

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species peregrine falcon 2. Number 1  
3. Location Lake Diamond County Park, Poweshiek Co, IA  
4. Date: 9-21-80 5. Time Bird Seen: 3:30 PM to ~3:32 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):

Cross sized, long pointed wings, long tail, square-ended when folded, rounded when it flared tail wide in turns. large headed, big-chested. Dark brown above, paler below. dark of crown came down side of face as a wide 'sideburn'.

This bird was seen 6 hr later and ~100 mi. away from the 1<sup>st</sup> sighting of the day. Suggests but does not prove this was a different bird. [Despite SE wind a good flight of hawks 9-21: 2 peregrines, 1 merlin, 1 Am kestrel, 12 redtails, 3 Swainson's, 3 N. hawks, 2 ospreys, 7 unidentified hawks.]

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: first obs as it pursued shorebird in tight circles above the lake - missing its kill, it immediately flew off to south and vanished over the treeline.

9. Habitat - general: County park surrounded by pasture/cropland  
specific:

drawn-down pond with stubbards at muddy edge, surrounded by trees.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

Size, strong 'sideburns' rule out kestrel, merlin, prairie falcon.

11. Distance (how measured)?

50 yds - 1/4 mile (est)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 binocs.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

sun behind obs. when 1<sup>st</sup> sighted; as it flew off angle got worse.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen per-eagles in MD-VA, MA, WA, Iowa; have seen all N. Am. falcons except Aplomado, also all other hawks of the northern U.S.

15. Other observers:

C.S. Newlan, T. Kent, T. Shuis

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: —

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? taken from notes made immediately after the sighting.

Signature: Michael Newlan Address: 408 Wales St

Date: 9-28-80 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240