

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1
Location? 6 miles South of Cherokee, Cherokee County
Type of Habitat? Little Sioux River Valley Timbered hillsides & Pastures.
When? date(s): Sept 19, 1992 time: 2:30 to 2:34
Who? your name and address: Dick Bierman 901 Harris Cherokee IA 51012
Others with you: Sy Runkel, Dr. Brian Fulton
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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

The bird came into view over a hill. It circled twice then flew off to the west. It was pale underneath with the characteristic dark brown fleshy area of the underwing. The tail had no bold markings. The back was brown but not dark brown. I was able to see the mustache and white area between the mustache and ear patch. The lack of heavy streaking on the breast makes me confident that this was an adult.

The pointed wings and the dark feathered fleshy portion of the underwings were the ~~—~~ diagnostic features that made this a fairly easy ID.

Similar species; how eliminated: Perigrine falcon is much darker on the back. Swainson's Hawk is Buteo shaped. I've seen thousands and monitored nests. Merlin is smaller.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, 150 yards, 10x42 ELites

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen several prairies in Arizona, Wyoming, N. Mexico. Plus 2 others in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Peterson's Field Guide To The Hawks

How long before field notes made? Then this form completed? 3 hrs.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).