

Mississippi Kite

< 1907

northeast of Hillsboro, Van Buren Co., IA

W. G. Savage

also Henry County; Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-MJ

Classification: NA

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907

VOTE (1981): 1-III, 4-IV, 2-V

V, no details.

IV, one obs., no details rec.

IV, same situation as 6 -- probably correct, but need
reputation of observer.

136. (329). *Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wils.). Mississippi Kite.

Though the Mississippi Kite has been quoted by nearly all authorities as ranging north "casually to Iowa and Wisconsin," I was for a long time constrained to place it in the hypothetical list for want of a definite, authentic record of its capture in Iowa. It has been referred nominally to Iowa by Thomas Say, Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, Allen, Goss, Fisher, Coues, Ridgway, Bendire and others, but no recent records have appeared in print.

County records: Blackhawk—"only one observed here. I remained over half an hour within twenty feet of the bird when it was resting on a post in hedge, so that identification is positive" (Salisbury). Linn—"rare summer resident" (Berry). Van Buren—"a kite of this species occurred one spring on Big Cedar at a certain place and stayed four or five weeks, then disappeared. I saw the bird many times and once while fishing it came and sat within twenty yards of me, so I positively identified it. The stream running about east and west, it ranged in Van Buren and Henry counties, four and one-half miles north and a little east of Hillsboro" (W. G. Savage). Webster—"a specimen was seen around Duncombe's Stucco Mill (Ft. Dodge) nearly every day, and I finally shot him a mile further down the stream (Des Moines River); length 14.5 inches; dark bluish, grayish to slate color; tail nearly black" (Somes). Woodbury—"according to D. H. Talbot, formerly visited this county" (Rich).

Anderson 1907
pp 243-244

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Ictinia mississippiensis (Wilson). Mississippi Kite

Formerly a casual visitor. Anderson (1907) lists the following county records: "Blackhawk—"only one observed here. I remained over half an hour within twenty feet of the bird when it was resting on a post in hedge, so that identification is positive" (Salisbury). Van Buren—"a kite of this species occurred one spring on Big Cedar at a certain place and stayed four or five weeks, then disappeared. I saw the bird many times and once while fishing it came and sat within twenty yards of me, so I positively identified it. The stream running about east and west, it ranged in Van Buren and Henry counties, four and one-half miles north and a little east of Hillsboro" (W. G. Savage). Webster—"a specimen was seen around Duncombe's Stucco Mill (Ft. Dodge) nearly every day, and I finally shot him a mile further down the stream (Des Moines River); length 14.5 inches; dark bluish, grayish to slate color; tail nearly black" (Somes). Woodbury—"according to D. H. Talbot, formerly visited this county" (Rich)." Bailey (1918) states: "Two specimens of the Mississippi Kite were secured in the fall of 1887 near Burlington. They were mounted by Mr. Chas. Buettner, of that city and were examined by the writer in the museum of the Iowa Wesleyan College at Mount Pleasant." These two specimens remain in the collection at Iowa Wesleyan College, and were seen recently by the writer. The date on the label of one specimen is August 26, 1884. The catalogue of the University of Iowa Museum contains the entry, "No. 17446, *Ictinia mississippiensis*, Sioux City, Iowa, 7-1-84, D. H. Talbot." Probably this was the Talbot specimen cited by Bennett (1931). However, the specimen cannot now be found. There are no records since 1890.

DuMont 1938
pp 46-47

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