

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1Location? 1 m. East of Wall LakeType of habitat? Gravel pits, Railroad Tracks, and Farmland.When? date(s): 3-12-96 time: 4:30 PM to 5:15 PMWho? your name and address: Rob Thelen 1744 Salingen Carroll, IA.others with you: My daughter, Natasha.others before or after you: NA

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.

I was driving along gravel pits when I noticed a Falcon flying about 20 ft above ground. This bird was angling down at slight angle. The Falcon went above 300 ft. and killed a Redwing Blackbird. The Falcon was about 30 feet or so in a picked corn field. This Falcon was about 4 to 5 times the size of the blackbird. The Falcon had faint barring on its head. A blueish-colored ~~beak~~ beak. A pale-brownish back and wings, streaked breast, throat + belly, IT didn't have strong barring on tail.

Similar species and how eliminated: Martin - was too big to be a Martin didn't have strong tail bars.Peregrine - didn't have strong face marks or capon head.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, 30'-35' about 14 corn rows. Using Discover Spotting Scope + Wind River 8x42 bino.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

I have seen lots of Peregrines.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Ed Thelen, Golden Field Guide, Peterson Field Guide.How long before field notes made? 10 min this form completed? 6-2-96MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240