

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1Location? DeSoto National Wildlife RefugeType of habitat? Open Country, Cropfields, Scattered treesWhen? date(s): Nov. 8, 1981 time: 9 AM to \_\_\_\_\_Who? your name and address: ERWIN E. KLAASothers with you: Ben KLAAS

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.

Obviously, a large falcon (Crow size) with pointed wings and long narrow tail. Bird was seen in flight moving slowly into strong headwind at about 30 yards. Upper parts were brown or chestnut and facial markings were clearly seen. Presence of dark axillar markings distinguished it from immature peregrine falcon. Underparts were light with a few dark streaks.

Bird was observed in bright sunlight with 10x50 binoculars.

Similar species and how eliminated: See above.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain: Dave Menke, Asst. Refuge Manager, said that a Prairie Falcon has been sighted several times this fall on refuge.

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

Bright sunlight with sun behind observer. Distance estimated by eye.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen both in the wild, including Peregrine Falcon only 2 weeks

References and persons consulted before writing description: None Previously.

How long before field notes made? \_\_\_\_\_ this form completed? 24 hrs.

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