

PENNSYLVANIA RARE BIRD REPORT FORM

This form is presented as a convenience and guide. It can be used if desired, but is not necessary for submitting a report. Species requiring documentation are those on the Review List or not on the Official List of Birds of Pennsylvania. Send documentation to:

Nick Pulcinella, Secretary
Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee
613 Howard Ave.
West Chester, PA 19380
nickpulcinella@comcast.net

171-02-2006

SPECIES (common and scientific name) MISSISSIPPI KITE
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS 1 SEX(ES) UNKNOWN

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): _____

DATE OF OBSERVATION 9/11/06 TIME 12:59 EST

LOCATION (city, borough, township) ALBANY TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY - NORTH LOOKOUT

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name SOSAN SCHMOYER
Address 204 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
City KUTETOWN State PA ZIP 17530
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): ARLENE KOCH,
KIRK MOULTON, LOIS MOULTON

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) MIGRATING ALONG RIDGE-TOP

DISTANCE TO BIRD _____

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) _____

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED LEICA ULTRAVIO 7x42

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): SUBTLY SMALLER THAN THE BROADWINGS
THAT IT WAS CURCHING WITH. SLIMMER, WITH POINTIER WINGS

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) This bird was circling over the North Lookout with 4 Black Vultures and 3 Broadwings, then headed SW down the ridge.

VOCALIZATIONS NONE

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY: none
Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____
Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:
General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others) _____

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it: _____
I am unfamiliar with this bird, having seen it only once before, and very poorly. I just knew that it was not something I could identify after going through my mind and eliminating what I knew it wasn't.

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES virtually none

ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION ? (why or why not) _____

REFERENCES CONSULTED:
During observation _____
After observation Hawks in Flight, Hawks from Every Angle, Sibley

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 9/18/06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER Edward D. Schrage

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SPECIES (common and scientific name) MISSISSIPPI KITE - ICTINIA MISSISSIPPIENSIS
 Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS ONE SEX(ES) UNKNOWN

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): _____

DATE OF OBSERVATION 09-11-06 TIME ABOUT 1:00 EST

LOCATION (city, borough, township) KEMPTON, ALBANY TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PA

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) HAWK MOUNTAIN NORTH LOOKOUT

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name KIRK MOULTON + LOS MOULTON
 Address P.O. Box 1431
 City NORTH WILKES State PA ZIP 19454
 e-mail (optional) busepta@attglobal.net phone (optional) 267-250-9358

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): _____
LOS MOULTON, ARLENE KOCH, SUE SCHMOYER

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) _____
MOUNTAIN RIDGE TOP RUNNING NE TO SW

DISTANCE TO BIRD DIRECTLY OVERHEAD, LOW ABOUT 3-400 FT.

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) GOOD! AMPLE EVEN LIGHTING
HIGH BLANKET OF CLOUDS, SUN NOT PROVIDING ANY THERMAL LIFT.
LIGHT SE WINDS PROVIDED MODEST RIDGE LIFT, KEEPING BIRDS LOW

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED SWAROSKI EL 10X42

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual):

SOARING WITH 3 ADULT BROADWINGS DIRECTLY OVERHEAD. SAME SIZE BUT
IMMEDIATELY OBVIOUS AS DIFFERENT, THINNER, WITH LONG THIN ACCIPTOR-LIKE
TAIL, REMINISCENT OF COYOTES, ROUNDED AT END, THINNER AT BASE.
WINGS APPEARED LONGER AND THINNER THAN BROADWING. POINTIER.
THE FRONT PRIMARY WING SHORTER (DIAGNOSTIC). ALL THE PRIMARIES WERE
DARKER THAN SECONDARIES AND BODY. BODY APPEARED WITH LIGHT STRIPING
ON BREAST. DARK TAIL WITHOUT ANY OBVIOUS BANDING.

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)

BEHAVIOR (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)

IN VIEW ABOUT 30 SECONDS AS IT KETTLED DIRECTLY OVERHEAD WITH 3 BROADWINGS STRUGGLING TO GET LIFT. FINALLY SWARDED OVER THE BACK OF LOOKOUT. AS IT KETTLED, I JUMPED UP AND SHOUTED "MISSISSIPPI KITE", THEN RATTLED OFF FIELD MARKS TO OBSERVERS.

VOCALIZATIONS

NONE.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:

SURELY, NONE.

Photograph _____ Video recording _____ Audio recording _____ Drawing _____

Photographer/recorder/illustrator:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
e-mail (optional) _____ phone (optional) _____

Please include a copy of the photograph or recording with your report, and accompany it with a complete written documentation if the identification is obvious to you. If you made a drawing, please include it.

IF THIS IS A DEAD BIRD:

General condition _____
If collected (by permit), location of specimen if known _____

SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES (how you eliminated others)

BROADWING HAWK HAS MUCH STUBBIER WINGS. THE KITE WAS SEEN WELL WITH 3 ADULT BROADWINGS. NO BANDING ON TAIL, THUS NOT ADULT BW. DARK PRIMARIES SEPARATE IT FROM JUVENILE BW.

REDLINE WINGS TAPER MUCH MORE AND ARE THICK AT BASE. ALSO, KITE HAD NO FACIAL PATTERN. IT NEVER LOOKED LIKE A FALCON

DISCUSSION - Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

(Please use an additional page if necessary)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THIS AND/OR SIMILAR SPECIES

LOTS. 30 YEARS HAWK WATCHING HAVE SEEN MISSISSIPPI KITE IN SOUTH CAROLINA, FLORIDA, VERACRUZ AND IN TEXAS, ESPECIALLY AT VERACRUZ AND HAZEL BARENOR HAWK WATCHER.

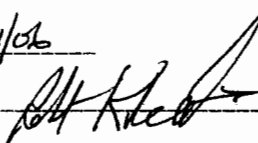
ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION? (why or why not) Yes.

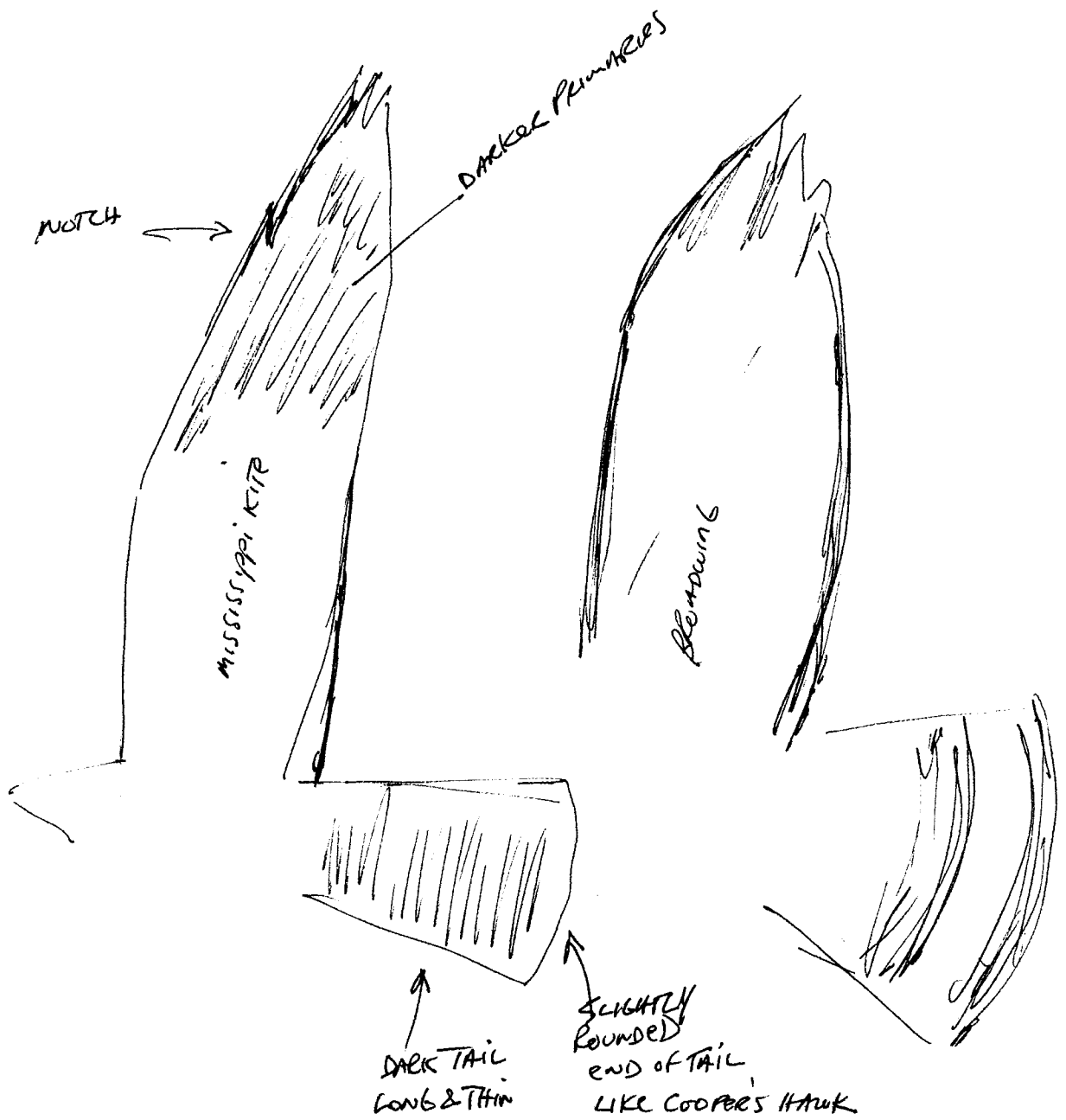
REFERENCES CONSULTED:

During observation _____ IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIGHTING, WE CONSULTED JERRY LIGUORI
After observation _____ HAWKS FROM EVERY ANGLE.

DATE OF THIS REPORT: 9/24/06

SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER

 10:15 PM



KIRK AULTON
HAWK MOUNTAIN
9-11-6

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171-02-2006

SPECIES (common and scientific name) Mississippi Kite (Ictinia mississippiensis)
Subspecies, if known _____

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS - 1 SEX(ES) _____

AGE(S) AND PLUMAGE(S) (e.g. immature; adult in breeding plumage; year for gulls; basic or alternate if you prefer those terms; state of molt if applicable): probable subadult MSKI

DATE OF OBSERVATION Sept 11 2006 TIME early afternoon

LOCATION (city, borough, township) North Lookout Hawk Mtn Sanctuary, Kempton

EXACT SITE (e.g. name of park, lake, road) _____
Schuylkill County

OBSERVER REPORTING:

Name Julius Koch
Address 1375 Rarickville Road
City Easton State PA (ZIP 18042)
e-mail (optional) darken@verizon.net phone (optional) 610 253-6377

OTHER OBSERVERS (only those who saw and identified the bird with you): Kirk and Lois Morilton
Sue Schroyer

HABITAT (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) 1500+ ft rock outcroppings along Kittatinny Ridge

DISTANCE TO BIRD Overhead, upper end of binocular range but clearly visible

VIEWING CONDITIONS (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) Overcast - complete cloud cover, but not heavy. 50-60 Km were easily observable. 65°E, light SE wind.

OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED Brunton Spack 10.5x43 binocs

DESCRIPTION (Include as much detail as you observed - size relative to other species present; "jizz" = e.g. posture, body shape, and proportions; colors and patterns of plumage; bill, eye, and leg characteristics; other features relevant to this individual): Kite was with 3 Broadwings, circling overhead. Most noticeable to me was its shape, and size - overall smaller trimmer, and skinner than the BW's. Also immediately apparent were pointed wings and squared off tail. Wings were thinner than those of the BW's, and tail was too. It glided with the BW's for awhile and then broke off on its own lower than the BW's. As it flew S/SW it glided for awhile but then upped quickly flapping its wings in a fluttering type of motion. It would flap as quickly as it. It glided for a while before repeating this almost swallow - like motion. There was a lot

(Please use an additional page if necessary.)



Addendum

This bird was not a red-shouldered because:

- It didn't really have a buted shape - thinner more streamlined
- Its wings were long, pointed, more falcon-like than buted-like
- It had no pale wingtip crescents
- In relation to the body its tail was long and squared off at end
- Its flight was completely different than a shouder's (going away)

This bird wasn't a peregrine because:

- It wasn't big and bulky looking like peregrines would be in relation to some smaller species - ~~it's~~ its "gis" was smaller overall
- Its gliding and overall flight style were more buoyant. It beat its wings, it seemed, only as a last resort
- Its wings were thinner than a peregrine's would be in relation to its body
- Its head, in relation to its body, was smaller ^{+ wings}
- Even the light body, dark underside of tail wasn't "peregrine-like" to me

of gliding and very little flapping. It wasn't a peregrine because its body was slimmer and its tail wasn't right. Everything about a peregrine is "stronger" - heavier, more robust, bigger especially the head. Nothing was right for a red-shoulder and that's the only other Buteo that entered my mind as I was watching this bird. When I said "that one bird isn't a BW" Kirk Moulton immediately got on it and ran out onto the rocks to turn around and watch it fly away as I was doing the same. When the bird went out of sight I turned and looked at him and he said "Mississippi kite" before I could, which was fine with me. Kirk's a long time hawk watcher who's a director of HMA NA. Attached are ~~his~~ ^{his} notes that he quickly jotted down. Were I forced to age this bird I could positively say it wasn't a full adult and more correctly say it was probably a ~~sub~~ subadult. Its underside was lighter than its darker folded tail but I can say nothing about the presence or absence of tail barring.

I've seen Mississippi kites over my property in SE PA many times in the spring although not every year. I've seen them in other parts of the country and in the Tropics. I've been hawk counting since the late '70s and am one of Hawk Net's pit counters.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

Date of Sighting: 11 September 2006 to 11 September 2006

Location: HAWK MOUNTAIN

County : BERKS

Observer(s): Susan Schmoyer, Arlene Koch, Kirk Moulton

Date of Submission: 2006

Submitted by: Susan Schmoyer, Arlene Koch, Kirk Moulton

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

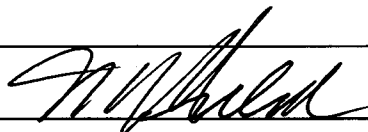
Specimen: No

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		7						
DECISION		X						

Comments: 7/0

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

4/10/07