

13-1990 d

Dec 4

Ella,

I really think this looks like a "slightly off" Black-sh. Kite. ① The unmarked pale underparts with a rusty-buff wash to breast is typical of imm. (juv). Black-sh.; young Mississippi doesn't have the rusty patches and is streaked below - at least typically - and I doubt a Miss. could show this pattern, ② The much darker color to the shoulder region looks fine for Black-sh., ③ Head pattern appears fine, ④ Your writing that it was seen seen to "hover like a kestrel" is perfect for Black-sh., incorrect for Mississippi. The only problem is figuring out what color the tail is - The long dark feathers extending down from the bird I assume to be a slightly opened wing - but I admit the whole effect is a bit odd. ④ The ^{brist} orange-yellow feet are fine for Black-sh.; aren't Mississippi's a bit duller?

Paul Selman