

CONTRIBUTOR: Thomas J. STAUDTOTHER OBSERVERS: STAUDTSEASON: Spring March - MayYEAR: 1981

WEATHER/HABITAT: describe any unusual features at bottom of page

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Double-crested Cormorants	6	4/12	Jolly Rogers First sighting this year.
"	15	5/15	Hickory Hill
✓ Cattle Egret	1	4/11	Coon Marsh Mike Newlon, James Huntington etc
✓ "	1	4/12	Hoosier Creek (Same bird?)
Great Egret	4	4/12	" also one bird seen on the Hawkeye wildlife area and at Hoosier Creek many days in May
✓ Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	4/5	Coon Marsh (west end) Rich Hollis and group
Canada Goose	3	4/27	Highway 6 near Upland Sandpiper area flying south
"	1	5/13	Muskrat Slough
Wood Duck	6	5/21	Swan Lake one female, five young - maybe more
✓ Broad-winged Hawk	1	5/21	Half Moon Lake near Green Castle (late date?)
✓ Swainson's Hawk	1	4/25	Muskrat Slough Tom Shires Trip
✓ Peregrine Falcon	1	4/29	Coon Falls Documentation submitted
Virginia Rail	1	5/9 & 5/13	Muskrat Slough only Virginia seen all Spring
Lesser Golden Plover			None seen on two trips to Muskrat after 5/9
✓ Solitary Sandpiper	1	5/21	Tom's Pond - eye ring, dark bill and legs, and barred <sup>water</sup> tailfeathers all seen
Common Snipe	2	5/13	Pond North & East of Swan Lake
✓ "	1	5/21	Swan Lake call note heard in flight, brown streaked back seen
✓ Short-billed Dowitcher (R)	8	5/13	Hoosier Creek - seen at about 80 feet away using 20x scope Alternate plumage Throat clear, breast splotchy pink-reddish, belly lighter but also splotchy, overall appearance over the back medium brown not dark or reddish

Ruby Crowned Kinglet

while looking over a small group of warblers I noticed a bird behind some low branches moving quickly and flicking its wings. This bird was smaller than the warblers (mourning and Wilson's) I had just seen. The bird was a brownish olive over head and back with a darker tail. IT had a light throat and light underparts. A dark thin beak and a definite eye-ring were seen clearly.

1	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
2	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
3	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
4	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
5	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
6	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
7	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
8	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
9	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
10	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
11	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
12	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
13	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
14	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
15	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
16	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
17	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
18	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
19	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
20	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
21	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
22	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
23	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
24	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
25	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
26	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
27	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
28	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
29	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
30	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
31	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
32	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
33	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
34	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
35	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
36	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
37	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
38	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
39	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
40	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
41	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
42	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
43	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
44	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
45	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
46	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
47	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
48	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
49	5/12	1	1	1	1	1
50	5/12	1	1	1	1	1

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF  
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Peregrine Falcon 2. Number 1

3. Location Coo Falls

4. Date: April 29 1981 5. Time Bird Seen: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

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):

A very light fronted (breast to throat) crow sized bird was seen perched vertically near the top of a dead tree. I took a short look and noted a dark head and ~~dark~~ neck and a dark ~~beak~~ beak. I also noted dark "sideburns" in the ear area. I quickly got my scope, however, before I could set it on the bird some crows flew near it and the last crow put the bird into flight.

The bird simply circled back out of view and then back in and passed directly over us. When the bird put up it was obviously in the same size range as the crows near it. When it passed over us the long very pointed wings were observed. The dark head and "sideburns" were seen clearly and contrasted with the white throat and upper breast. The rest of the breast and belly were light, blending <sup>rather</sup> into the long narrow tail.

7. Description of voice, if heard: not heard

8. Description of behavior: In flight the bird continually flapped its wings in an almost causal fashion but still traveled quite fast.

9. Habitat - general: woods were perched, with a great deal of open Hawkeye wildlife area near.

specific: Coo Falls bridge, 1st spotted south of the bridge on the creek and then it flew over us as we stood on the bridge

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:

- 1 Merlin eliminated by size and strong facial pattern. 3. Harrier eliminated by flight and lack of white rump.  
2 Hawk and accipiters eliminated by shape of wings.

11. Distance (how measured)? 100 yds, estimated 12. Optical equipment: 7x binoculars

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

sky was clear providing good light on the bird, which as noted was perched in the open we were looking south at the bird, the sun was to the east of both the bird and the observers.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

other side

15. Other observers: James Huntington

John Cordell

16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: James Huntington

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

Peterson's 1980 ed. Birds East of the Rockies

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

about 4 days, over

Signature: Thomas J. Stratt Address: 931 N. Summit

Date: MAY 3, 1981 City, State: Iowa City, Ia.

1. Species: *Peregrine Falcon*

2. Location: *San Luis*

3. Date: *April 29 1981*

4. Time Bird Seen: \_\_\_\_\_

5. 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:

A very light-headed (dark w/ throat) Crow-sized bird was seen perched vertically next to top of a dead tree. I took a short look at it and it flew away. I also noted dark streaks in the tail. I finally got my scope, however, before I could get it on the bird some other flier flew by and the bird flew into flight.

The bird simply circled back out of view and then back. A very faint streak was visible when the bird put up its wings. In the same area as the crow when it passed over us the long very pointed wings were obvious. The dark streaks and "sideburns" were seen clearly and contrasted with the light throat and upper breast. The rest of the breast and belly were light, showing "streaks" in the wing.

6. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard.

7. Description of behavior: In flight the bird continuously flipped its wings in an almost constant fashion but still showed quite fast.

8. Habitat - general: wooded west hillside, with a great deal of open through woods.

9. Distance (how measured): 100 yds estimated.

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 1, 2 & 5. Explanation: None.

11. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Tom Kent and I.

(14) Very little previous experience, I had only seen one Peregrine before this. On that bird I did get a good view of the facial pattern, dark cap and sideburns in ear area, light (white) throat - light patch behind the ear that continued below the sideburn and into the throat.

On the day after this sighting Tom Kent and I observed another Peregrine. The most notable features on this bird were its size and its long pointed wings. The features on both these birds were consistent with the bird seen on the 29th.

(18) I wasn't initially aware that this bird needed documentation. I took notes about the sighting one day afterwards but this description wasn't written for another three days. The new Peterson guide was used within minutes after the sighting to point out ~~the~~ and compare the markings we had observed on the bird. The Peterson guide also supplied the term "sideburns" which I used in my description.