

RARE SPECIES REPORT

171-02-1989

SPECIES: MISSISSIPPI KITE		NUMBER SEEN: ONE
SIGHTING DATE: 10/20/89		SIGHTING TIME: 1255
LOCATION:	COUNTY & STATE: LUZERNE, PA DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: Approx. 5 miles North of Berwick DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Susquehanna Riverlands, a PRTC recreation area. Along Intake structure road, 1/4 mile E. of U.S. Rt. 11.	
HABITAT: Riverside Forest, park. Within sight of North Branch Susq. River		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: Poor. Overcast, raining heavily. Sitting on snag, DISTANCE: 100 to 300+ ft. then flew further EQUIP. USED: Leitz 7,35 Binoculars after circling. LENGTH OF SIGHTING: About 3 minutes.	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: None SIZE: Smaller than Amer. Crow (ready comparison; it was chased by one) in body size but similar in wing length (wings appeared long, pointed!) Approximately size of Peregrine, with slim body, white eye brow look. PLUMAGE: "Juvenile." white sitting, wings as long as tail. Overall, a slim dark, streaky young hawk with a whitish head (feathers wet and compressed). Somewhat heavier streaking on breast & under tail coverts, back mottled appearance. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Flight - Distinctive, buoyant flight. Almost swallowlike, differing greatly from similar sized falcons or accipiters. BEHAVIOR: Flew toward me from south to snag where it sat 1 1/2 minutes. Amer. Crow chased it off perch, so it flew in arcs around me for about 2 minute & then East over river, out of sight.	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: I have seen this species in western USA & Costa Rica. Other similar kites in Mexico & CR.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: Whitish head with characteristic buoyant flight and relatively long tail separate the Miss Kite from other PA. hawks.		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? NO IF SO, BY WHO? No chance, unfortunately.		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? No. No one else saw it.		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): The picture of an imm. Miss. Kite on p. 125 (6d) very much resembles the hawk I observed (but drier). Reference - Clark et al. Field Guide to Hawks		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Douglas A. Gross		
ADDRESS: Ecology III		PHONE # 717-542-2191 (or 458-4564)
RD 1, Berwick PA 18603		
SIGNATURE: Douglas A. Gross	DATE: 10/25/89 (recopied 2/28/90)	

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 2 of 2

Species: **Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)**

Date of Sighting: **20 October 1989 to 20 October 1989**

Location: **5 MILES NORTH OF BERWICK**

County: **LUZERNE**

Observer(s): **Douglas Gross**

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Douglas Gross**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **NO** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas			X					
N. Pulcinella			X					
E. Kwater							X	
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner								X
TOTALS			5				1	1
DECISION			X					

Comments:

Signature (Secretary): *F. C. Haas*

Date: *5-6-94*

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)**

Date of Sighting: **20 October 1989 to 20 October 1989**

Location: **5 MILES NORTH OF BERWICK**

County: **LUZERNE**

Observer(s): **Douglas Gross**

Date of Submission: **1993**

Submitted by: **Douglas Gross**

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N. Pulcinella				X				
E. Kwater							X	
R. Ickes			X					
G. McWilliams			X					
P. Schwalbe			X					
J. Skinner			X					
TOTALS			5	1			1	
DECISION								

Comments: *Send for second Round.*

Signature (Secretary): *J. C. Haas*

Date: *2-23-94*