

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species PEREGRINE 2. Number 1
3. Location Sandy Beach, N. shore of Coralville Reservoir, Johnson Co, IA.
4. Date: 4-26-81 5. Time Bird Seen: 12:15 to 12:20 PM

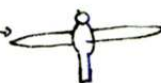
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

Size: larger than rock dove, sl. smaller than crow.

build: large round head, long square tail. long pointed wings

coloration: dark brown above, paler below. strongly 'capped' appearance to head. CSN observed 'side burns' (dark bars on side of face continuous w cap.) No dark axillary patch obs (though conditions not ideal). Tail dark, uniform, unbanded.

wings narrow &
pointed tips



7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: flushed shorebirds off mudflat, then flew off to N; wings beats deep + floppy; found a thermal + soared up until lost to sight in glaze. In soaring wings held straight out from body, tail not fanned.

9. Habitat - general:

— edge of reservoir with mudflats, willow thickets.

specific:

— reservoir set amid cropland, pasture, forest, some 'suburban' housing.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain: unbanded tail + large size eliminate merlin, heavy contrast between under + upper parts, 'mustache', lack of dark axillaries eliminate prairie falcon. (Size + build definitely rule out other types of hawks.)

11. Distance (how measured)?

100 - 1000 yds (est)

12. Optical equipment:

8x40 binocs.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

initially sun at a 90° angle to line between bird + observers; as bird rose it disappeared into the glaze of the sky.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species: have seen all N. Am. falcons except gyrfalcon, most other N. Am. hawks. Have seen numerous peregrines (including 4 in IA) and several prairie falcons, two yrs.

15. Other observers: Carl S Newton

16. Did the others agree with your identification? yes

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: —

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description?

Notes made immediately thereafter. Transcribed 5-23-81

Signature: Michael C Newton
Michael C. Newton

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Date: 5-23-81

City, State: Dubuque City IA 52240