

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Otter Creek Marsh (Tama County)Type of habitat? Marsh with tall trees along edgesWhen? date(s): April 29, 1984 time: 9:40 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.  
10:45 a.m. to 10:47 a.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: Jim and Pauline Mairs, Pete Peterson

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.

We saw large falcon-shaped bird soaring in the distance (probably  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away at least). It had pointed wings of a falcon, was large, and had a dark blue-gray back. It then soared away from us and was lost from view.

An hour later we saw it soaring and heading toward us. We saw it for  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 minutes and it went right over us about 30-40 feet above us. It had a dark blue-gray back, barring on the undersides, and definite heavy black sideburns. It had dark black on the tail tip. A very exciting event!

Similar species and how eliminated:

A Merlin is much smaller and lacks the heavy black sideburns.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Cloudy and windy day. Distances were estimates. 7X 35 Binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

My first Peregrine!

References and persons consulted before writing description: Field guides of Peterson's, Robbins, Nat'l. Geographic and Mom's documentation form.How long before field notes made? At once this form completed? May 27, 1984

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