

DOCUMENTATION FORM
Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species Merlin

Location ISU golf course, Ames, Story Co., Iowa

Habitat wooded edge - a 100 yd. wide wooded ravine with a golf fairway 50 yds wide alongside it.

Date(s) Sep. 4, 1984 Time 4:57 to 5:00

Name and Address Erik Munson, 3223 West St.

Other observers - (non birders)

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 behavior and voice.

Blue-jay sized, falcon shape, with pointed wings, back uniform brown, breast streaked with brown on white, tail striped with white bands, belly also streaked, no strong facial markings (2-4 bands)

Followed its wings during swoop into midst of a robin flock.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Peregrine falcon by size. Immature sharp-shin by pointed wings and falcon shape. Prairie falcon by size, habitat, and tail.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured); and optical equipment: good lighting; seen closest at 30 ft, no opt. eq.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

References and persons consulted before writing description: none with merlin, I've seen sharp-shins and this one's wings were different, more falcon-shaped

How long before field notes made? 3 bird books, Steve Dinsmore
1 hr. How long before this form

completed? 5 days