

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species peregrine falcon 2. Number 1
3. Location Dunbar Slough, Greene Co., IA
4. Date: 21 Sept. 1980 5. Time Bird Seen: ~9:30 AM to ~9:35 AM

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):

size/shape: crow-sized, long pointed triangular wings, long narrow square-tipped tail.

coloration: dark above, pale below. dark of crown coming down as a 'bar' on 'sideburns' on either side of face.

flight: deep, 'rowing', rather pigeon-like wingbeats, steady rhythm. very rapid.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard.

8. Description of behavior: flew in, perched in top of dead spruce for a few minutes, flew off + disappeared to south.

9. Habitat - general: slough surrounded by farmland.

specific: edge of marshy slough

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: Shape identifies it as a falcon, as does flight style. Size eliminates Merlin and Kestrel, conspicuous 'sideburns' eliminate prairie falcon.

11. Distance (how measured)?
100 yards (est).

12. Optical equipment: 8x40 binocs.
25x60 scope.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
clear day. Bird between observers and sun as it perched; as it flew off angle improved.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen peregrines in MARYD-VA, WA, PA, IA, prairie falcons in WA, CO; am familiar with all of the hawks of the n. US.

15. Other observers: T. Kent, T. Shires, C.S. Newlan

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
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19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

this description taken from notes made on the spot

Signature: Michael C. Newlan Address: 408 Wales St.

Date: 9-28-80 City, State: Iowa City IA 52240