

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF
AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD

1. Species Merlin 2. Number 1
3. Location Rolling Cove Area Rathbun Lake Appanoose Co., Iowa
4. Date: 10-15-83 5. Time Bird Seen: 3:30 to 3:35

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):

SMALL, ONLY SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN A SPARROW HAWK.
TRUE FALCON INFIGHT POINT WINGS. DARK EVEN COLORED
BACK WITH HEAVILY & COMPLETELY STREAKED BREAST.
TWO WHITISH/TAIL BARS,

7. Description of voice, if heard: NI HEARD

8. Description of behavior: SET ON TELEPHONE LINE THEN WENT
DOVE TO GROUND LEVEL & GLADED & FLEW LOW TO GROUND.
9. Habitat - general: LAKESIDE - BRUSHY LAZYNE - OPEN BRUSH
WITH SOME CONIFERS MIXED IN.
specific:

10. Similarly appearing species which are eliminated by questions 6, 7, & 8.
Explain:

11. Distance (how measured)? 75 yds (EST) 12. Optical equipment:
20X SPOTTING SCOPE

13. Light (sky, light on bird, position of sun in relation to bird and you):
EXCELLENT SUN AT BACK

14. Previous experience with this species and similarly appearing species:
Sighted several time on other states

15. Other observers: WALLACE JARDINE

16. Did the others agree with your identification? YES

17. Other observers who independently identified this bird: NONE

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?

2 MINUTES
Signature: Raymond L. Lummis Address: 609 S Main St

Date: 10-15-83 City, State: Centerville, Iowa
52544