

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2014-08-20 17:25:07
Observer's Name	Hart Rufe
E-mail	hartrufe@gmail.com
Phone	215-872-6754
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1890 N 5th St City: Perkasio State / Province: Pennsylvania Postal / Zip Code: 18944-2213 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Jewel Rufe
Species (Common Name)	White-tailed Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Elanus leucurus
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	08-7-2014 5:40 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	East Rockhill Twp.
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Our home, address above
GPS coordinates of sighting	N 40.23.39 W75.15.48
Habitat	Over open field
Distance to bird	Approximately 200 feet
Viewing conditions	clear day, blue sky, low humidity, excellent viewing
Optical equipment used	Swarovski EL10 x 42 (Hart); Swarovski EL 8.5 x 42 (Jewel)
Description	All white bird, long tail, long narrow pointed wings. We saw the under-side and right side of the bird, only, as it flew over our field directly in front of us. Were not able to note eye color, and can't even say that we noticed the black shoulder patches. We are familiar with the flight pattern and jizz of White-tailed Kites.

Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

The bird was flying across the field in front of us at an estimated height of 100 feet, just above the trees to the left of our viewing area, and continued for 4 or 5 seconds across the open field until it disappeared just over the trees to the right of our viewing area. It was headed on a NE to SW direction.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Our reaction when we first became aware of the bird as it was behind the trees to our left was that it was our regular Cooper's Hawk that we see daily. But as it cleared the trees and we could see it clearly, both Jewel and I exclaimed simultaneously, "White-tailed Kite," as we were both absolutely certain. We have seen Mississippi Kites, but they are much darker underneath. Nothing else is close.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

We are both well familiar with White-tailed Kites as we have seen them in Florida, Texas and California. Our daughter lives north of San Diego and has a pair of White-tailed Kites in the preserved open space behind her house, which we have watched and photographed extensively when we have visited her. In Florida, we spent two days studying a White-tailed Kite when I took most of the photos (one photo is from CA) in my blog article at:
<http://stlucieaudubon.org/hartBeat/hb2012/hb120915Kites.html>

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

Absolutely.

During

None

After

None

Click to edit

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