

## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

**Red-eyed Vireo attacks young Chipping Sparrow:** On Monday, 22 June 1987, Martin Borko was out for a bike ride around the City of Middletown's reservoir system in the Town of Wallkill, New York. It was 4:00 in the afternoon and begging fledglings and group feeding sounds could be heard in the roadside tree canopy of planted Norway Spruce and Scot's Pine. Parking the bike on the side of the road and checking the sounds he observed feeding chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers, and begging Chipping Sparrows with 7x25 Bushnell binoculars. One of the latter was on an open Scot's Pine branch and was being attacked repeatedly by a Red-eyed Vireo. The young Chipping Sparrow would attempt to retreat and in two instances was seen hanging from the underside of the branch. The young sparrow flew to the opposite side of the pine and was again attacked by the Red-eyed Vireo. In neither of the two attacks did the parent bird appear, but between attacks there was one parental feeding. The observations lasted about 10 minutes; each of the two witnessed attacks lasted about 30 seconds.

*Martin L. Borko, Biology, Orange Co. Community College,  
115 South St., Middletown, N.Y., 10940*

**Mississippi Kite in Westchester County, New York:** At 6:15 PM on 17 May 1986 I observed a Mississippi Kite gliding over Rye, Westchester County. I was birding in a forested setting on an estate, and was standing at the edge of an opening. Attracted by a motion in the sky, I glanced up to see a gull-sized bird gliding from south to north. The bird was in full sunlight to the east of me, over the forest, at an angle of elevation of perhaps 40 degrees, at a distance of around 60 yards. Using 7x35 binoculars, I observed the bird for roughly seven seconds as it sailed north out of sight behind the trees, without ever flapping. As soon as I had the bird in binoculars I realized that it was a Mississippi Kite, a bird I have seen on many occasions in North and South Carolina, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arizona. I observed a long slender sooty black tail, a gray body, and similarly shaded gray undersurface of the wings. The head was quite small and pale. I could not see it well because the bird was already a bit past me when I first saw it. The wings were a bit darker toward the primaries, but there was no obvious line of demarcation. I could not see the upper surface of the bird. Besides the falcon-like shape, the most distinctive gestalt factor was the very straight boundary across the trailing edge of the wings. As soon as the bird was gone, I ran to get my wife. We quickly drove out of the wooded estate and into Port Chester, hoping to find the bird again, but to no avail.

*Bob Lewis, 33 Redfield St., Rye, N.Y., 10580*