









171-02-2001

Mississippi kite
(*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Found 5/29/01, weak and unable to fly in a field at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County, and retrieved by licensed rehabilitator Beth Carricato (699 Knight Rd., Harrisburg, Pa. 17111; 717- 566-2613). The bird was emaciated, and despite being given fluids and food, it died a few hours later.

I examined the refrigerated specimen 5/30/01, and concluded it was a second-year (subadult) Mississippi kite. All flight feathers were faded and heavily worn, but fresh adult scapular, back and lesser/median covert feathers, glossy and lead-gray, had been molted in. The tail was dark on the dorsal surface, and had bold, dirty white bands (somewhat indistinct) on the ventral side. The secondaries showed no sign of the pale gray typical of a full adult, but were blackish dorsally and somewhat lighter ventrally. Primaries were blackish above and lighter gray ventrally toward the base, with no sign of rufous webbing that might indicate a plumbeous kite (*I. plumbea*). Greater and primary underwing coverts were heavily marked with black, while the underwing median and lesser coverts were mottled with pale rufous. The primaries extended about an inch past the edge of the tail, which showed no notching, when folded.

Body plumage was for the most part retained immature feathers, medium gray with lighter bases, with some light rufous streaking mixed in toward the undertail and belly; the head was rather uniform medium gray, with some white feathers around the cere, but little sign of the pale head of an adult. The eye was dark red, somewhat sunken in death, though Beth said they were bright "garnet red" when the bird was still alive. Feet were orangish. The bill had a reduced mandibular notch/tomial tooth typical of kites.

The carcass was to be turned over to the Pa. Game Commission, though I haven't been able to confirm where it is at the moment.

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Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 29 May 2001 to 29 May 2001

Location: MIDDLE CREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

County: LANCASTER

Observer(s): Scott Weidensaul, Beth Carricato, Jack Hubely

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Scott Weidensaul

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

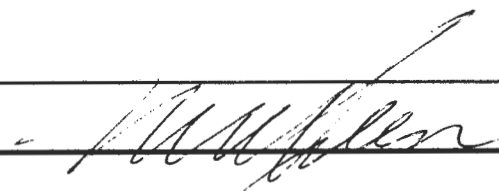
Specimen: ~~NO~~ YES

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							
J. Stanley	X							
B. Reid	X							
P. Rodewald B. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: Specimen housed at Middle Creek WMA.

Signature (Secretary):



Date:

11/4/01