

## (Documentation)

1. Species Mississippi 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 silvery color a pearly white ~~is~~ with black eye lores. Size about 15 inches. Wings gray with ~~adit~~ 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. ~~is~~ One of the birds had some bands underneath the tail suggesting it was a young adult. The other bird ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> 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 Woodland with some open areas on the slopes 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? - ~~Was~~ 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, Bruun, and Singer has a good description.

Tom Stone Jr  
June 3, 1980

1632 Woodmayer Dr  
Waterloo Iowa