

What species? Peregrine Falcon How many? 1Location: County Story ^{City} ~~Black~~ AmesLocation in detail West Ames along Linden Way (Old Highway 30), near drive-in theater, was flying over a corn field and roadHabitat? semi-rural, suburban area, was over corn field, stream or river nearby?When? date? June 5, 1985 Time: 12:00 to 12:05? P.M.Observer? Name: Mark D. DixonAddress: RR 2 Box 963 Waukee, Iowa 50263Telephone: 987-1461

Description of bird(s): include size, shape, detailed description of all parts including bill, eye, head, neck, back, wings, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet; also voice and behavior. Use additional sheets if necessary.

Size of Broad-winged Hawk or Crow. Was "falcon-shaped" with long tail, long wings which were pointed. Appeared to have a lot of barring underneath wings and on chest and belly. Also had some barring on tail. Had distinct dark hood or mask on head. Somewhat strange behavior, was first seen flying over road, and sort of hovering, almost like a huge Kestrel. Later flew back and forth and gradually went up higher and higher into the air, gradually flying southwest. Did not really show direct flight and did some gliding. Could see no jesses on legs and bird eventually disappeared. Shape indicated was definitely a falcon, size separated from Kestrel or Merlin, and heavy black "hood" and absence of black armpits separated from Prairie Falcon. Could not see back, details of eyes, feet, etc. Observed from 40 yards or so in air and higher, sometimes directly overhead. Observed with 8 x 23 miniature Nikon binoculars.

Similar species and how eliminated: Only other falcons were possible. Was too large for Kestrel and had heavy black mask. Did not have black "armpits" of Prairie Falcon and had distinct mask. Too large for Merlin and had distinct mask.

Did anyone have reservations about identification? If so, explain:

No, my only possible reservations would be if it was a falconer's bird, but saw no people, no jesses on legs, and bird flew away. Is it even legal to have a Peregrine as a falconer. Dinsmore knew of no falconers in immediate area which might have a Peregrine.

Viewing conditions: lighting, distance and how measured, optical equipment used.

Slightly overcast, distance estimated at about 40 m (maybe even less), used miniature Nikon binoculars 8 x 23.

Previous experience with this species and other similar ones:

Had seen 1 previous Peregrine several years ago near Des Moines, have seen many Kestrels & a couple Merlins. Have never seen a Prairie Falcon. Am fairly familiar with field marks, general plumage, size and ~~occurrence~~ occurrence in Iowa of all of these species.

BREEDING BEHAVIOR: Give all details observed that indicate that the species breeds on the block. If nest, eggs, young, or courtship display were observed, describe in detail.

If books or other birders were consulted before writing up the documentation, please list them here:

A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies - Roger Tory Peterson

Iowa Birds - Dinsmore et al.

Talked to Dr. James Dinsmore

- said Paul Maritsching had [?] seen a Peregrine last summer which wasn't accepted.

How long after observation were field notes made?

1 day

How long after observation was this form completed?

45 days (month and a half)