

DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Merlin How many? 1Location? Sand Pt, Coralville Res, Johnson Co IAType of habitat? Reservoir floodplain, mud + weedy flats, large willows, brush.When? date(s): 9-10 time: ~ 7:30 to 7:45 AMWho? your name and address: M Newtonothers with you: CS Newton, m.ob.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 hawk with long pointed wings, long square tail; tail w/ dark bars on a paler brown background + a narrow pale tip. Wings dark brown, as were upperparts. No noticeable facial pattern. Underparts pale, coarsely streaked w/ dark brown.

Chased flock of redwings, circled, accipiter-like, trees where birds were perched;

Similar species and how eliminated: pointed wings ~~and facial pattern~~ elim- accipiters, lack of facial pattern rules out lagopus peregrine.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? no

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: 50-100', 8x40's, sun at our backs.Previous experience with species and similar ones: Seen many in MA, WA.References and persons consulted before writing description: —How long before field notes made? on spot ^{transcribed} this form completed? 11-28

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