

Mississippi Kite
< 1907
Fort Dodge, Webster Co., IA
Somes
Anderson 1907

Record Number: 81-MK
Classification: A-D

REFERENCE

Anderson 1907
Records Committee: IBL 64:69

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE (1981): 5-III, 2-IV

III, do specimens exist?

IV, spec. not pres.

III, sketchy description of a collected bird.

III, Not a great description, but fits the species. Seen many times before being shot.

REVOTE (1993): 6 A-D, 1 NA

A-D, Probably a good record.

NA, To accept this record, we have to first assume that Somes knew it was a Mississippi Kite. We have to assume that he was referring to the mantle and upperwings when he says it was "dark bluish, grayish to slate" and we have to assume that the tail was solid black, not patterned in any way. The only measurement taken was length which does not fit this species but which could also be a Cooper's Hawk. I would not accept this documentation today, so cannot see why I should for a record that is, in my opinion, relatively unimportant.

A-D, Size good for Mississippi as well as Black-shouldered, but latter does not have black tail.

Presence along river seems supportive.

A-D, Description, albeit brief, and size fit.

81-MK

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee

From: Tom Kent

Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Record: 81-MK Mississippi Kite

Reason for request: No indication that previous review considered measurements.

Comment: Some had a bird in hand and measured it, and the measurements fit.

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.

Anderson 1907
pp 243-244

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).

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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 1934
pp 46-47

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