

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE
210 Welcome Ave. Norwood, PA 19074

30 January 2002

August Mirabella
1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear August,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Mississippi Kite at Gwynedd Preserve on 13 May 1999. The Committee regrets that it cannot accept this record.

The vote was unanimous. Three members placed it in Class IV-A: "a record for which there exists a majority of edicence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt." Four members placed it in Class IV-B: a record for which there exists insufficient evidence for evaluation."

The Committee considered your documentation to be admirably honest in noting that the details were somewhat limited because of the viewing conditions. All of the members believed that there was simply not enough detail for them to rule out other species such as Merlin conclusively.

Non-acceptance does not imply that the bird was not a Mississippi Kite, but rather than the Committee believes the description was not sufficient to support the identification conclusively.

We trust that this will not discourage you from submitting reports on any future rarities.

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 171-01-1999

171-01-1999

7/5/99

Dear Kevin,

Montgomery County

Silent spring as far as I'm concerned with respect to the May migration. I was out much more than usual (almost every day) and Judy was with me most of the time with good ears and we still had a poor showing.

I have decided to send you a report that just shows the first and last sightings in the period rather than printing out 17 pages of detail.

You will see a Miss. Kite listed. I am confident it was but the circumstances of the sighting prevent me from providing adequate details for PORC acceptance purposes. You can send my comments in if you want.

Mississippi Kite- On 5/13, along Wissahickon Creek near the Gwynedd Preserve in Upper Gwynedd Twp., I had an unsatisfactory sighting. It was late morning, cloudy with some sun glare, and the bird came over from behind me out of the northeast which was the wind direction. Thus, my first view was after it was past and going away at "medium" altitude. It did circle and gain altitude off in the distance for 5 or 10 minutes and "kited" a couple of times while apparently catching insects before heading to the southwest at very high altitude. I followed it with my 7x40 Zeiss as far as I could but it never turned again. It never flapped. I caught light flashes a couple of times from the top of the wings as it circled but basically saw uniform dark color from below due to the cloudy/sun glare conditions. The wings appeared long and narrow in relation to body length and width compared to the broader wings of the Harrier or Perigrine which are most likely confused with this bird I think. The wings had no dyhedral. The tail was narrow but broader toward the end but not fanned like a soaring buteo. The ID was purely based on shape and behavior after elimination of all other normally occurring species. Although I'm sure that is what it was, these details are somewhat limited due to the viewing conditions.

Regards,

Augie

August Mirabella

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

Date of Sighting: 13 May 1999 to 13 May 1999

Location: MONTGOMERY

County: GWYNEDD PRESERVE

Observer(s): August Mirabella

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: August Mirabella

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

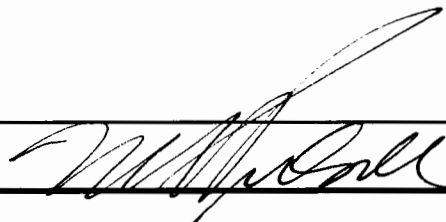
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead				X				
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes					X			
M. Sharp				X				
B. Reid				X				
P. Rodewald					X			
TOTALS				3	4			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/7

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 3/12/01