

November 17, 2007

Sheryl Johnson
453 Duck Pond Lane
Haverford PA 19041-1314

Chris Pugleise
405 West Ashbridge Street
West Chester, PA 19380

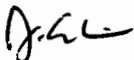
Thank you for your submission of a Mississippi Kite at Rose Tree Hawk Watch on September 10, 2006.

The record was voted upon 2/4 as a Class IV-A Record: A record for which there exists a majority of evidence in support of the observer's identification; the record is probably correct, but not beyond reasonable doubt.

Dissenting voters had concerns with the lack of any description of coloration of the Kite due to the distance involved in the sighting. The remote possibility of White-tailed Kite cannot be eliminated.

Thank you for taking the time to further Pennsylvania records of Ornithology.

Sincerely,



J. Eric Witmer
Chairman: Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Separation from other species:

- 1) not a buteo because of very long, thin wings
- 2) not an accipiter, no flap and glide (which an accipiter would have been expected to do many times during the long span of sky it crossed); wings too thin
- 3) not a falcon because the wings were not pointed enough and did not taper directly from the body, but rather extended out for a ways and then tapered back. This was especially apparent when the bird circled. The body was also too slight for one of the larger, bulkier falcons (Peregrine would represent most likely confusion), and the bird overall was much larger than a Kestrel or Merlin. Had it been a Peregrine, its head would have also appeared larger than what we saw.
- 4) not a harrier because the overall build was not stocky enough, the wings were not wide enough, and the body proportions were not robust as in a harrier. The bird did not rock at all in flight, nor were its wings ever noted in a dihedral. (A harrier did glide by, at a lower altitude, about 20 minutes after the kite had passed, and it was clearly a differently shaped bird. No one missed a beat when it was quickly ID'd as a harrier.)

A Turkey Vulture passed below, but within the same field of view as the kite, and the kite was significantly smaller in size with much thinner wings. Earlier, and at much lower altitudes, we had been watching Kestrels catching and eating dragonflies. I had thought to myself that those conditions were good for a kite, but I really never expected that thought to materialize. Had it only been sailing by lower and stopped to catch a dragonfly, we would have been thrilled.

Optics: I observed the kite with 10 X 42 Nikon SE binoculars. Chris Pugliese got his scope on it briefly, after it had already passed. Everyone else was viewing it with binoculars only.

RARE BIRD Report Form

This form is a required attachment to the RTPHW Daily Count Sheet when reporting RARE or UNUSUAL bird sightings at RTPHW.

SPECIES

Common Name: MISSISSIPPI KITE

Scientific Name: Ictinia mississippiensis

Subspecies (if known) _____

REPORTING OBSERVER

Name: Chris Pugliese

Address: 405 West Ashbridge St

City: Wes + Chester, PA 19380

Email: chris.pugliese@earthlink.net

Other observers (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Sheryl Johnson, Jamie Pugliese, Shirley Robbins, Chris Bidan

SIGHTING DETAILS

Date of Observation: Sun 9/10/06 Time: 2:45 pm

Location (city, borough, township): UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP PA (Deer)

Exact Site (e.g. name of park, lake, road): ROSE TREE PARK (HAWKWATCH)

Number of Individuals: 1 Sexes: _____

Age(s) and Plumage(s) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; state of molt if applicable): _____

Distance to Bird: @ 2000 - 2500 ft. (Bird barely visible to naked eye)

Viewing Conditions (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): SUNNY WITH @ 40% CLOUD COVER, SUN TO SOUTH WEST.

Habitat: (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details): MOWED LAWN

Behavior (describe in detail what the bird was doing): SOARING AT HIGH ALTITUDE -

Vocalizations (if any): N/A

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Include as much detail as you can recall - "jizz" (general overall feeling about the bird), size, colors, patterns, bill and leg proportions - all relevant features!

Bird was moving at high altitude in a ^{glide} ~~soar~~ heading (migrating) south. At the time the bird was scoped, it was flying alongside a Turkey Vulture; the bird was @ 1/2 the size of the vulture. Due to position of bird relative to sun, it could only be identified in silhouette. Bird's wingspan was long and narrow in relation to its body. Wings (trailing edge) slightly bowed. Tail was relatively long with a slight flare. Bird never flapped or deviated from its glide.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Optical Equipment Used: SWAROVSKI 7x42 BINOS / SWAROVSKI AT 80 SCOPE

Supporting Evidence (if any) _____

Photograph: _____ Video: _____ Audio Tape: _____ Drawing: _____

This form must accompany the RTPHW Daily Count Sheet when reporting RARE or UNUSUAL bird sightings at RTPHW.

Please use the back of this form or additional sheets of paper if more space is required.

This form was adapted from the PA Ornithological Records Committee Form. It is encouraged that a completed copy of this form be submitted to the PA Ornithological Records Committee, c/o Nick Pulcinella, PORC Secretary, 613 Howard Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)

Date of Sighting: 10 September 2006 to 10 September 2006

Location: ROSE TREE PARK HAWKWATCH

County : DELAWARE

Observer(s): Sheryl Johnson, C. Pugliese, J. Pugliese, Shirley Robbins, K. Johnson

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Sheryl Johnson

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
R. Wiltraut				X				
A. Guarente		X						
T. Johnson				X				
J. Stanley		X						
E. Witmer				X				
J. Heller				X				
G. Malosh		X						
TOTALS		2		4				
DECISION				X				

Comments: 2/4

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/10/07