

# Unusual Bird Report Form for Christmas Bird Counts

CBC Name (not bird club name): Boone County CBC Date: Jan. 1, 1999

Species (include number, age, sex etc. as appropriate): Merlin, ♀, Prairie race

Observer: Michael Havlik Other observers who saw bird: John Schmitz  
Jason O'Brian

Description (Describe size, color and pattern above and below, head, bill, tail, wings etc. as needed. Use this space for a drawing if helpful. Include photos if available.):

Bird size: larger than a kestrel, smaller than prairie falcon

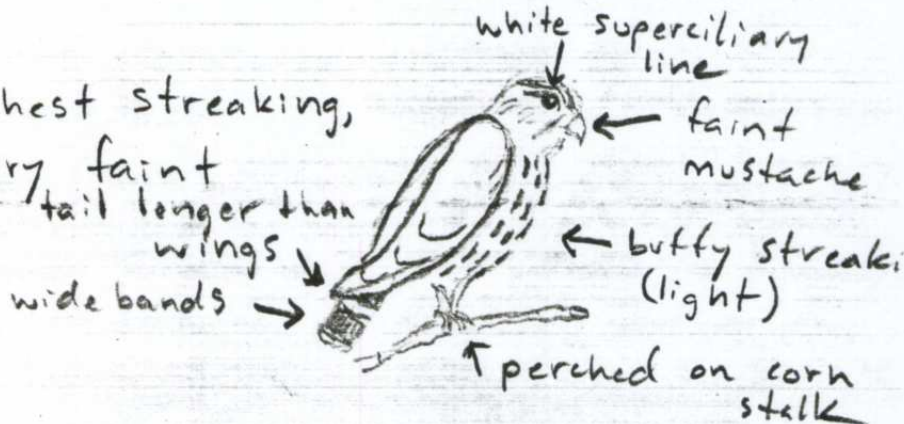
color: light gray w/ lighter flecking above, buffy streaking below

Head: Superciliary line white, faint mustache

Tail: Wide banding on tail

wings: In flight, pointed. Perched - did not extend to the tail

Prairie race: Thin chest streaking, light back, very faint tail longer than wings, mustache.



Sounds made, if any:

none

Conditions of observation (Time of day, weather, duration of observation, distance to bird, optics used, etc.):

11:30 A.M., snow falling, wind 10-20mph, observed eating bird for 15 minutes, 10 yards from vehicle on ground, Audubon 10x40 binos

Behavior and Habitat (What was the bird doing while you watched it? What habitat was it in?):

Bird was spotted flapping about 1 foot off of the ground, landed in the corner of a corn field and began feeding on an unidentified bird.

Similar Species (What similar species might be in your area in winter? How did you eliminate them from consideration?):

American kestrel - no black mustache marks, no rufous on sharp-shinned hawk - pointed wings, dark eye, wide tail band open field habitat

Peregrine and Prairie Falcon - smaller size, lack of bold mustache