

Mississippi Kite
4 May 1991
Port Neal, Woodbury Co., IA
*Bill Huser
IBL 61:91, 62:71

Record Number: 91-05
Classification: NA

DOCUMENTATION:

Bill Huser, 402 E. 14th St., S. Sioux City, NE 68776

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 61:91
Records Committee: IBL 62:71

VOTE: 5-A-D, 2-NA

A-D, Not a long viewing period but acceptable.

A-D, Adequate description. Drawing helped.

A-D, Jist and overall gray color, plus wing profile fits Mississippi Kite. Other Kites would be more rare and show white and gray.

A-D, We have two very similar sightings in this batch that raise a single question. Is an all gray raptor, presumably a Kite, that flies over, a Mississippi Kite? The question is made difficult by the possibility of Black-shouldered, which is also expanding its range towards Iowa. While it would seem other marks such as tail color would be seen, I will concede that the gray (compared to white) underparts should be sufficiently apparent to carry these.

NA, The description sounds like a Mississippi Kite; however, no details of plumage were seen. A "large" perched bird doesn't fit this species--large in comparison to what? Flight pattern and overall gray appearance suggestive, but are subjective. I would judge this one as "probable".

NA, Slender bodied pale gray bird with narrow pointed wings is not nearly enough to conclusively say this was a Mississippi Kite, or even to be beyond reasonable doubt. There are other field marks which need to be seen to and documented for this kind of record.

A-D, About minimum details to determine this bird but adequate enough, I feel, to determine this as a Mississippi Kite due to size, shape, coloration, and flight pattern. I like Bill's "immediate impression" comments!

REVOTE: 3 A-D, 4 NA

NA, I am reluctantly changing my vote to NA on both kites (Record 91-06 and 91-05). The descriptions of both birds were very similar, as were viewing conditions. Both were very probably Mississippi Kites. However in the best interest of scientific record, and the need for undisputed information about the apparent increase in vagrancy and expansion in range, we should probably take the conservative approach.

NA, The vagrancy pattern is very supportive of Mississippi Kite, but the details are so sketchy that I must change my vote to NA.

NA, I think we should err on the conservative side for a bird seen only briefly by an observer inexperienced with this species.

NA, The A-D reviewers do not mention anything that would make

this an acceptable record or make me change my NA review from last time. More needs to be seen to confirm this type of short time-of-sight record.

A-D, More information on this bird would have been nice, but as a fly-by, the viewing time was short. Sufficient details were provided to indicate a Mississippi Kite was seen.

What species? Mississippi Kite How many? 1

Location? Iowa Public Service Port Neal Woodbury County IA

Type of habitat? nonclimax riparian woodland

When? date(s): 5/4/91 time: ^{est} 11:30 to 11:30

Who? your name and address: Bill Huser 401 E. 14th St. S. Sioux City NE

others with you: Art Huser, Bill Vust, Bob Moritz of Sioux City

others before or after you: none

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, under tail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

A fly-by of a hawk-like bird, similar in size to a Franklin Gull. My immediate impression — I've never seen anything like this before ~~so~~ this is what a kite looks like!
 Shape + flight pattern very unique. A very slender bodied bird with long, narrow, pointed wings. Long straight tail. Overall pale gray in color. Very effortless, slow flight with easy glides. No hurried wingbeats of falcon or labored ones of buteos.

Less than 1 minute later:

After losing sight of the bird, a large perched bird was located in a tree in the direction of the Kite's flight, 250-300 yds away, little to discern except pointed wings which crossed at tips as they extended out from rump. (over for diagram)

Similar species and how eliminated: N. Harrier ♂ — broader, more rounded wings. More predominate head. Rather labored wingbeats. More buteo-like shape. This bird very un-buteo-like.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain: only ~~the~~ Vust + Huser saw the bird.

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: overcast sky, indirect lighting. Estimate 100 ft over, 60 ft up as it flew by, at closest point. 10X Binocs

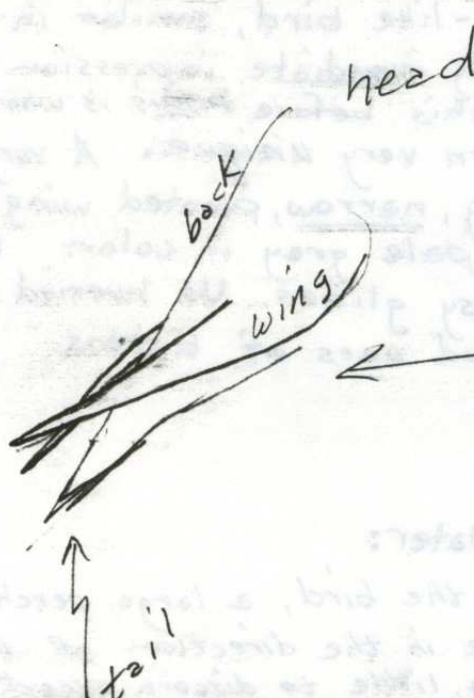
Previous experience with species and similar ones: none

References and persons consulted before writing description: No references before notes or doc. Other witnesses consulted. (over)

How long before field notes made? 10 min this form completed? 10 hr

MAIL TO: T. H. Kent, Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52240

1
 Bill Huser
 201 E 14th St
 Bill Huser
 Bill Huser
 Bill Huser



pointed wings, apparently
 long, extending outward
 from rump & appearing
 to cross at tips

Witness #2: long pointed wings, pale gray.
 Bill Vost Thought of gull until saw hooked beak.

Viewing conditions: give fighting distance (how measured), and other equipment.
 as if flying at closest point. 10X glasses.
 previous experience with species and similar ones: NONE.
 References and persons consulted before writing description: (if references, describe
 of sex.
 How long before field notes were made: 10 yr.
 MAIL TO: J. N. Kent, Field Research Editor, 211 Richards Street, Iowa City IA 52242