

# Long Point Bird Observatory Rare Bird Report Form

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In order that any sight record or banding of a rare species can be confirmed for the historical record, it must be properly documented. LPBO cooperators are therefore asked to complete a form in every case where a rarity is being claimed. Guidance as to which species are considered rare in the Long Point area may be obtained from the LPBO Program Coordinator and in the Long Point Area Checklist found in *A Birding Guide to Long Point Area*. Each observer should prepare his/her description independently and preferably before consulting any field guides or other literature.

PLEASE PRINT.

**Species claimed:** Mississippi Kite

**No. of birds:** 1

**Age:** 1<sup>st</sup> cycle basic

**Sex:** Unknown

**Date(s):** May 22, 2012

**Place:** Long Point Bird Observatory – Old Cut Research Station

**Time(s) of Observation:** 1040

**Who first saw the bird(s):** Bill Read

**Who first identified it:** Stu Mackenzie

**Other observers (names and addresses):**

Ted Gent, Paula Gent, Hugh McArthur, Ted Madeford

**Any who disagree:** No

**Your previous experience with the species:** Observed twice before in Ontario, observed tens of thousands in southern states and Central America.

**Your previous experience with any closely similar species:**

**(a) Formerly:**

**(b) Same day:**

**Species present for comparison:** none

**Which were beside it for comparison:** none

**Distance from observer(s):** high overhead

**How measured:** Estimate

**Optical aids used:** 8.5 x42 Swarovski EL

**Weather conditions (at time of observation)**

**Visibility:** clear

**Cloud Cover:** 0/10

**Lighting:** bright

**Wind direction and speed:** W-2 beaufort

**Other relevant conditions:**  
(eg. rain, snow cover, etc.)

**For "Waterbird " records only**

**Lake conditions:**

**Wave height:**

**Height of observer above lake:**

**Was observer's position sheltered:**

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**Weather system preceding the date of observation (if known):**

n/a

*Attach weather map clipping from local or national newspaper if relevant.*

**Associated movements of other species:**

There was a significant movement of about 100 raptors primarily moving west off Long Point.

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**Was the bird trapped:** no

**Band # if banded:**

**Was it photographed:**

**If yes, by whom (name and address):**

**Specimen or parts preserved:**

**Present location:**

**Circumstances:**

On May 22, I was working in the banding laboratory when I heard jubilation in the parking lot about a Peregrine Falcon flying over. Given the late date I was suspicious and jumped outside to find a small raptor with very long, pointed wings. The bird was Merlin sized, but the wings and behaviour gave it a much grander appearance. Once I got a good look at the bird I identified it as a young Mississippi Kite and made sure everyone was on it. We watched it for about 5 minutes as it continued west. The bird was first observed at about 100m, but quickly gained height as it flew over the parking lot. It was probably beyond 500m by the time we lost sight of it. I called colleagues at the office and met Ron Ridout at the south end of the Long Point causeway about 10 minutes later, but we did not re-sight the bird.

**Description:**

Give separate description for (a) in the field (b) in the hand. Include full measurements and wing formula with hand descriptions. Include reasons for the elimination of other species.

The bird was a small light-coloured raptor with exceptionally long wings. It was initially in a glide with wings swept back slightly, but had moments when it opened its wings slight almost 'half-kiting' as it used the wind to gain height as it continued west. The bird did not flap. Its undersides were a dirty-gray; mostly gray mottled with retained first basic rusty-brown plumage. The underwings were similar, but with more brown in the underwing coverts. The flight feathers appeared dark and worn, but there was no sign of active moult.

No. .... %  
 Date: 1/22 530 - 1100 10<sup>0</sup> W-2 Page .....

EDW-70	RTHA-1	AMBI-
WWA-	TUVU-LJ	GRVC-
NOWA-	COHA-	

*Mississippi Kite 1040*

- found by Bill Peck, Hugh M'Arthur  
 Ted Woodford, Ted Coats, Paula Coats

- flew across the parking lot at approximately  
 100m flying/gliding west and gaining height  
 2-300 m or higher by the time we lost sight of  
 it. Bird didn't flap, but kited occasionally.

- long pointed wings
- long tail
- small, but distinct head

**Did you refer to any guides/other literature:**

(a) at the time: no

(b) afterwards: no

**Finally, is this record 100% certain?** Yes**Signed:****E-mail Address:** [smackenzie@birdscanada.org](mailto:smackenzie@birdscanada.org)**Date:** January 21, 2013**Mailing Address:** c/o LPBO