

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1Location? Coralville ResType of habitat? Open part of reservoirWhen? date(s): 11 Sept 1983 time: 7:40 to 7:45 AM (est)Who? your name and address: Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St, Iowa City IAothers with you: Carl Bendorf, Tom Stanklothers before or after you: Iowa City Bird Club - 10 Sep

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.

Small falcon - about size of kestrel, pointed wings. Dark gray back, wing, + top of head. Lighter underparts with heavy vertical breast streaks. Long narrow banded tail. Tail bands narrow dark gray, light gray with thin lighter terminal or subterminal band. Dark facial mask extended down behind the eye - not as prominent as Peregrine Falcon. Fast direct flight and chasing blackbirds. Sharp note heard. Flew directly overhead and seen sitting on dead willows with scope.

Similar species and how eliminated: Pointed wings eliminate Sharp-shin.
Coloration eliminated Kestrel. Size and marks eliminate Peregrine.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Sunny, light behind us. 30ft - 100 yds.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen a number of timesReferences and persons consulted before writing description: noneHow long before field notes made? 4 hrs this form completed? 4 hrs.

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