

## RARE BIRD REPORT

Species: MISSISSIPPI KITE Date of this Observation: 10-6-02Date Found: 10-6-02 Last Date Seen: 10-6-02Location: ROCKY RIDGE HAWK WATCH - ROCKY RIDGE COUNTY PARKTownship/City: YORK County: YORK, PAPerson Writing this report: RANDY PHILLIPSAddress: 4146 SHAFFERS CHURCH RD GLEN ROCK PA 17327Phone: 717-235-6043Other Observers: GALVIN ORVIS, KEN ORVIS, MARGIE MUSCALIWho found the bird first: KEN ORVIS

Other documentation included: (Circle all appropriate items)(Make sure all attached items are fully labeled)

Photograph

Audio Recording

Video Recording

If a Specimen, where is it stored?

Description: (Attach additional pages as needed —Please do not write on back of this form)

SEE ATTACHED SHEET171-02-2002

171-02-2002

The day was sunny and clear at Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch, 70 F with a light south wind. At approx. 12:00 pm, Ken Orvis spotted a falcon-like bird soaring out in front of the hawk watch platform. I was watching another bird which turned out to be a Red-shouldered Hawk. Ken stayed on the "falcon" and from his voice I knew he had something very interesting. The bird came out of its soar and glided directly over the hawk watch at a fairly high altitude- approx 750-1000 ft. I picked the bird up as it glided very close to the Red-shoulder. It was slightly smaller than the Red-shoulder. It was definitely falcon-shaped, but the wings didn't have the classic point of a Peregrin. After checking the field guide, we realized this was due to the shortened outer primaries. The wings were held flat-no dihedral. The tail was long. The body, tail and most of the underwing appeared uniformly dark gray. The two field marks that stood out was a small, whitish head and the white, trailing inner edge of both wings. It was a clear day, no clouds with a high sun behind us, and the backlighting made the white trailing edge of the wings appear to be lit up. All observers had good looks at the bird( we had it in view for approx 30 seconds) and everyone commented on these two field marks. I watched the bird glide over us and disappear without ever seeing it flap. It came out of the northeast and was heading in a southwesterly direction. Myself and Cal Orvis had both seen Mississippi Kites before. As we were watching the bird, Cal and I were commenting on its size, shape, color and distinct field marks and both called Mississippi Kite at the same time. The bird was obviously an adult.

We speculated this bird may have taken a ride on Hurricane Isadore which passed to our north just a few days before. Hawk Mountain reported another Mississippi Kite a few days after our sighting, I believe on Oct 9, 2003. According to Al Spiese, former York County Compiler for PA Birds, there have been three other records of Mississippi Kite in York County since 1989, all in the spring. This is the first record at Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch which has been in operation since 1985.

Randy Phillips  
Compiler-Rocky Ridge Hawk Watch

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

Date of Sighting: 6 October 2002 to 6 October 2002

Location: ROCKY RIDGE HAWKWATCH

County : YORK

Observer(s): Randy Phillips

Date of Submission: 2003

Submitted by: Randy Phillips

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

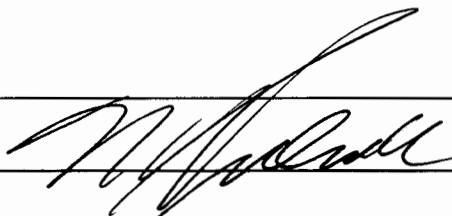
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
G. Armistead			X	<del>X</del>				
D. Heathcote			X					
P. Guris			X					
J. Stanley			X					
E. Witmer			X					
R. Leberman								
M. Sharp			X					
TOTALS			6					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 6/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/1/04