**Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)**

April 28 thru May 2, 2013

Field Farm, Williamstown, Berkshire, MA

Gael Hurley originally located this SY male bird during the course of a Forbush Bird Club walk on the Trustees of Reservations property Field Farm on April 28. The bird spent the next four days in the same general area that it was found (42.669799,-73.259668), flycatching from low branches of trees at the edge of a large field complex. The bird was not associating with any other individuals of any species while we observed it, and spent much of its time within ~7m of the ground, actively foraging.

The individual was clearly a bluebird, with a sky-blue back, fairly stocky build, a “cute” rounded head, and size slightly smaller than a Red-winged Blackbird. The crown through tail were the same vivid sky-blue, with the throat down to the belly having a pale bluish wash, with no rufous in the plumage anywhere. Legs were black and long, and bill was thin and all black. Overall stance was very upright and alert, long wings and slim stature combined with this made for a very sleek appearance: the White-rumped Sandpiper of bluebirds. Bird was never heard calling. Aged by molt limit in greater/primary coverts, sexed by overall plumage characteristics.

Ian Davies

Manomet, MA

idaviesbird@gmail.com

http://www.flickr.com/photos/uropsalis/

