

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

31 January 2002

Dave Krueel
540 Pine St.
Pottsville, PA 17901

Dear Dave,

Thank you for submitting documentation on the Mississippi Kite at SGL 227 on 29 May 1999. After careful review, the Committee regrets that it has voted not to accept this record.

Committee members were split on the decision, and the balloting went two rounds. The final vote was three in favor of acceptance and four not in favor.

Those who voted against accepting the record were concerned that the possibility of a Merlin was not eliminated conclusively.

We would like to emphasize that non-acceptance does not imply that the bird was not a Mississippi Kite, but rather that a majority of the Committee believes the documentation does not support the identification without a doubt.

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

Sincerely,



For the Committee:
Paul Hess, Chairman

Record No. 171-02-1999

171-02-1999

Dave Krueel
540 Pine St.
Pottsville, PA 17901
(570) 622-1184

SU: Mississippi Kite

Sighting Date: May 29, 1999

Sighting Time: 10:30am (approx.)

Location: SGL 227, near Hometown, PA in Schuylkill County

Sky Conditions: Sunny

Viewing Distance: Not 100% sure. Best guess would be from 40-60 yds high. Bird was very easily seen without binoculars.

Viewing Time: Approx. 10-15 seconds

Equipment Used: Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44

Sighting:

Bird was first seen overhead and somewhat north of me. Prior to reaching me, I saw it do a few flaps, maybe 3-5. After that, I believe the bird just glided. For at least some short time, the bird did have its legs below its body and also had its head bent down. I wasn't exactly sure what it was doing, but at some point I did think these motions could have been consistent with taking insects during flight. This bird traveled in a straight line and did no swirling nor other swooping-type maneuvers that are described of a Mississippi Kite. This bird headed south.

Description:

Bird had very long, narrow, pointed wings and a long, narrow, squared-off tail. It did have some flaring toward the end of tail, but not that much. The bird was all gray underneath and had tail banding. I was not able to discern any other color from this bird.

I have never seen any kite species before. When I saw this bird, I felt it was a kite and nothing else, having studied them some from photos and drawings in field guides. For the past 3 years, I have done a fair amount of fall hawk watching, and I am familiar with the regularly seen hawks in the area...this excludes Gyrfalcon and Swainson's Hawk. There was never a point where I thought this bird may be a Peregrine Falcon. To me, the bird was too slight, and the wings were too long and narrow.

Record No.: 171-02-1999

PENNSYLVANIA ORNITHOLOGICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

Species: Mississippi Kite
Date of sighting: 29 May 1999 to 29 May 1999
County: Schuylkill
Location: SGL 227 near Hometown
Observer: Dave Krue

Written description only

Committee Member: Paul Rodewald

Vote: Accept as Class III

Comments:

Although the observation period was brief and the observer had no prior experience with the species, I feel he has provided enough detail to accept his record. Behavior, wing shape, tail shape, and coloration of the underparts were all appropriate for Mississippi Kite. Details suggest the individual was a subadult. Some subadult Mississippi Kites can appear all dark gray below and have banding in the tail.

Member Signature:



Date:

2/12/01

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Ballot - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 29 May 1999 to 29 May 1999

Location: SCHUYLKILL

County: SGL 227 NEAR HOMETOWN

Observer(s): Dave Krueel

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Krueel

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

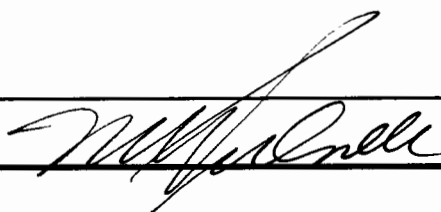
Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Recording: No			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			4	2	1			
DECISION								

Comments: 4/3

2ND ROUND

Signature (Secretary):



Date: 3/12/01

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round Two

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 29 May 1999 to 29 May 1999

Location: SGL 227 NEAR HOMETOWN

County: SCHUYLKILL

Observer(s): Dave Kruel

Date of Submission: 1999

Submitted by: Dave Kruel

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

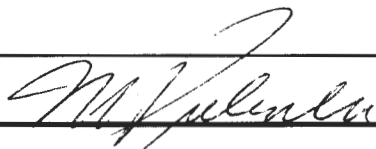
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead			X					
D. Couchman					X			
P. Hess					X			
R. Ickes				X				
B. Reid			X					
P. Rodewald			X					
M. Sharp				X				
TOTALS			3	2	2			
DECISION				X				

Comments: 3/4

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

11/4/01