









171-01-2004

UNUSUAL SIGHTING DOCUMENTATION

Species (common & scientific): Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Number of Individuals: 2 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): 1 year old sub-adults

Date Seen: 6/20 (also 6/21, 6/23) *Joc4* **Time: Approx.** 12 noon through the afternoon

Where Seen (Town/County): Lumberville, Bucks Co.

Exact Location (Park, Road, Lake): From the footbridge over the Delaware River from Lumberville to Bull's Island, NJ

Observer Reporting:

Name: August Mirabella

Address: 1443 Wheaton Lane
North Wales, PA 19454

E-mail: augustmirabella@aol.com

Telephone (optional): 215-368-0594

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you): Judy Mirabella and many others.

Distance to Bird: As close as 50 feet in flight

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Clear; good lighting with birds to the east and sun overhead or to the west.

Optical Equipment Used: 7X42 Zeiss Bins & Leica 77APO w/20-60X Zoom

Habitat: Delaware River with mostly wooded areas on PA & NJ sides of the river

Description (only what you observed; size relative to other species present; posture, body shape & proportions; colors & patterns of plumage; bill, eye, & leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Both birds were in 1st summer plumage but molting so that they looked mostly gray both top and bottom except for the tails which had alternating dark and light barring. The underside if seen well did show some dull not well-defined streaking. The top of the head at times appeared light but not as light as a full adult. The shape was like a falcon but not as broad-winged or stiff-winged as in Peregrine. They were seen with both Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks and were obviously smaller than both.

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing): Apparently the abundant 17 yr. cicadas at this location attracted them. They had been reported on the NJ side earlier, but were not reported on the PA side until 6/19 by Devich Farbotnik. They were seen soaring over Bull's Is., the Del. R., and both shores of the river. They were frequently seen catching and eating insects and doing their aerial acrobatics. I saw one chase and dive on a Bald Eagle. I also saw one sit in a tree but at great distance. Others had better luck seeing and photographing them at very close range sitting in trees.

Vocalizations: Not heard

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

Date of Sighting: 20 June 2004 to 23 June 2004

Location: LUMBERVILLE

County : BUCKS

Observer(s): A.Mirabella, T Ford-Hutchinson, D. Farbotnik m.obs.

Date of Submission: 2004

Submitted by: A.Mirabella, T Ford-Hutchinson, D. Farbotnik, Elaine Ryan

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: Video

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	Abstain
R. Wiltraut	X							
D. Heathcote	X							
P. Guris	X							
J. Stanlev	X							
E. Witmer	X							
R. Leberman	X							
M. Sharp	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments: *3/0*

Signature (Secretary)



Date: *11/7/05*