

Mississippi Kite – Philadelphia, Philadelphia County

Observer – Frank Windfelder

Nick:

I saw a Mississippi Kite at Pennypack on the Delaware in Philadelphia about 2 hours ago, 5/22/2012.

I only found out afterwards from Dortis about all the sightings at Bucktoe.

The bird was only visible for a short time. It must have flown out of a tree. When I saw it, the first thing I noticed was that it was light gray and falcon-shaped, slender-bodied, appearing a bit smaller than a Peregrine. But it had a languid, very stiff-winged flight style, almost reminiscent of a nighthawk, but without the sudden changes in direction, and unlike any falcon.

I considered Gray Ghost, but it really didn't have a the dihedral, rocking flight style of that species, plus the jizz was all wrong for that species. I even considered White-tailed Kite, but it lacked the obvious black wing patches of that species.

I really can't put into words everything I saw, but I had the unmistakable impression that it was a MIKI. I am fairly familiar with the species, having seen them elsewhere in the US and at Cape May, NJ.

I understand if this doesn't pass muster with PORC, but for myself, I'm counting it.

Frank

