

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1
 Location? n.e. Boone County (on county line with Hamilton Co.)
 Type of habitat? marshy pasture of several acres, on both sides of road
 When? date(s): April 23, 1986 time: 2:25 to 2:26
 Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowa
 others with you: Mark Proescholdt, Ramona Sommetot, Carol McMillen
 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, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

As we sat in the car, this day of strong south winds, watching shorebirds in a marshy pasture we noticed 2 or 3 groups of shorebirds rising & flying as if they were being harassed. Suddenly a large falcon dashed into view above the birds, about 30 yards away, rushing over our car. (Never has a car emptied faster!) The bird continued across the road, over the marshy meadow on the north, & up over the fields, not to be seen again. This was a large falcon, larger than a crow & the pigeons it flew over, with the long pointed falcon wings, dark blue back, light underparts, dark helmet & heavy black sideburns, & narrow tail with dark terminal band. Those marks, coupled with its quick wing beats & very fast flight, assured us it was a Peregrine.

Similar species and how eliminated: another falcon - this one too large; a buteo - not buteo shaped & flying much faster than a buteo with its long pointed wings.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: clear skies, first seen 30 yards away & flying about 20 feet over car (estimated) - binoculars, 8x.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I have seen Peregrines twice before - other hawks many times of course.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Guides - Peterson's

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? May 15, 1986

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240