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The Mississippi Kite And The Scorpion



Perhaps one of Aesop's fables or perhaps from a Russian fable-teller's origin, depending on where one conducts research, there is the story of *The Scorpion and the Frog*. First there is Aesop – born in 620 BC at Amorium, Turkey, he died in 564 BC at Delphi, Greece, at the age of 55 or 56. Aesop is said to have told fables to illustrate truths.

And now for *The Scorpion and the Frog*. A scorpion and a frog meet on the bank of a stream and the scorpion asks the frog to carry him across on its back. The frog asks, 'How do I know you won't sting me?' The scorpion says, 'Because if I do, I will die too.' The frog is satisfied, and they set out across the stream. In midstream, the scorpion stings the frog. The frog feels the onset of paralysis and starts to sink, knowing they both will drown. The frog has just enough time to gasp the question 'Why?' The scorpion replies 'It's my nature.'

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Meanwhile, there is The Mississippi Kite And The Scorpion. A Mississippi Kite was noticed at the top of a tree in Jemlands (an unrecorded subdivision in western Levy County) on Saturday (June 1). The Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) is a small bird of prey in the family Accipitridae. Mississippi Kites have narrow, pointed wings and are graceful in flight, often appearing to float in the air. While it has a white head like an osprey, and has a similar bird call, it is a type of kite and not an Osprey, as it had been tagged with the 'Osprey' name when first published on June 2. Thanks to Mark DeHaven, the bird is now correctly identified. This kite is less common than the Osprey, and as he noted 'Each year during late March or early April, many outdoor savvy residents of the area look for the arrival of the migratory Kites back to our area as the official harbinger of Spring.'

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In other creature news, or as some may say – meanwhile -- a scorpion also was found recently in southwestern Jemlands. Scorpions are predatory arachnids of the order Scorpiones. They have eight legs and a pair of grasping pedipalps and a narrow, segmented tail, with a venomous stinger at the end. There are more than 1,000 different kinds of scorpions and they range in size from about one-third of one inch to nine inches. The dead scorpion seen in this photo was about an inch long. It is believed to have died either from old age, or from having a rectangular-shaped can of charcoal starting fluid accident placed on him.

Osprey photos by Sharon Hardison. Scorpion photo by Jeff M. Hardison. © June 2, 2019 at 10:39 a.m.

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