

DOCUMENTATION FORM

Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

Species Mississippi Kite
 Location Ledges St. Pk. - Peas Creek
 Habitat wooded valley
 Date(s) May 13, 1990 Time 9:15 a.m. to 9:17 a.m.
 Name and Address Jim Sinclair, 810 North B St, Indianola
50125
 Other observers David Youngblut

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, under-tail, legs, feet). Also mention behavior and voice.

Crow sized raptor. Because of the angle of the sun the bird appeared all dark when observed from straight below. When observed at 45° with the bird slowly circling allowing a view of the dorsal side the pale head and white secondaries identified the bird as an adult. The bird soared virtually the whole time circling several times before drifting away.

Similar species and how eliminated: Too large and uniform in color for a kestrel or merlin. Wings and tail too broad for one of the larger falcons.

Did anyone disagree or have reservations about identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), and optical equipment: clear day - bird observed with 8.5 x 44 binoc at 120 ft from below to 300 ft. at 45°. Distance measured by eye.

Previous experience with species and similar ones: Familiar with this species and the large falcons with which it can be confused.

References and persons consulted before writing description:

N. G. S. Field Guide to North American Birds

How long before field notes made? 2 hrs. How long before this form

completed? 16 days