

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? oneLocation? Saylorville Reservoir - Polk Co, Iowa (at the dam)

Type of habitat? _____

When? date(s): 27 November 1986 time: AM to _____Who? your name and address: Paul Martsching 1120 Marston Ames, Iowa 50010others with you: Steve Dinsmore

others before or after you: _____

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 voice and behavior.

small falcon; brown head, back, wings, and tail; tail with narrow light bands; breast light with dark streaks.

flew over very low along north face of the dam, then turned into the wind several ~~times~~ before continuing on.

Similar species and how eliminated: Kestral - this bird had no rust or rufous on back, wings, or tail; or blue in wings like a male kestrel. And did not have strong face pattern of kestrel.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting; distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
at closest maybe 50 feet. 7 x 35 bino's.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: have seen about 25 in past 15 yrs.

References and persons consulted before writing description: none

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? 4 days

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