

Mississippi Kite

Unanimously Accepted 7-0

Committee Member Comments:

CM1: While not the best picture I can make out the overall grey with the darker with and tail. Darker eye patch present. Overall shape is consistent with a Mississippi Kite especially the short outermost primaries. Mississippi Kites I observed in Georgia also enjoyed eating on the wing.

CM2: This is a well-documented record. The photographs are sufficient to establish the identification and rule out possible other species. More attention to ruling out potential confounders would have been ideal in the written description. With any rare raptor species, provenance must be considered. No jesses were seen on this bird however. Furthermore, age and timing fit what would be expected for this species' occurrence in WV. Therefore, a vote FOR this record is warranted in my opinion.

CM3: Fantastic documentation of this species. Photos eliminate any other similar species.

CM4: Experienced observer. Photo documentation.

CM5: I vote to include the Jefferson County sighting of the Mississippi Kite record for official state list. This is an excellent report with supporting photographs provide the evidence to conclusively include in the record. The photographs are unmistakable a Kite and not an accipiter. The broad square-ended dark/black tail separates it from the other kites.

CM6: Nice shots!

CM7: The photos provided by Mr. Snyder are fantastic evidence for identifying the species of this bird. The generally gray color, pointed wings, squared tail with dark coloration, dark eye patch and yellow legs of a hook-billed bird of prey feeding in flight can only be a Mississippi Kite. I have seen many of these birds in Southern Indiana and Kentucky as the population has expanded north. They will likely become more common in southern WV with this expansion over the next 20-30 years.