

171-02-1988

Mississippi Kite in Beaver County

by Ed Krater

While atlasing near the town of Baden just east of the Ohio River ^{June} on 26th 1988 I saw a Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis) in the Tevebaw Road area. The sky was overcast and a fifteen mile per hour wind was blowing. As I was watching a Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis), a distant raptor appeared in my field of view about half a mile away. It gradually flew closer, beating into the wind. On first impressions and in silhouette it appeared strikingly similar in size and general shape to a Peregrine (Falco peregrinus), with long, sharply pointed wings. It eventually flew directly overhead and I was able to pick out the following characteristics leading to positive identification.

The overall plumage color was dark gray above and below with some brown streaking on the belly and underwing coverts. The head was quite large and rounded, protruding markedly from the body.

When flapping and gliding the wings seemed very sharply pointed with fairly broad bases. The leading edge of the wing was strongly concave between the body and carpal joint but the trailing edge was very straight, giving a very distinctive wing shape. The flight was very buoyant with flexible wing beats, despite the wind. The tail

(1940)

Reference: Todd, W.E. Clyde: Birds of Western Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh Press.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Mississippi Kite**

Date of Sighting: **June 26, 1988**

Observer(s): **Ed Kwater**

Date of Submission: **1988 Beaver**

Submitted by: **Ed Kwater**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Leberman			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
P. Schwalbe			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

3-24-91