

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 2Location? Stammer Grove Co. Wildlife Area - (Marshall Co.)Type of habitat? Wooded ridge and riverbottom woods along Iowa RiverWhen? date(s): Sept. 20, 1986 time: 4:00 p.m. for 10 seconds approximately  
4:30 p.m. for 8 seconds approximatelyWho? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: None

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 were watching Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Broad-winged Hawks on a ridge above the Iowa River. They often would pop into view coming over the trees in front of us or just over a slight rise of land. One bird that came into view was a large falcon which came right toward us. It was a large falcon with heavy dark sideburns and a charcoal gray back. It was 15-20 yards away or closer and was 20 feet high over the ground as it cleared the spruces and pines behind us. The sun was behind us and we had a good, brief look at this magnificent falcon.

About half an hour later another large falcon followed almost the same flight path of the first Peregrine. It was 15-18 yards away and 18-20 feet above the pines. It really zipped past us. It was a large falcon that flapped constantly and had dark sideburns. It was lighter in color than the other Peregrine and had a light gray brown back.

Similar species and how eliminated: A Merlin is much smaller and lacks the heavy black sideburns of a Peregrine.Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

Sunny day and sun behind us; distances estimated; 8X30 Binoculars.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Peregrines and Merlins recently in Iowa.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Natl. Geog. Birds of N. America, Robbins' Birds of N. America, Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds.How long before field notes made? Right away this form completed? Sept. 24, 1986

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