

American Swallow-tailed Kite
14 May 1992
Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk Co., IA
*A. Moye, *Moore
IBL 62:75, 63:69

Record Number: 92-12
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATIONS

Kathy A. Moye (12 May?), 145 E. San Marnan Dr. #5, Waterloo, IA 50602

Francis L. Moore (15 May), 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703 (6/30/93)

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 62:75

Records Committee: IBL 63:69

VOTE: 7 A-D

A-D, Good description of all field marks, and drawing that removes any doubt.

A-D, Solid description and established vagrancy to the upper Midwest support this documentation.

A-D, The striking black and white color pattern and deeply forked tail are diagnostic and were collaborated by both observers.

A-D, The handwriting on these two documentations is quite similar. If one person wrote or transcribed the other's documentation (especially without acknowledging it), that is grounds for impeachment.

A-D, Good details provided for Am. Swallow-tailed Kite and a very definitive sketch provided.

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

92-12

What species? American Swallow-tailed Kite How many? 1 ad.

Location? Hartman Reserve Nature Center, on border between Waterloo and Cedar Falls along the Cedar River, Black Hawk County

Type of Habitat? Adjacent to Cedar River floodplain, south side of river

When? date(s): May 15, 1992 time: 10:26 am to 10:48 am

Who? your name and address: Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703

Others with you: None

Others before or after you: Kathy Moyer, Waterloo (before)

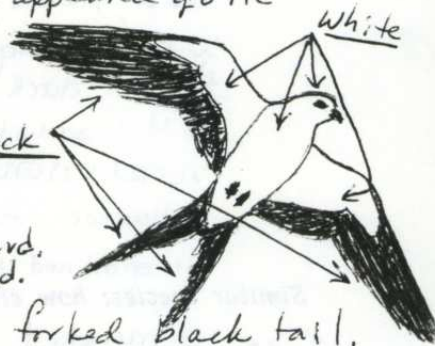
Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Distinctively colored and patterned black and white raptor. This bird was about the size of an Osprey but with a completely different black and white pattern (see sketch). Wings were fairly pointed with primaries and secondaries black and all underwing coverts a pure white. The tail was long and deeply forked like a large barn swallow and was black in color. Under-tail coverts were white. The feet were a dark blue-gray color when seen (not very often). Head, breast and belly were all a pure white color. The eye was black and appeared quite large for the size of the head. The bill was a dark bluish-gray to black color with a definite hook on the end.

The bird was gliding from 15' to 50' above the tops of the Black trees in the river bottom. Most of the time the bird was gliding around like a large swallow and only beat its wings a few times during the observation period. voice not heard.

Similar species; how eliminated: Did not observe upper surface of bird.

No other large raptor looks like this with a deeply forked black tail, and black and white patterns as described above.



Sketch taken from field notes.

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? No
If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Mostly sunny with a light breeze from south. Seen as it glided back and forth over the tops of the trees at approx. 100' to 100 yd away using 10x40 binoculars. Excellent viewing conditions.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: No previous experience with this species, have seen Black-shouldered Kite in S.E. Arizona; Mississippi Kite in Iowa and S.E. Arizona; extremely familiar with Osprey.

References and persons consulted before writing description: None

How long before field notes made? time of this form completed? 2 1/2 days
sighting

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).

DOCUMENTATION FORM

For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

92-12

What species? American Swallow-tailed Kite How many? one AdultLocation? Over Cedar River between Hartman Nature Reserve and George Wyth Memorial ParkType of Habitat? Forested Cedar River Flood PlainWhen? date(s): May 12, 1992 time: ~1700 to 1705Who? your name and address: Kathy A. Moye 145 E. San Marnan Dr. #5 Waterloo, Iowa 50706Others with you: aloneOthers before or after you: Francis L. Moore

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, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Raptor-like, Large Adult

Falcon shaped

Wings; long, narrow & pointed

Tail; long, deeply forked, black; feathering @ Base of tail, white.

striking color pattern of snow white & black

head, neck, chest, abdomen white

wing linings, white; primaries & secondaries, Black

feet; dark, small held close to body

Bill; small, hooked, raptor-like

Vocal; none heard

Behavior; effortless gliding, drifting along over the Cedar River

Streamlined & Graceful Flight @ the level of the forest canopy

Similar species; how eliminated:

Size. Somewhat larger than a Northern Harrier

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Clear, sunny Temperature 60's & NW winds ~ 5-10 mph

100'-150' & Leitz 10x40

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

NONE

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Francis L. Moore, President of Prairie Rapids Audubon Society.

How long before field notes made? same day this form completed? May 27, 1992

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).