

649-01-1995

Mountain Bluebird near Shirleysburg, Huntingdon Co. April 15-16, 1995

Terry Fultz located an adult male Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*) on April 15, 1995 while checking on bluebird boxes near Shirleysburg, Huntingdon Co. His father Gerald joined him soon afterward to confirm the sighting. Both had seen the species out west previously. The bird was seen later that day by David Kyler, also familiar with the species. Terry's account of finding the bird is attached.

I observed the Mountain Bluebird the next day, April 16. We arrived at the sight, grassy fence-lined fields and pastures, about 1:00 P.M. Visibility was excellent, with bright sunlight. I immediately saw the bird perched on a fencepost and identified it even without binoculars. I then observed it for nearly an hour through binoculars (Swift Audubon 8.5 x 44) and through a Bushnell Spacemaster spotting scope.

The bird was associating to some extent with a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*). The bird in question was essentially completely blue. Its upperparts were intensely sky blue. Its breast and belly were lighter or pale blue but not white. There was absolutely no orange on the breast as on a male Eastern Bluebird. There was no brown in the plumage, thus the bird was a male. The shade of blue was not dark and the bird did not have a heavy or thick bill, so Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) was also ruled out.

The Mountain Bluebird was not seen after April 16.

Greg Grove
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649-01-1995

June 22, 1995

Report of Mountain Bluebird (from Terry Fultz)
observed by: Terry Fultz, Elizabethtown, PA
and Gerald Fultz, York, PA

Location - Huntingdon County, PA

Russel Pollock Farm near Shirleysburg.
From Shirleysburg - 1.7 miles northeast on
Germany Valley Road to intersection. Bear
right on road to Germany Valley Church of
the Brethren for 0.3 mile. Bluebird was
in pasture north of road, at top of hill.

Date and Time first observed: Saturday, April 15, 1995
10:00 AM

Weather: Sunny and clear - gusty NW winds
temp. was in the 50's.

Binoculars: Baush and Lomb Legacy; 7x35

I first saw the bird after reaching the
top of the bank above the road. It was perched
on a fence post about 200' away and was feed-
ing on insects in the grass of the pasture and
adjacent alfalfa field. A pair of eastern blue-
birds was perched on posts nearby. Sometimes they
would perch next to and on either side of the
mountain bluebird. I watched the bird for about
twenty minutes as it landed on different posts up
and down the fence line. After walking further

out through the fields, I returned about forty-five minutes later and the bluebird was in the same area. I later returned with my father, Gerald Fultz, about an hour later and the mountain bluebird was again in the same area. Approximately twenty to thirty people observed the mountain bluebird on Saturday and Sunday, April 16.

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Mountain Bluebird (Sialia currucoides)**

Date of Sighting: **15 April 1995 to 16 April 1995**

Location: **SHIRLEYSBURG**

County: **HUNTINGDON**

Observer(s): **Greg Grove; Robert Schutsky; Ken Lebo**

Date of Submission: **1995**

Submitted by: **Greg Grove; Robert Schutsky; Ken Lebo**

Written Description: **YES** Photo: **YES** Specimen: **NO**

Recording: **NONE**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V			Abstain
					A	B	C	
F. Haas	X							
N. Pulcinella	X							
E. Kwater	X							
R. Ickes	X							
G. McWilliams	X							
P. Schwalbe	X							
S. Feldstein	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

F. C. Haas

Date:

5-1-96