

171 - 01 - 1998

Dear Glenn,

I am enclosing this report and description of the Mississippi Kite that I saw in Lackawanna County so that you may have it for your report to Pennsylvania Birds.

On June 19, 1998, my wife and I were traveling east along Route 24 at about 10 a.m. when we came to one of those construction zones and had to stop. No sooner had we stopped than I saw a bird in flight ahead of us and on the south side of the road. It was falcon-shaped (long, narrow, angular, pointed wings and long, narrow tail), and its flight was very buoyant and graceful as it circled and swooped in a pattern that even a swallow would envy. Every few seconds I had to move the car up a little further in the line of traffic and thus got closer to the bird. The closest that we got to the bird was perhaps 100 feet - at least we were close enough that we could see the bird well even without binoculars. The long, squarish tail of the bird was black; the underside of the wings was dark; and the underparts were darkish at the belly and lighter toward the chest and head. Other than the black tail we saw no color - just variants from dark to light. We only saw the underside of the bird and thus could not observe the upper-wing markings. The bird was larger than a kestrel and smaller than a peregrine falcon in size. Total time of observation was probably 3-4 min.

I have seen the bird a number of times within its normal range and was able to identify it immediately, chiefly by its shape and by its distinctive flight and black tail. Interestingly, according to an Internet report, four Mississippi kites were seen at Cape May on the same day. Perhaps the bird that we saw was part of a movement rather than an isolated individual.

Bill Reid

Bill Reid

I will be away until August 15th. You may call me after that at 836-2734 if you have questions.

P.S. Bird was seen near Mt. Cobb.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 19 June 1998 to 19 June 1998

Location: MT. COBB

County: ~~LACKAWANA~~ LACKAWANA

Observer(s): Bill Reid

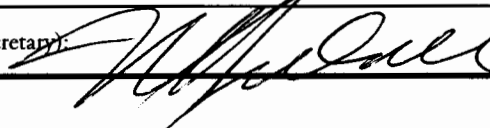
Date of Submission: 1998

Submitted by: Bill Reid

WRITTEN DESCRIPTION YES PHOTO NO SPECIMEN NO RECORDING NO

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. Couchman			X					
T. Floyd								X
P. Hess			X					
R. Ickes				X				
J. McWilliams			X					
B. Reid								X
P. Rodewald			X					
TOTALS			4	1				2
DECISION			X					

Comments: 4/1/2 ~~2ND ROUND~~

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 8/24/00