

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1 im. or ♀Location? George Wyth S.P.Type of habitat? Second growth mixed hardwoodWhen? date(s): 28 September 1986 time: 9:47 am to 9:49 amWho? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703others with you: Noneothers before or after you: None that I know of

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.

I was walking along an opening on the East side of the park when this bird came flying along the edge of the trees and landed in the top of a large dead tree. The bird was heavily streaked with dark brown streaks on a beige colored breast, down into the under tail coverts. The back and wings were dark brown. The tail was dark brown ^{barred} and had about five bars from upper tail coverts to the tip. The bill was black, the eye was dark, the feet were yellow. The bird was not large enough to be a Peregrine and did not have a helmeted head. The flight was direct and strong. The bird had pointed falcon wings and a fairly long ~~to~~ barred tail.

Similar species and how eliminated: American Kestrel is smaller and reddish above, Peregrine Falcon is larger with ~~black~~ black or dark brown wedge on cheek.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? No

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment:
Slight overcast, very good light from approx. 100 feet at closest using 10x40 binoculars.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Have seen several Merlin and Peregrine Falcons lots of experience with Am. Kestrel.
References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? 6 hrs. this form completed? 24 hrs.

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240