

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Gremmer Grove Co. Wildlife Area - (Marshall Co.)Type of habitat? Wooded ridge and riverbottom woods along Iowa RiverWhen? date(s): Sept. 20, 1986 time: 3:15 p.m. to for 10 secs. - approximatelyWho? 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 were watching hawks on a ridge above the Iowa River when we saw a dark silhouette of a large falcon flapping constantly into a strong wind. The sun was at our side but all we saw was the dark shape of this large falcon. This falcon had long, pointed wings and was approximately the size of Broad-winged Hawks which we had been viewing.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Merlin is much smaller like the size of Sharp-shinned Hawks which we had been seeing that day. A Prairie Falcon is rare for Iowa and especially central Iowa. Also, a prairie falcon would most likely not be seen anywhere in Iowa at this season but later in fall and winter.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day with sun at our side. Distances of falcon were estimated at 100-130 yards away. 8X30 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen some Merlins and Peregrines in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Peterson's A Field Guide to the Birds, Robbins' Birds of N. America

How long before field notes made? Right away this form completed? Sept. 24, 1986

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