

D O C U M E N T A T I O N

Merlin (Third Merlin in September, 1994) --

On Saturday morning, September 24, I was birding in western Sioux Co. Between the Sioux-Rock public access area and Oak Grove Park I found yet another Merlin. It was sitting in a bare tree on the east side of the road. There were Flickers and Blue Jays in the area, quite unhappy about the presence of the Merlin. The Merlin, a female or immature, looked identical to the one I saw in Rock Valley last Wednesday (September 21), and so, may have been the same bird. About 15 miles separate the two locations, but there have been strong north winds the last day or so. As last time, the bird allowed itself to be approached fairly closely, so that all the field marks were visible. In addition, it would fly every few minutes or so, back and forth between several dead trees, displaying its pointed wings, brownish upperparts, banded tail, and absence of any rufous on its upper parts.

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