

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Peregrine Falcon (adult) 2. Number: 1

3. Location Coralville Reservoir at Sandy Point, Johnson Co., IOWA

4. Date: 5/3/1977 5. Time Bird seen: 4:15 to 4:40 PM

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field): flapping and gliding overhead, sharp beak in wing evident; upper parts slaty, black moustache contrasting with white cheeks and breast striations; when perched on the top branch of a dead tree, black cap and moustache even clearer, white breast in contrast with dark-appearing belly; beak looks light; oversized yellow feet evident

7. Description of voice, if heard: -

8. Description of behavior: flew overhead, gliding into position and then perched, moving only head and preening pointed wings, on a prominent tree perch

9. Habitat - general: reservoir margin
specific: flying over beedy point, then alighting in tree N of reservoir (very low, almost reduced to river channel)

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain: much larger than Merlin or Am. Kestrel; falcon shape; moustache pattern diagnostic; shape excludes Buteos etc.

11. Distance (how measured)? est. 200 - 600 ft (when perched) 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars; 60x scope on tripod

3. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): heavy overcast, light intermittent drizzle; no sun - position NW of flying bird, almost due

4. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: seen Peregrine in Mono Bay, Calif. (1975) 5 E perched bird

5. Other observers: -

6. Did the others agree with your identification? -

7. Other observers who independently identified this bird: -

8. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: Standard guides, Brown and Amadon; no influence on description

9. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 1 hour

Signature: W. H. Allen Address: R# 6

Date: 5/3/1977 City, State: IOWA CITY, IA 52240