behind right shoulder as bird was observed--excellent lighting

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have sighted prairie on several previous occasions and handled injured specimen in 1983.

15. Other observers: none

16. Did the others agree with your identification?

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description

Birds of N. America (Robbins, et al, 2nd edition) & Peterson (new edition)--used after sighting only to assure differentiation from peregrine falcon.

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?  
 about 10 minutes.

Signature Douglas C. Barr Address: P.O. Box 65  
Larchwood, Iowa 51241

Date: March 9, 1984 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_