

171-03-1991

Sunday 7 April 91, Sunny, 80°, S.W. Winds 8-10 mph

Location, Southern Lebanon Co., Governor Dick Tower Observer: Randy Miller

With southwest winds I decided to spend a few hours on top of Gov. Dick. I drive two minutes down the road. Then it is a short 1/2 mile up the trail to the tower. I was hoping to see raptors flying north.

I got up to the tower at 9:30. After a few minutes a red-shouldered hawk flew by at eye level. Then a resident red-tail was looking for its next meal. The turkey and black vultures were up from their roost in Mt. Gretna. Then a broad-winged hawk passed by. Raptors were moving north.

Several more red-tails flew by. Then at 11:10 I saw another bird at eye-level about 250 yards away. I put up my 10x50 swifts and saw a bird coming straight toward me and flapping. Its wing tips almost touched on the upstroke and downstroke. This bird was partially backlit so color was difficult to see. I thought maybe accipiter, but the wings appeared pointed and long. Then I said a nighthawk. I felt I had identified it. Then it twisted and dove. It came back up and resumed its flight toward me. Nighthawk wasn't the answer either. At about 75 yards the bird turned sideways and dove. I could see the bird had slight barring on the tail which was long and square. I could not make out any markings on the underbody. The underwings were light like the body. The wings had a slight bend at the wrist. It changed directions and headed away from me toward TMI. I could see the bird was dark on top with no white rump. When the bird glided it had a flat wing profile. I thought maybe Northern Harrier, but the wings were flat and no white rump was visible. The bird made a large circle and came back to the original spot. During this time it dove several times only to come back to about the same elevation. Then it headed off toward the Cornwall Fire Tower. It made one final dive and I lost it in the trees, heading northeast toward Middlecreek WMA. After writing down my notes, then checking field guides, I identified the bird as a 1st summer Mississippi Kite. It was a very interesting bird to watch.

* This bird was very dark on top with no white rump. Also, the wings were light like the body. The wings had a slight bend at the wrist. It changed directions and headed away from me toward TMI. I could see the bird was dark on top with no white rump. When the bird glided it had a flat wing profile. I thought maybe Northern Harrier, but the wings were flat and no white rump was visible. The bird made a large circle and came back to the original spot. During this time it dove several times only to come back to about the same elevation. Then it headed off toward the Cornwall Fire Tower. It made one final dive and I lost it in the trees, heading northeast toward Middlecreek WMA. After writing down my notes, then checking field guides, I identified the bird as a 1st summer Mississippi Kite. It was a very interesting bird to watch.

RARE SPECIES REPORT

SPECIES: <u>Mourning Dove</u>		NUMBER SEEN: <u>one</u>
SIGHTING DATE: <u>17 April 81</u>		SIGHTING TIME: <u>11:20 - 11:45 AM</u>
LOCATION: <u>Marathon, TX</u>	COUNTY & STATE: <u>Tarrant, TX</u> DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: <u>1 mi. S. of Mt. Gretna</u> DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE:	
HABITAT: <u>field</u>		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS:	LIGHTING: <u>overcast</u> DISTANCE: <u>100 yds.</u> EQUIP. USED: <u>binoculars</u> LENGTH OF SIGHTING: <u>10 min.</u>	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: <u>chirp</u> SIZE: <u>small</u> PLUMAGE: <u>typical Mourning Dove</u> ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): BEHAVIOR: <u>seen in field</u>	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: <u>I am familiar with this species.</u>		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: <u>None.</u>		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? <u>no</u> IF SO, BY WHO?		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? <u>no</u>		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): <u>None.</u>		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: <u>Randy Miller</u>		
ADDRESS: <u>377 Woodland Dr</u>		PHONE #: <u>817-331-1111</u>
SIGNATURE: <u>Randy Miller</u>		DATE: <u>17 April 81</u>

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # of

Species: **Mississippi Kite**

Date of Sighting: **April 7, 1991**

Observer(s): **Randy Miller**

Date of Submission: **1991**

Submitted by: **Randy Miller**

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			3	3			1
DECISION				X			

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

B. Haas

Date:

11-6-91