

DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES: Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

HOW MANY: One (1)

LOCATION: Polk Co., Windsor Heights, 73rd Street north of University Ave., behind Olivet Church.

DATE: 14 July 1996

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

DOCUMENTER'S NAME & ADDRESS: Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant Street
West Des Moines, IA 50265

OTHERS WHO SAW BIRD: Reid Allen

DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: This bird had a pale grey head and a short black bill. The wings and back were a darker slate grey color and then the wing-tips were black with a whitish grey edge along the outer secondaries. The tail was completely black and very slightly notched. It left the tree in which it was sitting to fly away from us and the long, pointed wings and tail look a little like a falcon/harrier/nighthawk in flight.

SIMILAR SPECIES & HOW ELIMINATED: White-tailed Kite has a white tail and black shoulder patches.

VIEWING CONDITIONS: The weather was clear and sunny.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH SPECIES: Viewed extensively in Des Moines in prior years.

EQUIPMENT: Kowa TSN-4 spotting scope; Bausch & Lomb 8x42 Elite binoculars.

REFERENCES CONSULTED: FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA, National Geographic Society, Second Edition, 1987.

HOW LONG BEFORE FIELD NOTES MADE: After viewing bird.

HOW LONG BEFORE THIS FORM COMPLETED: August 5, 1996.