

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) How many? 1 ad.Location? East side of Sweet Marsh, Bremer Co., IAType of habitat? Cattail marsh along Wapsipinicon RiverWhen? date(s): April 15, 1984 time: 10:35 am to 11:15 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Bob Myersothers 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.

The bird was sitting on top of a Muskrat house, apparently eating an American Coot when Bob Myers and myself flushed it. At first I thought it was a small goose flying up it was so large. The bird was a dark steel blue-black on the back and wings. As it flew away I saw the distinctive black mustache patches in front of the eye. The flight was very strong and had a kind of rowing type flapping, very shallow and strong. The bird flew to the South side of the marsh and sat in the top of a tree. We drove to that side of the marsh and walked in with our telescopes and got a very good look at it at 33X. The breast and belly was a light color with some very light spotting on it. The mustache patch really stood out from this angle. When the bird flew I saw it make about 3 fast passes at a Red-tailed Hawk. The bird was approximately the same size as the Red-tailed it was pestering. The passes at the Red-tail were very quick and only a falcon could have harassed this big a bird with that many passes in so short a period of time. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: No other bird ~~looks~~ looks like an adult peregrine with the black mustache patches in front of the eye, the steel blue-black back and wings and light colored breast and belly. Accipiters do not look or fly like this bird did.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
Bright overcast at approx. 35 yds. at closest, 150 yd most of sighting. Using 20x60 25x60 Spacemaster and 33X and 55X90 C90 Celestron telescopes.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Peregrines along coast in Virginia. Have seen many Merlins.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 7 hours

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