























Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

**Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lancaster County, PA
April 6, 2011**

An adult male Mountain Bluebird was present at this site several days prior to my sighting, so it was observed by many and photographed by a few people before I was able to make the trip to see it.

Fortunately it was present when I arrived and I had somewhat distant views for approximately 45 minutes through my Leica scope. It would perch on cornstalks, fly down to the ground to catch insects and fly back to perch on a cornstalk. I also saw it hover over the field several times before landing on the ground. Due to the distance I was unable to obtain photographs. There were a few Eastern Bluebirds in the same area for size and shape comparison.

DESCRIPTION

- Thrush like in build and behavior. Perched motionless with a periodic turn of the head like other members of this group. Thinner than Eastern Bluebird with a longer tail making it appear a bit larger. Smaller than an American Robin.
- Head, breast, sides, back, wings and tail sky blue. The blue was darker and more intense on the head and back compared to the breast. No rust color on the breast or any other part of the bird. No eye ring or eye line.
- Undertail and lower belly were white.
- Bill rather thin like a typical thrush, appeared longer than an Eastern Bluebird's bill; black. Feet and legs black. Eyes appeared black.

Mike Fialkovich
805 Beulah Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
mpfial@verizon.net

Nick Pulcinella
613 Howard Ave PA-19380
West Chester

RARE SPECIES REPORT

SPECIES: Mountain Bluebird (Sialia currucoides)		NUMBER SEEN: one breeding plumage male
SIGHTING DATE: 30 March 2011		SIGHTING TIME: 11:20 am - 2 pm off and on.
LOCATION: City, Borough, Twp. Exact location	COUNTY & STATE: Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania DISTANCE & DIRECTION FROM NEAREST TOWN: -Kleinfeltersville nearest town: Clay Twp.	
DIRECTIONS, IF APPLICABLE: Seen at Middle Creek WMA south east of Stop #3 in Lancaster Co. only. - From Rt. 897 go to Chapel Rd. - Go about 1 1/2 miles east, past stop #3 about 150 yards.		
HABITAT: Seen from woods in trees, plowed corn field, short grass, standing corn fields - Seen on ground and corn stalks.		
SIGHTING CONDITIONS: 46°F light east wind	LIGHTING: Clouds 100% DISTANCE: 50 yards to 250 yards EQUIP. USED: -20x60 Kowa and 10x42 Nikon LENGTH OF SIGHTING: -11:20 to about 2pm - but not in sight all the time. total length - app. - 2 hrs.	
DESCRIPTION:	VOICE: -not heard SIZE: -about the same as the Eastern Bluebirds in which it was being chased alot. PLUMAGE: -Sky Blue plumage - back, most of head, wings when sitting, tail on top when sitting, throat, sides, and breast same blue - white undertail coverts and belly - black tipped primaries when folded. Slight blackish thin feathers from eye to bill. ANATOMY (bill length, leg color, etc.): Bill thin black - medium length Black legs + feet, Black eye tail - medium length tail - not see very well at tip - appeared all blue BEHAVIOR: -feeding in standing cornfield and being chased alot by Eastern Bluebirds. Also on ground in all habitats - from above.	
FAMILIARITY WITH THIS & SIMILAR SPECIES: I have see this species in from 1984 to 2006 - maybe 50+ - Eastern Bluebird and Western Bluebird makes have different blue and orange on breast.		
COMPARISON TO SIMILAR SPECIES: - Eastern Bluebirds in the area, right next to the Mountain Bluebird - Body shape very close and anatomy.		
HAS A PHOTOGRAPH BEEN TAKEN? Yes IF SO, BY WHO? Randy C. Miller - Jim Metzler		
Have any additional observers filled out a rare species report? If so, who? not sure who filled out. Seen with Sid Hastetter, Evelyn Koppel, Jim Binder		
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (Use back of form for more space): Found by Sid Hastetter and Evelyn Koppel while checking Bluebird boxes for Middle Creek W.M.A.		
SIGHTING & REPORT BY: Randy C. Miller		
ADDRESS: 607 Woodland Dr Manheim PA 17545		PHONE # 664-3778 (717)
SIGNATURE Randy C. Miller		DATE: 31 March 2011
E-mail - birder@dejazzd.com		

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation – Round One

Species: Mountain Bluebird *Sialia currucoides*

Date of Sighting: 30 March 2011 to 15 April 2011

County : LANCASTER

Location : MIDDLE CREEK WMA

Observer(s): Sid Hostter, Evelyn Koppel, m.obs.

Date of Submission: 2011

Submitted by: Geoff Malosh, Randy Miller, Al Guarente, Devich Farbotnik, Jeffrey Davis, Mike Fialkovich

Written Description: Yes

Photo: Yes

Specimen: No

Recording: No

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV-A	Class IV-B	Class IV-C	Class V	
D. DeReamus	X							
A. Guarente	X							
T. Johnson	X							
B. Coulter	X							
R. Koury	X							
D. Weber	X							
G. Malosh	X							
TOTALS	7							
DECISION	X							

Comments:

7/0

Signature (Secretary)

Nick Pulcinella

Date:

1/21/12