

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? 1/2 mi. N. of Hwy 2 on W. side of Loess Hills, Fremont Co., IowaType of habitat? Near Loess Hills flying over open land of Missouri River bottomsWhen? date(s): April 28, 1985 time: 7:45 am to _____Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Ross Silcock, Tabor, Robert Cecil, Keokukothers 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.

A large Buteo sp. (probably a Swainson's) had just flown over the road ahead of us so we stopped to identify it. Shortly after a large bird the size of the Buteo sp. came from the same general direction. This bird was very dark on the back, lighter on the breast + belly area. It had swift flight with long pointed wings. The time the bird was seen it was flying away from our location. The silhouette was definitely that of a Falcon sp. It was not sandy or light colored enough on the back to be a Prairie Falcon and was too large to be a Merlin. By process of elimination I believe this bird to be a Peregrine Falcon.

Similar species and how eliminated: Prairie Falcon would have been much lighter sandy color than this bird. Merlin would have been smaller.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Partly cloudy. Seen from approx 100 yds. at closest flying away. using Leitz 10x40B BinocularsPrevious experience with species and similar ones: Have several Peregrine Falcons and quite a few MerlinsReferences and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 24 hours

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