

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Prairie Falcon 2. Number 1
3. Location S.E. Cor. Section 33, Booth Township (T94N, R34W) Palo Alto Co., Iowa
4. Date: Wed. Feb. 3 1988 5. Time Bird Seen: 7:20 AM to _____

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):

This bird was reported to roost in an abandoned barn; I was waiting in the road for bird to flush from barn; he flew from the hay track at North end of barn, towards East, flared over road & turned North; as he flared I could tell from size & wing shape that it was a large falcon and from the dark wedge shaped area underwing at body confirmed that it was the Prairie Falcon. Its departure was extremely fast and I did not see facial pattern. I followed in car but lost sight behind barn stand about a mile away. It apparently circled back as Ron Harris saw it in flight @ 7:27 AM

7. Description of voice, if heard: None

8. Description of behavior: Flight extremely fast

9. Habitat - general: open farm land; snow covered
specific:

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

Peregrine Falcon: lighter color & underwing pattern
eliminated the Peregrine

11. Distance (how measured)? 100 ft 12. Optical equipment: 8x40 Leica binoculars

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
overcast - no sun

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
have seen in Arizona, Nebraska & Western Minn.

15. Other observers: Bernie Knight
Ron Harris saw falcon flying So. over Co. line rd. @ 7:27 AM

16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird:
Ron Harris, Ron Reese, Jim Fuller & M Stewart

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
Petersen: A Field Guide To Hawks; confirmed

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? 24 hrs

Signature: Calvin Knight Address: 425 Lee St.

Date: 2-4-88 City, State: Iowa City, Ia., 52245