DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Prairie Falcon How many? 1

Location? 2 miles NW of Minburn, Ia.

Type of habitat? Pasture at edge of Timber

When? date(s): October 14 time: 9:30 am to 9:31 am

Who?your name and address: Bob Myers, RR2, Box 153 Perry, Ia. 50220

others with you: —

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.

I was watching a low flying group of bluebirds when this crow-sized falcon moved in behind them. I thought the falcon was after a bluebird but they both flew over my head and then up and over some Trees and out of my sight. From the side I could see the falcon was med. brown and the mustash was thinner Than a peregrine's should be. It was merely a line going down from the eye. From below the most obvious mark I remember was the very dark axillaries. These patches were almost Triangle shaped starting wide along the body and Tapering To a point near the bend in the wing. The bird flew with steady shallow wing beats and moved rapidly.

Similar species and how eliminated: Peregrine would not have the dark axillaries.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: Distance about 50 yds. - Clear day - looking away from sun - 10x40 binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: 1st one for Iowa / but I've seen them elsewhere.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? Notes on spot this form completed? Same day