

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Peregrine Falcon 2. Number: one
3. Location Ames, Story County, Iowa
4. Date: 10 October 1983 5. Time Bird seen: 5:15 pm to total of maybe 20 seconds ^{1/2 mi^h???}
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):
- long pointed wings, long narrow tail; general impression of color - dark gray - a little ~~lighter~~ lighter on breast and faintly barred on tail. More than twice as long as the Starlings it was leisurely pursuing.
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It seemed the Falcon wasn't putting much effort into it, but the Starlings were flying pretty fast.
7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
8. Description of behavior: leisurely pursuing a small flock of Starlings. Made several half hearted feints - at which point the flock would veer away.
9. Habitat - general:
specific: flying over town
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Sparrow hawk & Merlin much smaller
Prairie Falcon brown & unlikely anyway
Nighthawk has white bar on wings - floppy flight
other hawks would have wider wings & tail
11. Distance (how measured)? about 150 feet up when passed directly overhead 12. Optical equipment: none
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
light not real good. heavy haze, but sun shining thru some
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
bird flew directly overhead from west to east; - then north
saw last spring; have seen Prairie Falcon in South Dakota
15. Other observers:
none that I know of
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:
A Field Guide To The Birds Peterson
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 2 minutes
- Carl M. Martens Address: 1120 Marston
Signature 10 October 1983 Ames, Iowa 50010
Date: _____ City, State: _____