

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Otter Creek Marsh, Tama CountyType of habitat? MarshWhen? date(s): April 29, 1984 time: 9:40 - 9:45  
10:45 to 10:47Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Mark Proescholdtothers before or after you: Jim + Pauline Mairs, Pete Peterson

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 first sighted the bird flying above the trees to the south, about 1/4 mile away from the dike we were on. The large size (crow-sized), the falcon shape (long pointed wings and long narrow tail), its slaty-blue back, and strong wing-beats as it coursed back and forth over the marsh let us know it was a Peregrine we were watching.

Exactly an hour later we glanced up to see it flying fast toward us and directly over our heads, over the trees to the north of us and out of sight. This time we could see its barred undersides (+ no black axillars) and its dark mustaches, as well as the last dark band of its tail - a prized sighting!

Similar species and how eliminated: a buteo, or a Merlin - or a Prairie Falcon: - it was not buteo shaped, but falcon shaped - too big for a Merlin + it had heavy mustaches - too dark for a Prairie Falcon + no black axillars.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

cloudy day with brisk E wind, first sighting about 1/4 mile away, but second sighting 30' or 40' as it flew over our heads, 6x30 Bushnell binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've only seen 1 Peregrine before - a few Merlins, many bateos

References and persons consulted before writing description: field guides - Peterson's, Robbins, National Geographic

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? May 25

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