

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1
 Location? West Side of Diamond Lake, Dickinson County
 Type of habitat? Cedar plantings in open field
 When? date(s): 12-30-95 time: 3:30 to 4:00
 Who? your name and address: Ed. Thelen RR 8725 Spirit Lake, IA
 others with you: Marty Thelen 51360
 others before or after you: Wally Jorgenson

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.

Spotted a pigeon-sized hawk on tip of cedar tree. Dark back eliminated Kestrel. It would fly from tip of cedar to tip of cedar. As it flew its dark tail and pointed wings identified it as a merlin. Its tail at one point looked like it had lighter bands across it. Its chest had brown streaks down it.

Similar species and how eliminated:

Kestrel - dark back

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

GOOD - 50 ft

Previous experience with species and similar ones: I've seen several in Iowa and Canada.

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 1 month

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