

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? PEREGRINE FALCON How many? 1 ADULTLocation? 2-3 mi. West of New Albin on A-26 county road - Allamakee Co.Type of habitat? Overhead along Limestone Bluffs in N.E. Iowa Along A-26When? date(s): 22 November 1986 time: LATE AM? to _____Who? your name and address: FRANCIS L. MOORE, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Tom Kent, Robert Cecilothers 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 were watching 2 Golden Eagles when we noticed a smaller raptor flying with them. At first I thought it might be a Red-tailed Hawk but the flight pattern and silhouette were not right. It was easy to see that the raptor had a light colored breast and belly without a belly band. The wings were falcon-like and pointed. The tail was wedge shaped from the base to the tip with the base widest. It appeared to have black on the side of the head. The bird did not have black axillaries they were a lighter color. The above characteristics, taken together, makes me believe that this bird was a Peregrine Falcon.

Similar species and how eliminated: Falcon shape eliminates Red-tailed Hawk, size + color eliminates Merlin, light axillaries eliminates Prairie Falcon.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny, approx. 150 - 200 yards guesstimate using 10 x 40 binoculars and 20 x 60 telescopePrevious experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Peregrines and quite a few Merlin but no experience with Prairie Falcon.References and persons consulted before writing description: NoneHow long before field notes made? None made this form completed? 2 1/2 days

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