

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1
 Location? Grammer Grove, north Marshall County, Iowa River
 Type of habitat? over river & riverbottom woodlands
 When? date(s): Sept. 20, 1986 time: 3:15^{PM} to ~~3:25~~ 3:15^{PM} + 10 seconds
 Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa
 others with you: Mark Proescholdt
 others before or after you: _____

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.

As we were watching for hawks on a bluff that parallels the Iowa River a large falcon hurried south over the river. We saw no color because of the distance, only the silhouette, but unmistakably that of a falcon with long tapered wings, a narrow tail, and quick steady wingbeats that took the bird out of sight in about 10 seconds. It was crow-sized, the size of Broadwings we were seeing, much too large to be a Merlin — an exciting Peregrine!

Similar species and how eliminated: other hawks flying — Broadwings, accipiters, Osprey — — this was unmistakably a very large falcon, too large to be a Merlin

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
clear sky, 3/8 mile estimated, 8x30 Nikon binoculars
strong ESE winds

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen a few Peregrines

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's, National Geographic, Peter Dunne's Hawk Watch
 How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? October 8th