

Marietta Petersen  
RR #1  
Walnut, Iowa 51577

## DOCUMENTATION FORM

Species? Prairie Falcon

How many? one

Habitat? The area is Upland Prairie land-pasture, hayfields, corn & soybean fields - and hilly, little timber along creek bottoms.

Date? Oct. 25, 1990

Time? 9:00 AM

Observers name and address:

Marietta Petersen, RR #1, Walnut, Iowa 51577  
We live on a farm in Northwestern Cass County. The bird was sitting on top of a semi-dead Ash tree in our old orchard.

Others who saw the bird: No one

Description of bird: The first thing I saw was its striking face patterns.

- ① Had a brown mustache
- ② Had a white area between eye & brown ear patch.
- ③ Then another white stripe & a brown stripe, ~~the~~ running up & down
- ④ Had a white stripe from forehead to back of head
- ⑤ The crown was brown & white striped.
- ⑥ His back & wings were brown
- ⑦ Creamy white underparts & leg feathers with a little spotting
- ⑧ head colored legs
- ⑨ saw the dark wing linings, pale bars on wings & tail when he flew away.

Similar species and how eliminated: Red Tailed Hawk

The Red Tailed would not have those kind of face markings. But it was about the size of a Red Tailed.

Viewing conditions and equipment: 10X50 Tasco Bin

clear morning - I watched it 5 to 10 minutes until it flew away

Previous experience with species: none

References consulted: It's the perfect image of the Prairie Falcon in Peterson's Field Guide & Sibley's Birds of N.A. - Also read the description in Audubon's Water Bird Guide & National Geo. Field Guide

How long before field notes were made? Went into house right away, ~~Wrote~~ wrote up the field notes & consulted the field guides

How long before this form was completed?

I had to send for this form & then I wrote up this report

According to the field guides, its eastern breeding range is in western Nebraska. They also travel easterly during migration. So western Iowa is just a short flight from western Nebraska.