

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? north end of Saylorville Reservoir, Polk CountyType of habitat? migrating through the Des Moines River valleyWhen? date(s): 8 April, 1985 time: _____ to _____Who? your name and address: Steve Dinsmore 4024 Arkansas Dr. Ames, IA 50010others with you: Jim Dinsmore, Ames

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.

When first seen, the birds narrow, pointed wings and long tail were evident. These features combined with its rapid, rowing wingstrokes and alternate gliding identified the bird as a falcon.

The back was dark - almost black in color and uniform throughout.

Underparts largely white with what appeared to be ~~black~~ black streaks on the breast and belly.

Underwings were mottled with black spots and dark edgings of wings.

The tail appeared to be faintly banded, as seen from underneath.

Head was dark on top and on side of face and cheek creating a black hood.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Other falcons by their lack of a large amount of black on head and face and by smaller size.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain: _____

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

light was excellent - sun behind and no clouds in sky,
Estimated distance of 50-300 yards. Seen through B&K 20x spotting scope.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description: Have seen several in Iowa in other years.

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 1 week

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