

**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@verizon.net**

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**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): I saw only a dark shape against the sky.

**DATE OF OBSERVATION** 05/13/2009 **TIME** 10 AM

**LOCATION** (city, borough, township) State Gamelands 284 ; Mercer County

**EXACT SITE** (e.g. name of park, lake, road) PENNSY SWAMP

**OBSERVER REPORTING:**

Name Richard M. Nugent, Jr  
Address 2949 Elston Lane  
City Allison Park State PA ZIP 15101  
e-mail (optional) rmnugent@excite.com phone (optional) 412-487-5549

**OTHER OBSERVERS** (only those who saw and identified the bird with you):

Melissa Little

**HABITAT** (e.g. mowed field, woodland edge, any other details) A Marsh with open water, cattails and woods

**DISTANCE TO BIRD** 1/4 mile

**VIEWING CONDITIONS** (sky, weather, position of sun relative to you) I was looking north with the sun at my back. The sky was clear with some puffy clouds.

**OPTICAL EQUIPMENT USED** 10x50 binoculars

**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):

when I first saw the bird, it was already a couple hundred feet above the ground. It had the general shape of a falcon but the tail seemed too long. It flew in lazy circles and gained altitude rapidly in a thermal with minimal wing flapping. The bird seemed very btto you to

**BEHAVIOR** (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing) The bird flew in circles in a thermal and gained altitude rapidly. After about 1 minute it soared off to the north and soon was out of sight.

**VOCALIZATIONS** None could be heard.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE IF ANY:**  
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 and number of specimen if known \_\_\_\_\_

**SEPARATION FROM SIMILAR SPECIES** (how you eliminated others) The tail was too long for a Kestrel or other falcon and it was very buoyant.

**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**  
I have seen a number of Mississippi Kites in Texas and have observed them flying.

**ARE YOU POSITIVE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION?** (why or why not) I am 90% sure based on the shape and buoyancy and the way it flew.

**REFERENCES CONSULTED:** Peterson guide to birds of Eastern + central  
During observation the Sibley North America  
After observation the Sibley Guide to birds

**DATE OF THIS REPORT:** July 15, 2009

**SIGNATURE OF OBSERVER** Richard M. Nugent, Jr

## Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

### Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Date of Sighting: 13 May 2009 to 13 May 2009

County : MERCER

Location : PENNSY SWAMP

Observer(s): Richard Nugent, Melissa Little

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Richard Nugent

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			
B. Coulter					X			
C. Rutt					X			
J. Heller					X			
G. Malosh					X			
TOTALS				1	6			
DECISION					X			

Comments: 0/7

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

11/6/09