

October 5, 1997

Larry Lewis  
63 S. Park Avenue  
Coatesville, PA 19320-2866

Dear Larry,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Mississippi Kite you saw in West Pikeland Township on 9 June 1996 to P.O.R.C. After careful review, we regret that we are unable to accept this record. There was concern within the committee that the description submitted did not supply enough detail for the committee to make an adequate judgement. Some members felt the description lacked details regarding specific shape of the bird, flight action and a more complete description of the upperparts.

This of course, does not mean the bird was not a Mississippi Kite, merely, that the record is not beyond reasonable doubt for acceptance

We hope that this does not discourage you from submitting documentation on any rare birds you find in the future. Please be encouraged to send as much detail as possible when submitting a report.

Sincerely,

Nick Pulcinella  
Chairman

Record # 171-01-1996

P.S. If it is any consolation, I voted for acceptance of this record.

171-01-1996

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

**SUPPORTING DETAILS: UNCOMMON OR RARE SPECIES/HIGH NUMBERS**

CBC Name WC BBC Date 6/9/96 Compiler \_\_\_\_\_  
Observer writing this account & date LARRY LEWIS

SPECIES MISSISSIPPI KITE NUMBER, AGE, SEX 1 IMM.  
Distance from bird(s) 75 ft. Relative size of bird LARGER THAN KESTREL

HEAD & NECK (Describe forehead, crown, auricular, malar region, median line, etc.)  
Appeared mostly dark underneath

EYE & LORES (Describe supercilium, ring, stripe, color, etc.)  
Not Noted

UPPER & LOWER MANDIBLES Not noted  
LEGS & FEET Not noted

UPPERPARTS (Describe nape, back, rump, upper tail coverts, etc.)  
DARK including tail with slight streaking

UNDERPARTS (Describe throat, belly, side, flanks, crissum, etc.)  
DARK wings, throat belly + flanks dark to a lesser degree possibly streaked

RECTRICES (Describe inner, middle, outer tail feathers, color pattern, shape, etc.)  
Tail DARK <sup>to base</sup> ABOVE AND BELOW WITH some banding noted.

WING (Describe color, length, shape, linings, bars, coverts, leading & trailing edges, etc.)  
Longer than Kestrel's wings, pointed and slightly bent in the mid-section. Wings were dark underneath.

VOCALIZATION NOT NOTED

BEHAVIOR Behaving in typical Mi Kite fashion - soaring low over tree tops "kiting" its tail. Never flapped

Date of observation 6/9/96 Time 11:00 - 11:30 Weather ~~Partly Sunny~~ Partly Sunny Sky Partly Sunny  
(seen twice)

Duration of observation 15 seconds Bird - Sun orientation \_\_\_\_\_

Exact location Seven Oaks Rd 1/2 mile from Rt. 401 seen over trees on W. side of Rd.

Habitat Mixed Oak Woodland Other observers Grier Sanders  
Optical equipment Zeiss 10x40

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OBSERVER VERY FAMILIAR WITH SPECIES LEADING TRIPS TO SEE THEM EACH YEAR AT CAPE MAY WHERE THEY OCCUR REGULARLY IN LATE MAY - JUNE. Also seen many times on trips to Florida

**AN ACCOMPANYING SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE MOST HELPFUL**

**Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee**

**Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of**

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

Date of Sighting: **9 June 1996 to 9 June 1996**

Location: **WEST PIKELAND TWP**

County: **CHESTER**

Observer(s): **Larry Lewis**

Date of Submission: **1996**

Submitted by: **Larry Lewis**

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					
S. Feldstein				X				
<b>TOTALS</b>			3	3		1		
<b>DECISION</b>				X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

*F. C. Haas*

Date:

*2-22-97*