

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location? Below Saylorville Reservoir DamType of habitat? Tall trees with smaller trees, brush, and big pondWhen? date(s): Oct. 1, 1986 time: 1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.Who? your name and address: Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb, Iowaothers with you: Beth Proescholdtothers before or after you: None

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 spotted a hawk perched 50 feet up in a big cottonwood. As it turned its head, I saw the distinctive dark sideburns of a peregrine. We watched it for a lovely long period of time and got very close to it. Cars would drive by and didn't bother it at all. It had a charcoal-bluish dark back and was grayish in the center of the back. It had dark brown on the wings, a dark helmet look on its head, a white throat, and a whitish eye oval. It had a dark tip on its hooked bill, yellow talons with no bands on either leg, a lightly barred undertail, white contrasting with the helmet on its head, and horizontal streaking on its cream-colored breast. When it stretched its wings, it showed distinctive dark barring on its light underwing color. It had barring and spotting on its breast and flanks but no barring under its neck. It was preening and stretching its legs and wings. It was very alert and its head was moving around all the time. It was very alert to overhead bird noises. Finally, it took off and flew right over us about 20 feet above us and took off with strong wingbeats.

Similar species and how eliminated:

We saw it so well and so close that there was not even a doubt that it was not a Peregrine.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

cloudy and overcast.

Distances estimated.

8x30 Binocs, 22x Scope.

80 yards away - for 20 minutes

30-40 yards away - for 15 minutes

20-25 yards away - for 40 minutes

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

6th Peregrine this year, 5th one this fall, and 2nd Peregrine this day

References and persons consulted before writing description:

None this time.

How long before field notes made? while Viewing this form completed? Nov. 28, 1986

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240