

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species Prairie Falcon 2. Number: 1
3. Location Junction Highway 30 & I-29, West of Missouri Valley, Harrison Co.
4. Date: October 10, 1981 5. Time Bird seen: 3:50 pm to 4:40 pm
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):
Large olive-brown falcon, light underside, dark head pattern with a long facial mark extending down in front of eye onto neck. Dark axillaries were easily seen.
7. Description of voice, if heard: NA
8. Description of behavior: Found feeding on ground consuming a starling(?) in a winter-wheat field, near road.
9. Habitat - general: winter wheat, 1/2" to 1" high.
specific: Open country.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
Peregrine Falcon by facial pattern, olive back color and black area underwing base,
11. Distance (how measured)? Est. 100 ft. 12. Optical equipment: 7x35 binoculars, 4x200m telescope
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you): clear sky good light, at a favorable angle
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: I have previously seen both Prairie Falcon (Colorado) and Peregrines (Iowa)
15. Other observers: John Robinson
16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NA
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
(New) Peterson and Robbins consulted during observation but bird was identified before books were viewed.
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? two weeks (Made from notes)

Signature: Joe Schafner Address: St. Lucas IA 52166
Date: Oct 31, 1981 City, State: _____