

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon (falco peregrinus) How many? 1 (1st yr. bird)Location? Riverton W.A., Fremont County, IAType of habitat? Open marshlandWhen? date(s): April 27, 1984 time: 2:30^{approx.} pm to 2:35 pm.Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Ray Cumminsothers before or after you: None that I know of

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 had been birding Riverton about 1 to 1 1/2 hours when I saw a large hawk flying low over the East side of the area from a point north of the main dike. It was flying against the wind, which was blowing at about 25 to 35 m.p.h. with gusts up to 45 m.p.h. The bird had a very shallow wing beat as it flew into the wind and moved at an amazing speed against a head wind that strong. It had a falconlike flight with shallow strong wingbeats with a rowing type of wingbeats. The bird had a tail that tapered from the body somewhat. The wings were long and pointed and somewhat swept back from the wrist. The front of the bird appeared to be a light cream color with small dark brown striping on it. The tail, wings, back, and ~~the~~ top of the head was a dark chocolate brown color. There was a large dark mustache splotch in front of the eye, behind the bill. This mustache mark looked black but could have been a very dark brown color. No voice was heard.

Similar species and how eliminated: Merlin is smaller without dark mustache patch in front of eye that this bird had.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Hazy, very windy, warm seen from approx 100 yd at closest using 20x60 Spacemaster telescope on gunstock mount. Good lighting facing East sun at our back.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Peregrine Falcons and many Merlins before this.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 1/2 hour this form completed? 5 hours

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240