

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? about 1/2 mile south of New Providence, Iowa - (Hardin County)Type of habitat? open country - farm fields and two farmsteadsWhen? date(s): May 8, 1984 time: 2:07 to 2:08 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa 50148others with you: noneothers 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.

I saw a hawk soaring by the road in front of me that I thought was probably a female Northern Harrier. As I got closer, I noticed it did not have a white rump patch. It was low to my left in an open farm field. Right away a crow from an evergreen at a farmhouse to my right took after it to attack it like crows do to red-tailed hawks. As the crow swooped to attack the hawk, the hawk tried to attack the crow but did not get the crow as it was battling a very strong headwind. The crow quickly retreated and the hawk flew across the highway in front of me and over a hilltop. The hawk was a large falcon and larger than the crow. The falcon was falcon-shaped with large pointed wings and heavy black sideburns. It was light underneath with fine streaking all over underneath. It must have been an immature with a dark brown back since I thought it was a female Northern Harrier at first.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Merlin is much smaller and lacks the heavy black sideburns. A ♀ Northern Harrier has white rump patch, has a different shape, and does not have heavy black sideburns.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain:

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

Partly sunny day but sun was behind clouds when falcon was seen. Estimate that falcon was 100 feet away in the field and 40-50' away as it crossed in front of me. (7X35 Binoculars)

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

Saw very good looks at my first Peregrine on April 29, 1984

References and persons consulted before writing description: Field guides - Peterson's, Robbins, Nat'l. Geographic

How long before field notes made? Right Away this form completed? May 27, 1984

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