

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1Location? 1 mi. n. of North Liberty, Johnson Co., IAType of habitat? farm landWhen? date(s): 23 Oct 1982 time: 3:45 to 3:47 approxWho? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City, IA 52240

others with you: _____

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.

About size of a kestrel or slightly larger. Pointed wings, long tail. Dark gray above and on wings. Slightly browner below with horizontal streaks on breast.

Flying along road way toward and past me. Direct flight. Lit in tall tree in farmstead. By the time I turned around and got the scope on it, it took off again heading south.

Similar species and how eliminated: No color or face mask of kestrel. Pointed wings and flight exclude Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? _____

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sun behind me. About 30 yards when it passed me. 8x binocs

Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen a number of timesReferences and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? 1 1/2 hrs this form completed? 1 1/2 hrs

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