

DOCUMENTATION FORM  
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1

Location? Ringold Wildlife Area, Ringold Co., IA.

Type of Habitat? Overgrown pasture with scattered wooded areas.

When? date(s): April 22, 1988 time: 6:10 PM to 6:15 P.M. CST

Who? your name and address: Peter C. Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd. Davenport IA, 52803

Others with you: Gil Sandvick

Others before or after you: none to my knowledge

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Large Falcon, pointed wings, long tail, back <sup>+ wings</sup> medium gray brown, tail barred light + dark gray, black axillaries noted in flight. Facial bars grey. Breast light with gray brown streaks, wings marked like breast below except axillaries. Exhibited strong Falcon flight.

Similar species; how eliminated: Peregrine Falcon - would lack black axillaries, facial marking would be darker.  
Merlin - much smaller, facial markings much less distinct, lacks black axillaries.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? no  
If yes, explain:

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

Sun from side - when perched, about 100 yards away, when flying 75-200<sup>est.</sup>  
20x scope used when perched, 10x40 Zeiss binocs when perched and in flight.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen previously, in Iowa + western U.S. on about six occasions

References and persons consulted before writing description: checked Geo Guide after obs.

How long before field notes made? 10 min. this form completed? 6 weeks.

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).