

SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES AND/OR SPECIES IN HIGH NUMBERS

CBC NAME: Omaha COMPILER: Milly Wigg CBC DATE 12/20/80

OBSERVER WRITING THIS ACCOUNT & DATE: Ruth C. Green

Date of observation: 12/20/80 Time: 2:30 PM Weather: very cold overcast Sky Cover: P.C

Duration of observation: 1 to 2 minutes Bird/Sun Orientation: Sun in S.W. to right

Exact Location: Plattsmouth Cemetery Habitat: Mixture of deciduous + conifers and adjacent to cornfield

Observers & Optical Equipment: 7-35 Bushnell

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL NECESSARY AND IMPORTANT DETAILS OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION, AS SEEN IN THE FIELD. REMEMBER THAT AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH IS AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF FURTHER DOCUMENTATION. BE THOROUGH AND PRECISE WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

SPECIES: Merlin NUMBER, AGE, SEX: 1

Distance from bird(s): 30 feet Relative size of bird: larger than Cooper's

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line etc.):
generally dark appearance

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color etc.):

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES:

LEGS & FEET:

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts etc.):

Heavier body than accipiter such as Cooper's sharp
shin & dark terminal band on tail

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum etc.):

dark on belly & breast - darker than accipiter

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers; color pattern; shape etc.):

generally dark and very narrow barring on underwing

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading and trailing edges etc.):

falcon shape - very dark

VOCALIZATION:

BEHAVIOR: typical flight of a merlin

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

I have seen several merlins and am
very familiar with their shape & behavior