

Christina Count, Waterloo

STONE

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1

Location? along Hwy (3) 4 miles east of junction (63)

Type of habitat? In 20 ft tree along road

When? date(s): Dec 18 time: 3:55 to 4:00 P.M.

Who? your name and address: Tom Stone 1400 Wren Ave
others with you: 0 Waterloo 50701

others before or after you: 0

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.

Back and side view, Blueish gray back, broad black bands on tail, front parts seen were streaked.
watched bird for 5 minutes then open door of car to get him to fly, then observed pointed falcon like wings as he flew a 100 yards south of road.
steady wingbeats low over ground

Similar species and how eliminated:

larger than a Kestrel, Smaller than the peregrine + did not have facial pattern like falcon

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

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

good lighting, 40 ft, est. 7X50 lens.

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

3 other sightings with Russ Hays + son Tom

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Bob Meier

How long before field notes made? 1/2 hour this form completed? 24 hours

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