

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2019-01-13 06:57:48
Observer's Name	Joe Sebastiani
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Phone	302-345-1563
Observer's Address	33 Longview Road Coatesville PA 19320 United States
Names of additional observers	Ellen Sebastiani
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Observation Date and Time	09-03-2018 10:20 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48263328
County	Chester
Location (City, Borough, Township)	East Fallowfield Township
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	East Fallowfield Township Park
GPS coordinates of sighting	39.956806, -75.827847
Habitat	Playing field/mowed area, but this bird was a flyover migrating south
Distance to bird	Overhead approximately 150 meters
Viewing conditions	clear day
Optical equipment used	Zeiss 10X42 SF Victory. Camera was a Canon SX50 Powershot

Description

Thin-winged, long-tailed, gray-backed raptor. It caught my attention and I thought it was an osprey naked-eye, then I looked at the bird through binoculars on it and saw that it was not an Osprey, but was a thin-winged, grayish bird with a long, squared-tail, with a round head projection. It was fairly high up and distant when I got the photo, but I had been watching the bird as it was directly overhead at first and got a good look at it. It circled around once before continuing south. Flight was lazy and graceful. In gliding flight, wings were proportionately longer than what is normally expected on a bird of that size. I didn't see the shorter first primary, mainly I was looking at flight style, color pattern, and most especially, the shape of the bird and proportions of head extension, tail length and shape, and wing length and shape.

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

This bird appeared to be migrating and followed a straight path southwest, however, as it went by, it slowly circled once before moving on.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Accipiters have a more compact shape and shorter, thicker wings and a different flight style.

Buteo is a much bulkier, short-tailed, blunt-winged bird.

Osprey has a similar lanky look, but I was able to see the pattern which was fairly plain gray, and not black and white. Plus, my bird didn't have the distinctive M-shaped pattern and was very thin.

Falcons have a pointed wing pattern and are usually faster, however a kestrel has a similar, lazy look sometimes. The kite was seen well enough to eliminate kestrel due to size, wing-shape, and plumage pattern seen well enough.

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

Yes. I have experience with this species in the south, and in the tropics, and have lots of experience at hawk watches with raptor identification in flight.

After

Sibley Guide.

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings

[MIKI.East Fallowfield Park.j.sebastiani.9.3.18.jpg](#)

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