

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? East edge of McCallsburg - (Story Co.)Type of habitat? Open countryside and bean fieldsWhen? date(s): Oct. 1, 1986 time: 7:50 a.m. to 7:51 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: none

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.

We saw this bird a ways ahead of us flying and thought it was a pigeon and then it soared. As we got closer, we saw it was a large falcon with long, pointed wings and much larger than a Merlin. This falcon flew with a "rowing motion" of its wingflaps. It paralleled us for a bit and glided occasionally. I saw a hint of its dark sideburns. I saw no other color of the bird except a dark back and lighter underneath. It was 30-40 yards away and about 30 feet above the fields. We watched for about 1/2 minutes as it went by and flew out of sight.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Prairie Falcon would not have dark sideburns and would be much lighter-colored on its back.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Sunny, hazy, sun was behind us and then to our side.

Distances estimated. 8X30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

4th Peregrine this fall and 5th this year. Saw a Prairie Falcon in Aug. in Neb.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None this time.

How long before field notes made? Made Right away this form completed? NOV. 27, 1986