

171-01-2002

August 13, 2002

Dear Sir/Madam,

Around noon on June 2, 2002, I walked the morning bird walk trail at Peace Valley Park located in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Stopping at a bend in the trail beside a tree farm, I scanned and listened for Blue Grosbeaks that had been seen in this location in prior years.

I noticed a dark pointed winged medium sized raptor coming down out of the sky. My first thought was Peregrine Falcon, but when it got closer and slowly circled above me, I realized I was looking at a kite. After the bird got even lower and dived at an insect, I saw that the bird was an adult Mississippi Kite. I watched it for about five minutes before it disappeared over the tree line.

Observations:

From underneath, the bird was a lighter gray with a dark slightly notched undertail. Its back was a darker gray. Its primaries were dark with some white in its secondaries. It had a light colored head. This led me to believe an adult male Mississippi Kite.

Similar species:

Dark undertail and no black shoulder seen should rule out White Tailed Kite. Gray belly should rule out adult Coopers Hawk. No face pattern either as in a Peregrine.

Other Observers:

Somebody reported a Mississippi Kite over the lake at 1:00 p.m., but don't know if legitimate.

Optics: Swarovski 10x42 EL

Distance: From several hundred feet down to approximately fifty feet away.

Experience: Have seen Mississippi Kites twice in Cape May and in Georgia. Have seen White Tailed Kites in Rio Grande Valley. Volunteer for 5 years at Militia Hill Hawkwatch.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ian Baldock

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 2 June 2002 to 2 June 2002

Location: PEACE VALLEY PARK

County: BUCKS

Observer(s): Ian Baldock.

Date of Submission: 2002

Submitted by: Ian Baldock

Written Description: Yes

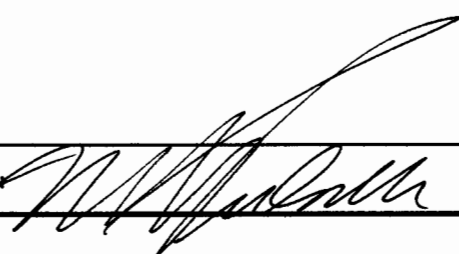
Photo: No

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. Heathcote			X					
P. Hess			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman			X					
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			X					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary): 

Date: 1/12/03