

DOCUMENTATION

SPECIES: **Mississippi Kite** (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

HOW MANY: One (1)

LOCATION: Boone Co., Ledges State Park.

DATE: 25 July 1996

TIME & LENGTH OF OBSERVATION: 12:30 - 12:33 p.m.

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

OTHERS WHO SAW BIRD: Reid Allen, Eloise & Eugene Armstrong

DESCRIPTION OF BIRD: This bird was flying overhead and away from the viewers. You could plainly tell it was a Mississippi Kite from the flight silhouette with its long pointed wings and long, slim body and tail. The color distinction from the dark outer primaries to the lighter secondaries was very evident. The color of the body on top of the bird was a blend of the other two colors. The underneath pattern of the bird was highlighted by the darker black primaries shading to a dark grey all underneath the bird, except for the very black tail.

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: 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.