

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Peregrine Falcon 2. Number 1
 3. Location Diamond L., Montezuma Iowa (Pocahontas Co)
 4. Date: 9/21/80 5. Time Bird Seen: ~ 4 PM to 2-3 minutes
 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):
Dowitchers and other shorebirds we were watching suddenly flushed. I saw a medium sized hawk with long round narrow tail and narrow buffy tip chasing a small shorebird. As the hawk turned, I saw the pointed wings and heavy dark face pattern - dark on top with heavy mark down behind eye. Overall color light gray-brown with fine streaking on wings and body. Very fast flying in presence of shorebird. After 5-10 passes it took off down the lake in direct flight and was gone. No dark axillaries noted. Thru size of kestrel (estimate)
 7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard
 8. Description of behavior: as above
 9. Habitat - general: Artificial Lake with slightly wooded edge. Lake drained to produce mud flats.
specific: Diamond L.
 10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Heavy marking and lack of dark axillaries rules out Prairie Falcon
 11. Distance (how measured)? 30-50 yards (est)
 12. Optical equipment: 8x Leitz Teleskop
 13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
Late afternoon sun mostly behind us
 14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Seen early same day ~100 miles to North west. Seen previously in Iowa in 1949 + in Texas in early 70's.
 15. Other observers:
Mike + Carol Naylor, Tom Shires
 16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
 17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: none
 18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
none used
 19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1/2 hour
- Signature: 9/21/80 Address: 211 Richards St
Date: Thomas H Hunt City, State: Iowa City IA