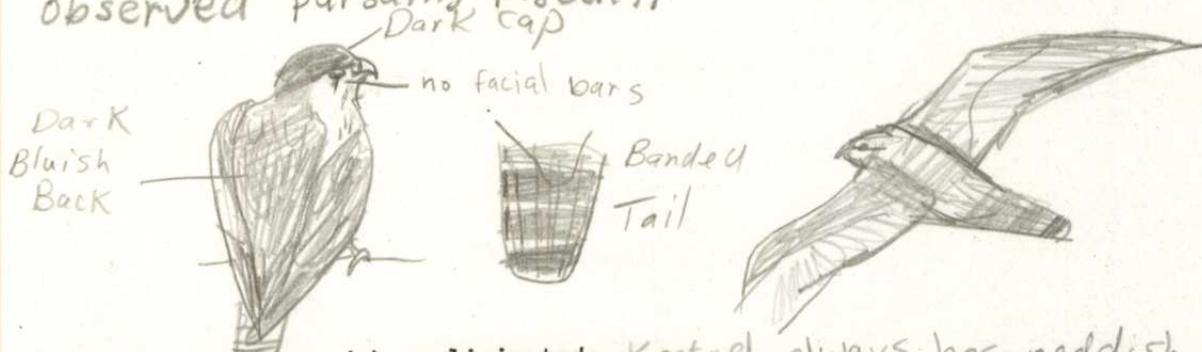


What species? Merlin How many? 1 ♂Location? Allamakee-Winneshiek Co. border. East of Decorah, IowaType of habitat? Hilly, pastured area with large tracts of woodlandWhen? date(s): April 11, 1982 time: 4:58 pm to 5:02 pmWho? your name and address: Joe Schaufenbuel, St. Lucas IA 52166others with you: Lynn Barth, Decorah Iowaothers before or after you: NA

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.

A small dark Kestrel-sized falcon. In flight the bird showed a smaller body to wing length ratio than a Kestrel. Its flight was very fast with rapid wing beats. Perched the bird had a steely blue back and head-cap with a nondescript facial pattern. Wings were dark. Upperparts were uniformly colored. Tail was dark with three lighter gray bands ending in a dark band. Underparts were only briefly seen but heavily streaked. Bird's eye was dark, cere was light colored, darker bill, feet yellow. Bird was observed pursuing pigeon.



Similar species and how eliminated: Kestrel always has reddish or brown on back and a distinct facial pattern.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NA

If yes, explain: NA

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:

Good viewing conditions. Sunlight. Bird was observed at 90 and 300 ft with 15 to 45x zoom telescope and 7x35 binoculars. Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen once before

References and persons consulted before writing description: Robbin's, Peterson's Field Guide

How long before field notes made? at time of sighting this form completed? 3 days

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240