

171-04-2009

Pennsylvania Rare Bird Report Form

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

Number of Individuals: 1 **Sex(es):** ?

Age(s) & Plumage(s): adult or subadult

Date Seen: 09/18/09 **Time:** 11:20 AM

Where Seen (Town/County): Lansdale, Pa Montgomery County

Exact Location: 601 Perkiomen Ave.

Observer Reporting:

Name: Ken Rieker

Address: 601 Perkiomen Ave. Lansdale, Pa.

E-mail: pkrieker@verizon.net

Telephone (optional):

Other Observers (Only those who saw & identified the bird with you):

Distance to Bird: Initial sighting ½ block away little above tree top level/
Kite reappeared seen from about 75 yards overhead.

Viewing Conditions (Sky, weather, position of sun relative to you): Cloudy overcast /
wind picking up .

Optical Equipment Used: Zeiss 8x42

Habitat: suburbs/in town

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):

Behavior (Be as specific as possible about what the bird was doing):

Vocalizations: none

Supporting Evidence if Any (include with report):

Photo: **Video Recording:** **Audio Recording:** **Drawing:**

Name, Address, e-mail, telephone (optional) of photographer, etc.

Separation from Similar Species (How you eliminated others):

Discussion (Anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it):

Previous Experience with this and/or Similar Species:

Are you positive of your ID? (Why or why not): Yes

References:

During Observation:

After Observation: Sibley Guide to Birds, and The Birds of North America Online

Date of report: 09/24/09

Signature of Observer: Kenneth Rieker

Friday morning I was sitting and talking on the phone on my back porch. I have seen many hawks and eagles from this location, which looks northeast. They seem to come from the northeast heading southwest, skirting Philadelphia, on their way south. I happened to look up and saw a soaring bird a little higher than the tall oaks in the neighborhood. The bird was doing a little flapping but mostly soaring, and my initial impression was of a nighthawk. Since it was around 11:20 AM, it seemed to be an unusual time to see a nighthawk. I quickly grabbed my Zeiss bins and, looking at the bird which was about a half block away, quickly realized it was not a nighthawk. From this distance the bird was all dark with pointed falcon-like wings. The bird disappeared behind another oak tree; my mind was racing over what this could be, and I was running around the yard to try to get a better look at this bird. In my mind I was starting to wonder if this could be a Mississippi Kite! Finally the bird came out in view, closer this time, and the bird appeared all dark grey with a paler gray head. Yes, a Mississippi Kite! The kite disappeared as quickly as it came into view. I hopped into my car to give chase, but never did find the bird again.

I believe the bird was an adult or near adult as no barring was visible in the tail. It appeared dark grey overall with the exception of the light grey head and throat area. The tail was dark and slightly notched (as noted in *The Birds of North America*). The bird was bigger than a Merlin or Kestrel, but not as big or powerful as a Peregrine. The flight was non-falcon like, being unhurried, soaring and gliding rather than a strong, direct flight.

At the time of the observation the sky was cloudy and dark, not kite weather. But within 15 minutes the sky cleared and the sun was shining brightly. I believe the kite was taking advantage of the front that was blowing through and riding the strong winds south.

Hard to believe, a Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kite in Montgomery County all within one month.

Ken Rieker

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round Two

Species: Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Date of Sighting: 18 September 2009 to 18 September 2009

County : MONTGOMERY

Location : LANSDALE

Observer(s): Ken Reiker

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Ken Reiker

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	
R. Wiltraut			X					
A. Guarente			X					
T. Johnson			X					
B. Coulter			X					
C. Rutt			X					
J. Heller			X					
G. Malosh			X					
TOTALS			7					
DECISION			X					

Comments: 7/10

Signature (Secretary) Nick Pulcinella

Date: 7/10/10

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mississippi Kite *Ictinia mississippiensis*

Date of Sighting: 18 September 2009 to 18 September 2009

County : MONTGOMERY

Location : LANSDALE

Observer(s): Ken Reiker

Date of Submission: 2009

Submitted by: Ken Reiker

Written Description: Yes

Photo: No

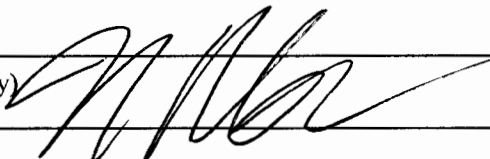
Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V
R. Wiltraut			X				
A. Guarente				X			
T. Johnson			X				
B. Coulter			X				
C. Rutt			X				
J. Heller			X				
G. Malosh				X			
TOTALS			5	2			
DECISION							

Comments: 5/2 Go to 2nd Round

Signature (Secretary)



Date:

11/6/09