

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) 2. Number 1

3. Location Saylorville Reservoir

4. Date: Sept. 21, 1985 5. Time Bird Seen: 11:30 A.M. to 11:31 A.M.

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):

Bird was a falcon (long, narrow, pointed wings and narrow tail) about crow size or slightly larger. Bird was dark above, blue-gray[?], and lighter below. A darker hood (helmet) could be seen on bird's head but distance and viewing time prevented further details. Bird had a notch in left wing indicating that a middle primary was lost.

Characteristic continual flapping and short glides were noted as the bird flew over the spillway at Saylorville Dam and on down the Des Moines River.

7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard

8. Description of behavior: Bird was flying ^{South} down west edge of reservoir and on down Des Moines Riv.

9. Habitat - general: large timber lined lake

specific: This area seems to be a good migratory path for raptors.

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

Bird was too big for Merlin and too dark above for Prairie Falcon and basic shape, color and head pattern eliminates other possible hawks.

11. Distance (how measured)?

12. Optical equipment:

Very hard for me to say.

Possibly 75 to 100 yards by total guess.

10X40 Binocs

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

Overcast day- not the best lighting but at least light was even.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

I have seen Peregrines before as well as most of our other raptors, but not a Prairie Falcon. This bird seemed too dark and I didn't note dark axillaries.

15. Other observers: Francis Moore

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:

Francis Moore

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

None

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 3 hrs.

Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: R.R. 2, Box 153

Date: Sept. 21, 1985 City, State: Perry, Iowa 50220