

Middlewestern Prairie Region
(Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio)

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD.

1. Species merlin 2. Number: 1

3. Location Coralville Res.

4. Date: 12 Sept 1975 5. Time Bird seen: ~ 12 noon to

6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):

small dark falcon, lighter below, no 'mustache' on other face patterns, dark brown tail.

7. Description of voice, if heard: —

8. Description of behavior: circling, moving southward

9. Habitat - general: reservoir, bordered by wide grassy flats
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8, Explain:
dark tail, lack of face pattern elim. sparrow hawk
small size + falcon build (long pointed wings, long squared-off tail) rule out
other hawks

11. Distance (how measured)? 1/8 mile (est) 12. Optical equipment: 10x50 binoc.

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):

bird pretty well into sun a lot of the time.

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:

have seen many merlins (Mass., Wash states)

15. Other observers: —

16. Did the others agree with your identification? —

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: —

18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description: None.

another 'soft' record but in view of the rarity of the bird in this
part of the state thought I'd send it in.

19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? a few days

Signature: Michael C Newlin Address: 128 GROVE ST.

Date: 20 NOV. City, State: Iowa City IA 52240