

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Anderson Lake, Hamilton Co.Type of habitat? Flying over a lake/marsh areaWhen? date(s): May 14, 1983 time: 11:30 AM. to 11:35 AM.Who? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Pr., Ames, Ia 50010others with you: Barney Cook, Mike Nolan, Steve Richards all of Amesothers 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

bird was quite large - twice as long as the Red-winged Blackbirds which were diving at it.

wings - long and definitely pointed at tip like a falcon

tail - seemed rather long in proportion to the size of the bird.

upper parts (back, top of wings, top of tail) - blue gray to black in color - very uniform.

bill - bird was moving too much to get a good look at it. - didn't notice it.

head - dark on top with black marks coming down behind the eyes

belly + breast - from our distance, it appeared to be a pale white or light brown color.

legs + feet - legs were stretched out at 90° from birds body after one of its dives. The toes on the foot were all splayed out to catch a bird which it missed. We got no color on legs or feet.

behavior - the bird was flying north into a head wind of about 30 mph. we did notice the rowing of the wings in flight. The bird also dove twice at R-W Blackbirds but missed. When it flared, after a dive, we saw legs.

Similar species and how eliminated: Merlin - smaller size, no hood, more slender appearance.

Prairie Falcon - no hood, brown back, top of wings, tail.

Coopers + Sharp-shinned Hawks - barring on breast, broader wings and feathered tips of wings. Also, lighter back and top of wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

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

partly cloudy day - front just moved through - lighting was average

bird was about 100 yards away - distance was measured by walking back to trees which it flew over - viewed through Bushnell Scope 20x and Bushnell 7x35

Previous experience with species and similar ones: saw one May 9, 1981, Hendrickson Marsh

Story Co.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Roger Tory Petersons "Birds of E. North America"

How long before field notes made? 1 hour this form completed? 20 hours

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