

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1

Location? Upper Iowa River Valley ~ 3 mi west of New Albin, Allamakee Co, IA

Type of Habitat? Unglaciated hilly river valley

When? date(s): 22 Nov 1986 time: ~12:30 to 12:32 p.m.

Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240

Others with you: Francis Moore, Bob Cecil

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

We spotted an immature Golden Eagle and a falcon gliding over the ridge. The falcon was roughly half the length and wing span of the eagle. It had a long narrow body and long narrow pointed wings. The underwing and body were all light (white). We were immediately looking for darker axillaries, but they were not present. As the bird banked behind the hill, I saw dark upper parts, especially the top of the head. I couldn't be sure that there was a facial mark.

Similar species; how eliminated: Too large and light for merlin or kestrel.

Light axillaries exclude Prairie Falcon. Two toned effect exclude Gyrfalcon. There was only a mild breeze, so we were not looking at a buzzard or accipiter distorted by the wind.

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

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

Sunny, light behind us, 10x binoculars, several hundred yards

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen a number

References and persons consulted before writing description: Natural Geography's Field Guide

How long before field notes made? 19 hrs this form completed? 19 hrs

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