

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2020-05-22 19:45:27
Observer's Name	Mike Fialkovich
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Phone	4127313581
Observer's Address	805 BEULAH RD PITTSBURGH PA 15235 United States
Names of additional observers	Michael Barney, Eric Zawatski, Carl Engstrom
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Adult
Observation Date and Time	05-15-2020 3:50 PM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	https://ebird.org/checklist/S69111578
County	Indiana
Location (City, Borough, Township)	Indiana
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Washington Street
Habitat	Residential
Distance to bird	Viewed in flight; difficult to say but perhaps 100 feet. Varied.
Viewing conditions	Overcast but though binoculars views were very good.
Optical equipment used	Leica 10X42 Ultravid binoculars
Description	See ebird checklist.

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

Observed in flight the entire time. It would soar, dive and capture insects. I saw it lift its foot to its bill to eat an insect on the wing. A short video and a video capture is in my ebird checklist.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Distinctive shape. Falcon-like but with notched tail and often folded but open when needed during flight. Short outer primaries visible. White secondaries visible when the bird soared. Overall gray color with black tail and pale head; tail unbanded. Flight was active as opposed to other soaring birds, more twists, dives, turns, very active flight.

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

The homeowners that discovered the bird entered very close photos into ebird. The bird often perched in a tree next to their driveway.

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

Yes. I knew the bird was there and by the plumage and behavior.

During

None.

After

Sibley Guide, National Geographic field guide, Peterson Field Guide to Hawks of North America.

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