

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1Location? Grammer Grove, north Marshall CountyType of habitat? river bottom woods by Iowa RiverWhen? date(s): Sept. 24, 1985 time: 11:50 to 11:50 1/2Who? your name and address: Beth Proescholdtothers with you: none

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.

I was standing on a ridge watching for hawks when a falcon dashed by at tree-top level (and at my eye-level) 40 or 50 yards away. I saw it for only 15 or 20 seconds but it was falcon-shaped with long pointed wings & long narrow tail, blue-gray on back, wings & tail with a wide black sub-terminal band on the tail - & a hint of a mustache.

Similar species and how eliminated: Sharp-shin or Peregrine - Falcon shape so couldn't be sharp-shin - too small for Peregrine & didn't have helmet of Peregrine.
Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sun at side - 40 or 50 yards away - binoculars

Previous experience with species and similar ones: many Sharp-shins, a few Merlins & a very few Peregrines.

References and persons consulted before writing description: Peterson's field guide,

How long before field notes made? at once this form completed? Oct 1st