

What species? merlin (f.c. columborius) How many? 1Location? Sand Point, Hawkeye WA, Johnson CoType of habitat? Sandy pt & many small dead willows, extending out into Reservoir.When? date(s): 9/23/84 time: 3:30 to 3:45 PM, twice laterWho? your name and address: M Newton 408 Waks St Iowa City IA 52240others 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.

Small falcon, perhaps  $1\frac{1}{3}X$  size of kestrel. In flight, heavier build, broader wings than kestrel. Big head/chest, long triangular wings, long square-tipped tail.

Upper parts: dark brown, uniform, from forehead to rump. Tail barred with dark/pale brown, w/ v. narrow white tip. Wings/coverts dark brown above. Below, wing-linings/axillaries pale, thickly marked w/ fine dark bars. Face dusky (but not so dark as upperparts), thin pale supercilium, faint dark vertical bar extending below eye, tapering to tip. Side of neck pale, dark of nape extending partially down side as smudgy 'half collar'. Throat pale, chest heavily streaked and sides barred with dark brown. Belly + under-tail coverts whitish. Bill + cere grey, legs yellow.

Initially seen perched 15' up in dead willow, obs. barw/ tree swallows flying nearby. flew; rapidly dropped to ~3' of ground, flew off to W, skimming low over water + just rising to clear brush. Seen 2x later, flying e/w over point, flight style similar.

Similar species and how eliminated: size, face pattern, lack of dark in axillaries diagnostic.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? —If yes, explain: —Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:  
75', 25x60 scope, sun behind obs. later = 50-200 yds, 8x40 binocs.Previous experience with species and similar ones: seen many; also all N. Am. falcons except femorialis.References and persons consulted before writing description: —How long before field notes made? on spot this form completed? 9/25

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