

Submission Date	2012-10-09 13:32:30
Observer's Name	Peter G. Saenger
E-mail	psaenger@muhlenberg.edu
Phone	484-664-3508
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1830 Woodside Ave City: Alburtis State / Province: Pa Postal / Zip Code: 18011-2409 Country: United States
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Have you submitted this to eBird?	Yes
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult male
Observation Date and Time	10-06-2012 3:30 PM
County	Berks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Henningsville, Longswamp Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	My house: 1830 Woodside Ave, Alburtis, Pa
GPS coordinates of sighting	40.4650926,-75.6682904
Habitat	Ridge top meadow
Distance to bird	75 meters
Viewing conditions	overcast afternoon, lighting behind observer
Optical equipment used	Leica 8 x 32
Description	I was sitting on our porch watching the sky to our south for passing raptors when this bird came into view from my left/above and quickly, quartering on the wind, flew past me and away. The long pointed wings made me first think it was a Peregrine Falcon. The wings appeared to being held slightly bent when gliding, which later more closely fit the appearance of a kite than a falcon. The bird blanked and clearly showed a pale, unmarked breast, and pale upper-side, and dark wing tips. The high overcast lighting made colors difficult to discern, but the bird appeared

overall lightly colored with dark tips to the wings, long narrow tail, well defined bend in long pointed wings, and no dihedral of a harrier. I went inside and consulted a few field guides to confirm to myself that it was a kite and an adult Mississippi Kite was the best and only fit to what I saw and ruled out any other raptor species. I gave gulls a thought due to lighting and a pale bird with dark wing tips, but nothing about gull fit the bird I saw.

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

flying by

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

See above; body and wing color, lack of dihedral, character of flight, tail length and width, wing shape.

Are you positive of your identification ? (Why or why not)

I am familiar with Mississippi Kites and species usually expected in Pennsylvania.

After

Field Guide to the Birds of North America, Dunn & Alderfer, Hawks of North America, Clark & Wheeler, and various uncited images on the web.

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