

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Peregrine 2. Number 1
  3. Location Weir Nelson's house, Linn Co. IA (on IA 30, a few miles W. of I-380)
  4. Date: 9/30/79 5. Time Bird Seen: 5:00 PM to 5:03 PM
  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):  
crow-sized hawk, long, pointed, broad-based triangular wings, long narrow forked tail. dark above, pale below. Dark of crown extended down side of face as a 'sideburn' (CSN). Very deep, 'rowing', pigeon-like wing beats. Flight very rapid
  7. Description of voice, if heard: —
  8. Description of behavior: rapidly flying south. alternate flapping flight and short glides.
  9. Habitat - general: mixed area of woods and cropland, a few miles north of the Cedar river.  
specific: —
  10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:  
build, prominent 'sideburns' rule out all other middle-sized N Am hawks: build rules out accipiters and broad-wing; sideburns rule out prairie falcon
  11. Distance (how measured)? 200yd - 1/2 mile (est.) 12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs. (wd. be very rare in this area)
  13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):  
sun behind observer.
  14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:  
Have seen this species in VA, IA, MASS, WASH states. Have also seen the US accipiters, p. falcon (colorado), gyrfalcon (alaska).
  15. Other observers:  
CS Newton - had best look, obs 'sideburns', M Newton, B+C Knight, W. Nelson
  16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
  17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —
  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? field notes made immediately afterwards.
- Signature: Michael C. Newton Address: 408 Wales St.  
Date: 12-1-79 City, State: Iowa City, IA 52240