

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Merlin 2. Number 1
3. Location Sweet Marsh - Bremer Co. (east side)
4. Date: April 21, 1984 5. Time Bird Seen: 10:30 AM to 10:31 AM.
6. Description of size, shape and color-pattern (describe in great detail all parts of the plumage, and beak and feet coloration, in addition, to the diagnostic characteristics, but include only what actually was seen in the field):
- Note - This was a very good day for hawk migration at Sweet M.
1. Smaller Saxon - pointed wings - narrow tail - similar size to kestrel
 2. Bird flew low with constant steady wing beats.
 3. Dorsal side of bird was all dark - (bluegray)
 4. Tail seem very blackish
 5. Bird was lighter below (buff) - I thought I could see darker streaks in the buff but this may be because I know they were there.
7. Description of voice, if heard: Not heard
8. Description of behavior: Bird was flying ~~to~~ low along edge of marsh following a dike.
9. Habitat - general: a dike.
specific: Extensive marshy area -
Dike separated 2 shallow pools.
10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7 & 8. Explain:
Bird was too dark for kestrel and too small for Peregrine
11. Distance (how measured)? 75 yd. - est.
12. Optical equipment: Bth. 7x35 binocs.
13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
light overcast but good viewing
14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
I have seen several merlins before - almost always under similar cond: tions.
15. Other observers: Russ Hays and others in field trip party
16. Did the others agree with your identification? Yes
17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: Russ thought it was a merlin - the others typically had no idea.
18. Books, illustrations and advice consulted, and how did these influence this description:
None
19. How long after observing this bird did you first write this description? That day
notes made
- Signature: Robert K. Myers Address: 1236 Sylvia Ave.
- Date: May 28, 1984 City, State: Waterloo, Iowa