

Sighting of Merlin

Viking Lake State Park
Red Oak, Iowa

September 24, 1978
8:15 a.m.

Sky clear; sun behind back

Habitat: Man-made lake surrounded by scrubby fields; some mature woodland.

Description: Falcon shaped. Long pointed wings, long rounded dark gray tail. Body light in comparison to tail. Slightly larger than Blue Jay in direct comparison. Flight was rapid and direct. This bird flew overhead at height of approximately 30 feet and was in view for 5-10 seconds. Am. Kestrels also present in park. This bird was larger, heavier bodied with longer, broader tail. Flight steadier.

Equipment: 8/30 binoculars

No other observers. I have also seen Merlin in this park on Sept 20, 1975.

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