

## DOCUMENTATION FORM for extraordinary bird sightings in Iowa

What species? Mississippi Kite How many? 1Location? Ledges St. ParkType of habitat? Edge between woods + grassy fieldWhen? date(s)? 5-22-97 time: 9:30am to gone that afternoonWho? your name and address: Lisa Hemesath, 802 Burnett Apt 1, Ames, IA 50010others with you: ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~others before or after you: Bruce Ehresman

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.

I was taking a morning walk listening for warblers when I looked up into a leafless hackberry tree.

Perched in the upper branches was a slate gray bird w/ a black tail. A closer view with my binoculars indicated it was an adult Mississippi Kite. ~~It was~~

The bird was smaller than a Red-tailed Hawk; but was definitely a raptor. It remained perched as I walked <sup>under it</sup> back to my car. I drove to the research

Station and had Bruce Ehresman verify my identification. ~~Agreed later~~ After Bruce viewed the bird w/ binoculars he also agreed it was an adult Mississippi Kite.

Similar species and how eliminated: male northern harrier(?)  
Kite has black tail, no white rump patch, and was sitting in a tree - a behavior unusual for a northern harrier.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

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

excellent viewing conditions - sunny sky. Distance - walked right under

Previous experience with this species and similar ones: perch tree  
none optical - binoculars

References and persons consulted before writing description:

Bruce Ehresman, DNR Wildlife TechnicianHow long before field notes made? same day This form completed? 1 day