

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2015-09-23 17:41:13
Observer's Name	Rich Conroy
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Phone	215.480.9116
Observer's Address	Street Address: 1234 Disston Street City: Philadelphia State / Province: PA Postal / Zip Code: 19111 Country: United States
Names of additional observers	Chris Dooley, Judd Friedman
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	09-16-2015 1:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Not yet (please do, eBird is great!)
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Fort Washington
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Militia Hill Hawkwatch - Fort Washington State Park
Habitat	mixed forest and open field areas, including hawk watch platform
Distance to bird	up to 30 meters - when passing over deck
Viewing conditions	excellent - clear day, blue sky. Bright out front - silhouette above and once beyond viewing platform
Optical equipment used	Leica 12x50 Ultravid HD
Description	When bird was first located - initial thought was a falcon type, however upon continued observation bird did not fit cleanly as a kestrel or as a larger falcon such as a peregrine. The pointy winged appearance and length of wing in comparison to body was of piqued interest to observers. Lightness of flight was also on display. Bird changed direction quite acrobatically to pursue a dragonfly (of which there were many that afternoon) - during that time whitish head was obvious as well as whitish secondaries. Bird was lit well out front (to the north) and proceeded to glide over deck to south.

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

As mentioned bird was picked up to north of hawk watch platform and proceeded to make way past the viewing area. Most obvious behavior was attempt at dragonfly which out flight on display as well as whitish field marks on head. Silhouette provided good view of wing points and slender body.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

eliminated small falcon by size - and larger falcon by slenderness of body. The flight is so different as well - and the flash of white on head in the sun allowed me to count as a MIKI for our hawk watch total that day

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

There was at least one additional compiler on deck with experience in TX with MIKI - including this year. i have seen many MIKI in TX at Bentsen and Santa Ana watchsites in the spring. Militia Hill also has MIKI sightings in spring (mainly April) - however this is the sighting I feel most comfortable submitting a sighting for.

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

Yes positive - after eliminating other choices through observation

During

Sibley App on Iphone

After

Multiple guides including Sibley, Crossley and new version of Hawks in Flight and other guides

Click to edit

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