

Mississippi Kite

23 Sep 1994

Hitchcock N.A., Pottawattamie Co., IA

\*Padelfords

IBL 65:13, 81

Record Number: 94-32

Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Babs and Loren Padelford, 1405 Little John Rd., Bellevue, NE 68005 [2/23/95]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 65:13

Records Committee: IBL 65:81

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Neat to watch it catch Monarchs.

A-D, Juvenile.

A-D, Good description of subadult.

94-32

Babs & Loren Padelford  
1405 Little John Rd.  
Bellevue, NE 68005

Documentation for Mississippi Kite

Location: Hitchcock Nature Area, Pottawattamie County  
(Five miles north of Crescent)

Date: 9/23/94 Time: 1:45 pm

Duration of sighting: approx. 3-4 minutes

Wind Speed & Direction: NE at 5 mph

Description of bird: Immature. A falcon shaped bird, approximately Peregrine size, but with a slender body & long slender wings. The head was lighter than the body. There was dark streaking on the breast & belly. The inner wing linings were darker than the primaries and secondaries. The tail was long and narrow. When fanned the tail showed black and white bands with the black bands being wider. The wings were narrower at the base than at the wrist. The leading edge bulged forward at the wrist.

Behavior: The kite flew low overhead within 25 yards of our observation point. It flew gracefully, circling as it captured 3 monarch butterflies and shredded them in mid-air. After about 3 minutes, the bird headed south.

Light conditions: Overcast. Viewing conditions not ideal, but probably better than if the sun had been shining, thus eliminating glare.

Optics used: Binoculars - 10 x 42 Bausch & Lomb Elite & 7 x 35 Bushnell Custom.

Other observer: Roland Barth

This documentation is being written on 12/12/94 from notes taken at the time of the sighting.

Note on the hawk migration on 9/23 - it was the first good hawk flight of the season at Hitchcock and the largest of the season with 216 raptors and 12 species seen.