

## Short Notes: Monumental Merlins North and South

### Merlins in a Northern Ohio Cemetery

**Lou Gardella**

12828 McCracken Road, Garfield Heights, OH 44125  
Lgard63356@aol.com

Once again this winter I kept watch on up to five merlins at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland. The first (merlin 1) was observed on 22 October 2003. This male was found perched on the top branches of the same oak tree last year's female used for her pre-roost tree, in the Cemetery's Section 85. He roosted a few nights on the east side of the cemetery. Could it be last year's bird? One evening I drove in to find



Merlin 4, present at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland 10 Jan-28 Feb 2004. Photograph by Lou Gardella.

On 29 October, I briefly observed a brown merlin. After relocating it preening in the Section 85 preroost tree, I determined that this was the female from last year (merlin 2). She used this tree nearly every day throughout the winter. Because of my work schedule, I was unable to observe the merlins in the evenings except on the weekends. Merlin 2 and merlin 4 (see below) were observed during the day.

On 10 January 2004, another merlin (merlin 3) was observed. Smaller than the female, it was grayish in color. I determined this bird was an immature male. It was observed for only two days. 25 January brought a new merlin (merlin 4), an immature/female. It showed had two distinctive light spots on the secondaries, and was present through 28 February.

On 23 February, I observed another merlin in Section 64. This bird (merlin 5) was an adult male. It was present until 8 March 2004.

On 23 March 2004, merlin 1 was in his pre-roost tree. Merlin 2 was in Section 74; I stopped to observe her, and she flew to roost. I went back to merlin 1 and watched him go to his roost tree at 6:52 p.m.

This was the last night I saw them. The 24<sup>th</sup> was dark, dreary, and rainy. I was not able to get into the cemetery this evening: security had closed the gates early. On 25 March, I found that a male American Kestrel had replaced the merlin. 🦅



Merlin 4, at Calvary Cemetery in Cleveland. Note the upperparts markings that distinguished it from Merlin 2. Photo by Lou Gardella 27 February 2004.

### Merlins in a Southern Ohio Cemetery

**Lori Brumbaugh**

3905 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45317  
rthawk55@aol.com

The wintering merlins of Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati returned, perking up the cold, bleak days of this winter. After an exciting merlin-filled 2001-02 winter, the cold days of 2002-03 produced only a one-day sighting of one falcon.

The first of this winter, a male, was reported on 6 December 2003 at the Cemetery. A brown bird (a female or immature male) showed up on 24 December, perching in the general vicinity of the male. Four days later, a second brown bird was observed in another part of the cemetery. For those who studied the bird regularly, this was obviously a different bird, with lighter streaking on the breast. As in previous years, the most reliable time to view these birds was between 5 and 6 pm,