

Documentation of Unusual Sight Record

Merlin - 1

Sept 18, 1982

Willow Slough, NE. Mills County, Iowa

Description: Kestrel-like. Pointed wings, long tail. Tail barred gray, biggest bar at end. Streaked lengthwise below. Grayish brown, solid, above.

Similar species: Kestrel doesn't have a gray barred Tail, * Uniform grayish brown upperparts would resemble Merlin, not Kestrel.

Factors influencing identification: Bird [±] 50 yards away flying south. I was on the dike + it was over the water, only about 5' high. Saw it ~~near~~ about 30 seconds. 5:45pm. 8.5x Binoculars. I had decided to look for Merlins earlier this fall since they are only Kestrel-size.

Documentation written Nov. 24 from notes taken Sept. 18.
Notes written an hour or more after the ~~sight~~ sighting.

I believe this was a Merlin, but you may have to reject ~~it~~ because it was seen so briefly.

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