

BIRDS: VERIFYING DOCUMENTATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT RECORD **BIERMAN**

1. Species: MERLIN 2. Number: 1
3. Location: T93N R39W SECTION 23, SPRING TOWNSHIP,
CHEROKEE CO. IOWA
4. Date: 3, OCT, 1980 5. Time seen: 0915 to 0930
6. Description of size, shape, and color: STEEL BLUE GRAY
BACK AND WINGS. BANDED TAIL, BLACK BANDS WIDER
THAN THE WHITE ONES. PALE FRONT WITH BROWNISH
STREAKS. ABOUT KESTREL SIZED ONLY CHUNKIER
7. Voice, if heard: NONE
8. Behavior: PERCHED ON FENCE POST. WHEN FLUSHED, IT FLEW
RAPIDLY AND LOW TO ANOTHER POST.
9. Habitat: OPEN FARM LAND. MUCH TIMBER AND PASTURE
ONE MILE AWAY.
10. Similar species: KESTREL, PEREGRINE FALCON, BROADWINGED
HAWK, COOPERS AND SHARP SHINNED HAWKS
11. Distance viewed at: 20 YDS Optical equipment: 15 TO 60
POWER SPOTTING SCOPE 13. Light: OVERCAST, NO SHADOWS
14. Previous experience with this species and similar species:
I DOCUMENTED SIGHTING SENT IN THE FALL OF 1977.
SEEN A COUPLE OF TIMES BEFORE 1977.
15. Other observers: NONE
16. Did others agree: — 17. Other independent observers:
NONE
18. Books and advice consulted: PETERSONS FIELD GUIDE TO BIRDS OF E. NORTH AMERICA
19. How long after seeing this bird did I write this description:
1 HOUR
- Signature: Dick Bierman Address 901 HARRIS
- Date 3 OCT 1980 City, State CHEROKEE IOWA 51012