

5/10/81

DW ER

May 3, Approximately 11:15 A.M.

On Highway 22 about 1/4 mile west of the Cedar River Bridge there is a smaller bridge over a stream. While approaching this bridge from the west I saw a falcon-shaped bird circling around over it. I stopped the the car at the bridge and got out. The bird was still flying around overhead and I got in my glasses, (8X40). Assuming it was a falcon I looked for black "Mustache" marks and saw them. The bird was bluish gray dorsally, a dark bluish gray. The "cap" of the head and mustaches appeared black. Underneath, throat and extreme upper breast white, lower breast & belly were horizontally and thickly barred with grayish alternating with white. The wings were long and pointed, pale <sup>below</sup> and dark above. The tail was dark above and pale below, long, fairly thin and slightly fanned, <sup>thickly</sup> bordered at the end with whitish. These characteristics lead me to believe that this was a peregrine falcon ~~or~~ another raptor. It flew in a falcon manner. ~~and~~ Its smallish size makes me think it was a male. It was a little larger than a red dove but with longer & pointier wings & tail. Smaller than a crow. I observed it in good light for about 45 seconds to one minute, then it quickly flew north up the stream.

Tim Dwyer

104 1/2 E. 9th St., Muscatine, Iowa