

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2013-05-23 13:45:03
Submission Date	
Observer's Name	Gerard Dewaghe
E-mail	gdewaghe@comcast.net
Phone	215-801-1525
Observer's Address	Street Address: 154 Lowell Court Postal / Zip Code: Langhorne Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Christine Dewaghe
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia
Subspecies (if known)	mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult - Not defined as to sex.
Observation Date and Time	05-22-2013 10:50 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Bucks
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Middletown Twp. 40.183693,-74.881014
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Middletown Boulevard & N. Buckstown Drive
Habitat	Shopping Mall (Oxford Valley Mall) with wooded section and pond
Distance to bird	as close as 100 meters (300 feet) more or less
Viewing conditions	partly cloudy
Optical equipment used	none
Description	a medium sized bird of prey, with long pointed wings reminiscent of a Merlin as to shape, with a definite wing bend. underside of bird was dark sooty grey with a somewhat darker and uniform tail. Bird did not display any contrasting markings such as tail bands, belly bands or

windows. Tail was somewhat long and cut square when partly fanned but not forked. The lack of optical equipment did not facilitate the sighting. At no time was the upper surface of the bird was seen.

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

Our attention was drawn to a bird seen hawking above treetop near the intersection of Middeltown Blvd. and N. Buckstown Drive. Bird was flying erratically as if chasing flying insects in a batlike behavior. After stopping our car, we caught sight of the bird again before the bird went out of sight beyond the trees. adjacent to Sesame Place.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Falcons: Closest species as to shape, discounted Peregrine and Merlin as both species have tail bands. male Kestrel would show a definite and highly visible terminal tail band, female Kestrel would be somewhat uniform in color but in my opinion would be lighter in color.

Buteos: Discounted as family due to wing shape (More rounded, not pointed)

Other Kites: Swallow-tail Kite (Unmistakable), White-tailed Kite Pale Belly and contrasting wing pattern.

Accipiters: All show bared tail and rounded wing.

Other species considered: Gull species more particularly Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) and Ring-billed Gull (*Larus*

40.183693,-74.881014
e seen gull species hawk for insect in this bird but in all plumages gulls would pattern on the underwing.

Discussion – anything else relevant to the observation that will aid the committee in evaluating it:

briefly on two close occasions, the first in Middeltown Boulevard, a second time we safely stopped the car. Total time less than two minutes before the bird flew out of sight over the trees to the South of our location. Both my wife and I are familiar with the specie in question, having had multiple sightings (sometimes daily) during a recent trip through South Texas and the upper Gulf Coast.

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

YES

During

None

After

Sibley Field Guide to the birds

Click to edit

PORC-webform00149