

PA Rare Bird Report

Submission Date	2017-05-26 12:34:02
Observer's Name	Matthew Jewell
E-mail	dronebird@gmail.com
Observer's Address	200 Upper Valley RD North Wales PA 19454 United States
Species (Common Name)	Mississippi Kite
Species (Scientific Name)	Ictinia Mississippiensis
Number of individuals	1
Age(s) and Plumage(s) and Sex (if known)	Sub-adult (sex unknown)
Observation Date and Time	05-19-2017 9:30 AM
Did you submit this sighting to eBird?	Yes
Link to eBird checklist	http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S36982525
County	Montgomery
Location (City, Borough, Township)	North Wales
Exact Site (E.g. Name of park, lake, road)	Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve
GPS coordinates of sighting	40° 11' 40.5" N 75° 16' 25.5" W
Habitat	Meadow/Woods
Distance to bird	Kite was soaring high and gaining elevation and distance as I observed.
Viewing conditions	Clear/sunny
Optical equipment used	Leica Ultravid 8x42.
Description	Medium sized raptor with long slender wings. Short leading primary giving the wing a distinctive appearance. Square tail. Plumage was close to adult. Overall gray with white head. From the look I got the only non-adult aspect to plumage was a banded tail and not the dark black-ish tail of an adult.
Behavior (be as detailed as possible about what the bird was doing)	Observerd MIKI in flight. As I watched kite drifted north east gaining altitude. After a few minutes I lost it in the sun.

Separation from similar species (How you eliminated others)

Somewhat similar in appearance to Peregrine Falcon but set apart by overall shape and color. PEFA bulkier with longer rounded tail and having a barred appearance below and dark head vs light colored head of adult MIKI and squared tail. For me the wing shape of MIKI with short outer primary is diagnostic.

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

Since my lifer Mississippi Kite in May 2010 (Cape May, NJ.) I've observed the species a dozen times. Birding Cape May in spring has trained me to be on the look out for MIKI mid May to early June.

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

Yes, I got a difinitve look. I have a good bit of prior experience with species.

During

none

After

The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Edition

Supporting evidence (check all that apply)

Photograph

Upload images, audio, video or drawings



[58604981.jpg](#)



[58604991.jpg](#)

Click to edit

PORC-webform00398