

## DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES MERLIN NUMBER 1 (ONE)

LOCATION RIVERSIDE TWP

FREMONT CO., IOWA

DATE MARCH 19, 1978 TIME SEEN 9:30 AM

FOR ABOUT ~~20~~<sup>10</sup> SECS.

DESCRIPTION SMALL FALCON, GREY-BLUE IN GENERAL COLORATION, WITH DARK TRANSVERSE BARS ON TAIL. APPEARED TO BE SMALLER THAN KESTREL.

VOICE NOT HEARD.

BEHAVIOR FLEW IN FRONT OF PICKUP ABOUT 5' ABOVE GROUND AND CONTINUED ACROSS<sup>CORN</sup> STUBBLE FIELD ONLY A FEW INCHES ABOVE GROUND.

HABITAT GENERAL: MISHNABOTNA RIVER BOTTOM

SPECIFIC: CORN STUBBLE FIELDS (FROZEN)

ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES ACCIPITERS - WINGS WERE POINTED, NOT ROUNDED, AND BIRD DID NOT SAIL, BUT FLEW WITH RAPID, CONTINUOUS STROKES.

AM. KESTREL - GREY COLOR ~~WITH~~ <sup>WITH</sup> ABSENCE OF RUFUS ELIMINATES BOTH ♂ & ♀ KESTREL

DISTANCE WATCHED FROM ONLY A FEW FEET IN FRONT OF PICKUP TO SOME 30 YDS. DISTANT

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NONE.

LIGHT OVERCAST BUT BRIGHT; NO DIRECT SUNLIGHT. i.e. GOOD VIEWING CONDITIONS.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAVE HAD CLOSE LOOKS AT SHARP-SHINNED AND COOPER'S HAWKS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND WATCHED ♂ MERLIN WITH SCOPE AT CLOSE RANGE IN NORTH CAROLINA - LATTER WAS IN SAME

(PTU)

DOCUMENTATION

PLUMAGE AS BIRD DESCRIBED IN THIS DOCUMENTATION.

OTHER OBSERVERS NONE

BOOKS ETC NONE CONSULTED.

DESCRIPTION WRITTEN JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> FROM NOTES MADE AT NOON

AFTER THE SIGHTING ON MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>.

W. ROSS SILCOCK

RR2, MALVERN, IA 51551.

VOICE NOT HEARD.

FEATHERS FEW IN FRONT OF PICKUP ABOUT 2' ABOVE GROUND AND CONTINUED ACROSS TURF FIELD ONLY A FEW INCHES ABOVE GROUND. GENERAL: MINNESOTA RIVER BOTTOM. SPECIFIC: CORN STUBBLE FIELDS (PROBEN). ELIMINATION OF SIMILAR SPECIES AND BIRD DID NOT SAIL, BUT FLEW WITH RAPID CONTINUOUS STROKES. AM KESTREL - GREY WITH TRACE OF RUFUS ELIMINATED BOTH BY KESTREL. DISTANCE MATCHED FROM ONLY A FEW FEET IN FRONT OF PICKUP TO SOME 30 YDS. DISTANT.

GENERAL EQUIPMENT NONE. LIGHT OVERCAST BUT BRIGHT; NO DIRECT SUNLIGHT. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAVE HAD CLOSE LOOKS AT UNIDENTIFIED AND COOPER'S HAWKS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND MATCHED 5 MERLIN WITH SCREE AT CLOSE RANGE IN NORTH CAROLINA - LATTER WAS IN 2001.