

Mississippi Kite
14 May 1980
Waubonsie State Park, Fremont Co., IA
*Tom Stone Jr.
IBL 50:46; 52:41

Record Number: 80-04
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Tom Stone Jr

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 50:46
Records Committee: IBL 53:41, 64:69

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Tom Kent to Records Committee, 13 Sep 1993

VOTE: 3-III, 4-IV

IV, same doubt as before.

IV, no independent verification.

III, sounds OK to me.

IV, Documentation unbelievably perfect, only 2 observers.

III, I think the description is fine. This species cannot be described as 'very improbable' or even 'improbable'. More likely as 'rather likely'. Several recent se Nebr records.

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

NA, same as 04.

A-D, Excellent description; date and location likely. Description of behavior is not "textbookish" and has a real ring of truth.

A-D, Good description, probability of correctness is high.

80-04

13 September 1993

To: IOU Records Committee
From: Tom Kent
Re: Request for reconsideration of record

Record: 80-04 Mississippi Kite (see 80-MM)

Reason for request: Rejection based almost entirely on credibility of observer for birds at expected location and date.

Comment: Tom Stone, Jr. was a teenager who made a few mistakes, but also had some good records. A Mississippi Kite on 12 April (81-MM) would seem to be early (See 81-MM). The Waubonsie record on 14 May (80-04) seems quite reasonable, even in 1980 when the species was being recorded across the river in Nebraska. I bring this record up as one of several by young observers who may well have been correct.

(Documentation)

80-4

12

1. Species Mississippi Kite
2. Number 2 3. Location Waubonsie S.P
4. Date May 14

5. Time birds seen - 7:00 pm to 7:10 pm.

6. Description - Body all gray, head a silver color a pearly white ~~is~~ with black eye lines. Size about 15 inches wings gray with ~~adax~~ darker shade gray, nearly black on the primaries. The secondaries below the wing were a pearly white. Tails of both birds were black on top. ~~One~~ One of the birds had some bands underneath the tail suggesting it was a young adult. The other bird ~~was~~ ^{was} black underneath the tail.

7. Description of behavior - The flying ability is fantastic. They flew much like swallows twisting and turning through the air and soaring. And making swoops like peregrine falcons. I have never seen any other hawk fly like these birds. Once you have seen them flying you'll never forget it.

8. Habitat - The loess hills, ~~Woodland~~ ^{Dry} Dry Woodland with some open areas on the slope of loess hills.

9. Similar appearing species - Male Marsh Hawk. ~~Has~~ Has a white rump patch and tail ~~isn't~~ isn't black. ~~It~~ Does not fly like a kite.

10. Distance? - ~~40 yards~~ 40 yards at the closest. Most of the time about 60 or 70 yards away.

11. Optical equipment - 7x50 binoculars.
 Bussnell spotting scope with 20 power lens.
12. Light partly cloudy. The birds were S.E. from us and the Sun was almost behind our backs.
13. Previous Experience with Species - My dad and I have seen it on 2 other occasions. at Cardinal Marsh in late May in 1978 and at George Wyth S.P. in Early April.
14. Other ~~Other~~ Observers - Tom Stone
15. Did others agree on identification? - yes
16. Did others independently identify this bird?
 My dad ~~first~~ spotted the birds first and knew right away by the way they were flying that they had to be Mississippi Kites.
17. Books - Birds of North Am. by Robbins, Bramm, and Singer has a good description.

Tom Stone Jr
 June 3, 1980

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