

171-03-2001

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Person Submitting: Devich Farbotnik
Species: Mississippi Kite

Observers:

Found by: Devich Farbotnik

Seen By: No one else on the 28th but probably the same bird at Nockamixon State Park was seen by Bill Etter on 5/30/01(separate documentation). Also, was seen by Marya Halderman at NSP on another day shortly after.

Date Seen: May 28, 2001

Where Observed: Nockamixon Twp. at Harrow Village

Conditions: Seen with 7X35 Bausch & Lomb binoculars & Leica APO Televid 77 scope w/20-60 zoom lens at approximately 150 feet and more. It was clear and sunny with sun at my back.

Behavior & Habitat: It was flying low over an overgrown field with Cedar Trees about 10 feet tall, multi-flora Rose, and other scrub plants.

Description: I first thought the bird was a falcon but it was too big for a Kestrel, which was the most likely falcon on this date. Then, I saw the whitish head with a dark eye. It appeared grayish on the upper parts. There was some streaking on the undersides. The right wing was missing some feathers. The tail appeared dark. It was gliding and would also hang in place at times while hunting. The video shows the silhouette of the bird in flight including the tapered wings as well as the white head and white secondaries.

Similar Species Comparison: At first glance falcon-like but the size was too big for a Kestrel or Merlin. The white head eliminated these and Peregrine. The dark tail eliminated White-tailed Kite.

Other Documentation: Video and copy of written documentation sent directly to N. Pulcinella.

Documentation for the PORC:

171-03-2001

Species: Mississippi Kite

Location: Lake Nockamixon marina, Nockamixon State Park, Haycock Township, Bucks County, PA.

Date: 30 May, 2001.

Observer: Bill Etter

Conditions: Bright skies, moderate wind. Observed at approximately 4:30 PM

Optics: 10x24 binoculars, and spotting scope with 25x lens.

Description: A raptor that I at first mistook for a Sharp-shinned hawk flew out from above the treetops and circled overhead. With binoculars, I was soon able to make a better identification. The proportions of the wing were more slender and pointier than that of any resident accipiter or buteo. Its size was clearly larger than that of any expected falcon. Its flight seemed bouncy. As the bird circled, I had a good look at its banded tail, faintly streaked gray breast, and underwing pattern. The underwing was generally dark, accentuated by noticeably light patches below the secondaries, at the 'wrist'. The bird appeared to be missing a few primary feathers, especially on its right wing. It continued to fly back and forth over the woods and hillside, made a grab at something in midair, then turned and flew northeast. From my hilltop vantage, I was able to pick it up in the scope at this point, watching until it dipped below a distant treeline a minute or two later.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Tabulation Form - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

Date of Sighting: 28 May 2001 to 30 May 2001

Location: NOCKAMIXON STATE PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Devich Farbotnik, Bill Etter

Date of Submission: 2001

Submitted by: Devich Farbotnik, Bill Etter

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A				Abstain
					Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
G. Armistead	X							
D. ^{Heathcote} Couchman	X							
P. Hess		X						
J. Stanley	X							
B. Reid	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	6	1						
DECISION	X							

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 8/28/02