



Bluebird Notes



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ncbluebird.com

NCBS hosts NABS
May 19-22, 2005

NCBS Logo with *Carolina Blue* by Dempsey Essick

June 2005 through August 2005

Volume 20 Number 3

North Carolina Bluebird Society Mission Statement

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in our home areas.

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Carolina Blue—NABS 2005



Dr. Scott Shalaway, nature columnist and humorist, chats with Kay Hindsley, NCBS Corresponding Secretary and the person responsible for contacting Scott as a speaker.

Photo— David Hindsley

Mountain hosted Bill Abbey, Chuck Bliss and Helen Munro, the three co-chairs, as they made several trips to Asheville to arrange for the hotel meeting rooms, meals, bus tours, Asheville Historic Trolley Tours and the many details that go into putting on a conference.

When the NCBS Board agreed to be the host, their primary concern was that everyone, but especially first time attendees feel welcome; that they were treated to North Carolina hospitality and that they would leave after three days of enjoying bluebirds and bluebirders with a smile on their face and a bluebird song in their heart.

The challenge of hosting a North American Bluebird Society meeting was presented to the then NCBS President Dempsey Essick, his wife Shelley and Dana Glenn and Helen Munro, Co-Editors at NABS 2002 in Penticton, BC.

Barbara Haralson arranged a tour with the Asheville Visitor's Bureau in November of 2003 and Asheville and the Biltmore Estate were picked as the center piece of NABS 2005.

Dempsey Essick, creator of the painting, *Carolina Blue*, gave permission for its use on the tee shirts, publicity, name tags and banquet program.

Dempsey also sketched the icon used for the stamp cancellation by the U.S. Postal Department.

Gladys and Sam Phillips of Black

Connie Toops, author of *Bluebirds Forever* and speaker on *The Joys of Bluebirds*, receives a pat on the back from Bill Satterwhite, NCBS Board member and "helpful person in a red vest" that answered questions.

Photo— David Hindsley



Bluebird Notes

Issue 19 Vol. 3

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Bluebird Tales



Steel Stamping Set

Helen,

This may be a useful tip for our members. I came up with a cheap way to make metal ID tags for nest boxes. I stopped by Harbor Freight Tools in Raleigh and bought a 1/4" 36-pc steel stamping set. It has letters and numbers. I cut some metal flashing into pieces to use as blanks and stamped ID numbers into them. The flashing is used to make metal roof caps for bird houses. It worked extremely well and the tags are quit legible. The flashing will weather very well. The tags can be attached with small pan head screws or short finishing nails.

The neat thing about using the stamping set is that you can come up with your own ID system. For example, the bird houses on the Josie Standaart Memorial Bird Trail are numbered as shown below.

JSMBT 0001

Fred

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Kudos for Fran Outwaithe, County Coordinator

Hello,

I am a fifth grade teacher at Audrey Garrett Elementary in Mebane, NC and an Alamance County native and resident. This morning, our fifth graders received the most wonderful and informational presentation from Fran Outwaithe about the bluebird habitat. I had asked Fran if she would mine doing 2 presentations so that everyone could enjoy, and she had no problem with that at all. She was tickled to share her knowledge with these NC public school students. She had several nests to share, a wonderful video from inside of the nesting box, and brought her own wisdom of the bluebirds. I believe the students enjoyed that more than anything. She was an absolute jewel. Please pass this along to your society. She is the most pleasant presenter I have encountered in arranging visitors to my classroom!

*Lisa Brown
Mebane, NC*



Bluebird Tales



Thank You to Bill Satterwhite

Alternative Bluebirds Nesting Sites

Hi Helen,
 I coordinate the Biodiversity program at Glaxo SmithKline here in Research Triangle Park, NC. Thanks to the efforts of Leslie Baitinger, a NC Bluebird Society member and a GSK employee, Bill Satterwhite came to our site on Wednesday, June 22. He spoke to 50 children at our on-site child development center, and at lunchtime to GSK site employees who volunteer for our Biodiversity program activities. We have 16 bluebird houses here that are being monitored, and Bill also took a look at several and gave us some good advice. I have heard many compliments and "thank yous" from employees about Bill's presentation. He also showed a photo of what he calls the "sad bluebird". A parent who was present with her daughter at his childcare center presentation told me that the "sad bluebird" made quite an impression on her daughter, who is now insisting that they get a bluebird house so that the "sad bluebird" can have a home.

*Lindsey Walata
 Research Triangle Park, NC*

Note: NCBS received a generous donation from GlaxoSmithKline as a result this talk. Thank you.

Patricia Rushing wrote:

For the past few years we have been fighting with these birds. Did not know what they were till we read our February 2005 Carolina Country and found out they were NC Bluebirds. The reason for our disagreement with these cute little birds is that they want and do build their nests under the horse trailer gooseneck behind the brake battery. Last year we did not know they were there and took the trailer off for the weekend and came back on Sunday night to two angry birds. This year my husband had back surgery so the trailer is not being used. Guess what? They are back and now set to raise a family.

They are ferocious little things, fighting every car window and mirror.

Pray we ALL get through this nesting season and I will make other arrangements for them next year.

*Patricia Rushing
 Monroe, NC*

Do Snakes Have a Bad Smell?

Congratulations to Randy Senzig NCBS Board Member

An Observation
 On a trip to Franklin, NC, I installed a house on a friend's property. Three pairs of bluebirds were soon competing for the house. There is a house nearby that had a snake eat the eggs. The birds would not return to the box.
 Do birds remember the bad experience of the snake eating the eggs or did the snake leave an odor?

*Don Adams
 Southport, NC*

From The News & Observer,
 Wednesday, December 1, 2004

Teacher honored

Fuquay-Varina High School science teacher Randy Senzig was presented the Outstanding Science Teacher Award for District 3 by the N.C. Science Teachers' Association.

*Submitted by
 Bill Satterwhite, Raleigh, NC*

Birding trail can be a feather in N.C.'s cap

Raleigh News & Observer, March 10, 2005

By LENA GALLITANO, Correspondent

RALEIGH -- North Carolinians love their birds. From the tiny songbirds that visit our backyard feeders to the thousands of wintering waterfowl at our eastern national wildlife refuges, we raise our collective voices when our beloved birds come under threat, no matter what the source. Given our passion for these creatures with wings and feathers, what better time than now to push forward with the North Carolina Birding Trail Initiative?

From an initial attempt in 1998 to a renewed 2003 effort, the current birding trail initiative has taken flight. Plans are well under way for the coastal component of this statewide driving trail. It will consist of a map linking existing bird-watching sites into a cohesive and marketable unit. The trail will be developed westward to the Piedmont and mountains as each component is completed.

Haven't heard of a birding trail? Then look around. More than 30 states have existing trails that not only bring in millions of nature-based tourism dollars but also give economic value to their natural resources. Economic value, in turn, provides the incentive to protect these resources.

North Carolina has abundant natural resources in our parks, national wildlife refuges, national seashores and game lands. It's time for us to recognize these areas for their economic value to our state and to make them economically productive for our citizens. The birding trail can do just that.

As a driving trail, it will be more than just lines on a map. It will link great bird-watching sites and birders with communities, businesses and local historical and educational attractions. Birders planning a North Carolina trip will be able to use the trail map to logically and efficiently organize their trip to maximize their bird-watching opportunities.

In what may be a unique approach among birding trails, the trail's Web site will also provide a resource to locate alternative activities such as visiting local artisans, historic or scenic sites and businesses. With this planning tool, birders traveling with a non-birding companion(s) can locate other opportunities to make for a compatible trip for all participants.

Other states with trails are finding that birders often stay

as long as a week or more to explore birding sites and spend nearly a thousand dollars during that stay. With extended visits, accommodations near the trail will be of interest to travelers, and the Web site will provide that resource as well. Birders will be able to locate accommodations through Web links to the communities and/or counties in which they are visiting. With many of our best bird-watching sites in less populated areas, access to accommodations such as lodges and bed and breakfasts will be a great way to generate visits to these less-traveled parts of our state.

Nature-based tourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of travel in the United States, with nearly \$32 billion spent in retail sales alone for this activity in 2001. North Carolina is already a destination for many birders because of our position on the East Coast flyway and the many birds that make their way either to or through our state during spring and fall migration. When completed, the birding trail will further enhance our opportunities to utilize our natural resources, and our birds, for the economic benefit of our citizens.

(Lena Gallitano is interim coordinator of the N.C. Birding Trail initiative (ncbirdingtrail.org).

Editor's Note: The North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Audubon North Carolina, North Carolina Sea Grant and NC Wildlife Resources Commission are four support organizations. Should the North Carolina Bluebird Society participate in this endeavor?

The popularity of birdwatching, bluebirds and others is growing. It competes with gardening as the most popular hobby in the United States. Check out birdwatchersdigest.com or the July/August issue of Bird Watcher's Digest to get an idea of how many bird watching tours are available including ones for people in wheel chairs. A first hand account of "Finding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker" is also available on the website and in the July/August issue.

North Carolina Bluebird Society Survey 2005

Name: _____

Town & State: _____

Total Boxes monitored: _____

Boxes with Bluebirds: _____

Date of 1st BB egg laid: _____

Total BB eggs laid: _____

Total BB eggs hatched: _____

Total BB eggs fledged: _____

2 sets of BB eggs: _____

3 sets of BB eggs: _____

Failed nest attempts for Bluebirds (eggs that didn't hatch, babies that died, fledglings that didn't fledge): _____

Type and # of other eggs: _____

Predators: _____

Interesting experiences: _____

Continue comments on the back

**Please cut out this form.
Return by Sept 15, 2005 to:
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Cow Birds *Emails sent by Fred Benson*

Editor's Note: Several years ago, I received a phone call from Whispering Pines, NC. The gentleman was suspicious about a hatchling in his bluebird nests. He described the one chick as "looking like an elephant" compared to the other chicks. A quick phone call to Jack Finch confirmed the suggestion that a cowbird egg had been laid in the bluebird nests.

Fred Benson has been emailed this information on Cowbirds. I still don't know how they do it, but I do know that they do do it. It is something of which bluebird monitors should be aware.

Nesting Behavior

The Brown-headed Cowbird does not build a nest of its own. The female lays her eggs in the nests of other bird species. The host parents then raise the cowbird chick as their own. The cowbird's egg usually hatches a day or two before the host's eggs. Rapid growth allows the cowbird chick to out compete the host's chicks for food and space in the nest. The result is that

the host's chicks usually perish. Female cowbirds have a long reproductive period and can lay as many as 80 eggs over a two month period.

More About brown-headed cowbirds.

Brown-headed Cowbirds do not evict their nest-mates, although the female may remove and sometimes eat eggs from the host nest. Instead, cowbird nestlings typically out-compete their smaller nest mates.

Most species will abandon their nest if the cowbird egg is laid first. Some species recognize and reject cowbird eggs, while others appear unable to distinguish either egg or nestling from their own legitimate offspring. When the egg is recognized but the host species is too small to remove the egg, the nest may be abandoned, or new nest material may be placed over the cowbird egg, insulating it from being incubated.

Source of cowbird information is

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/BOW/BNHCOW/>

(Continued on page 13)



The photo at the left shows two brown-headed cowbird eggs in with bluebird eggs.

The photo to the right is a male cowbird.

texasbluebirdsociety.org/coppermine/index.php



Something Learned from the Comics— Text from *Mark Trail* by Dodd & Elrod

“...Beginning in 1851, 100 House Sparrows were introduced to the United States in an unsuccessful attempt to control agricultural pests. Instead, the birds themselves became pests.

By 1900 they were the most plentiful wild birds on the continent, crowding out many native species.

One reason their numbers increased is that they are mainly grain eaters, and horse-drawn vehicles brought them a ready supply of grain dropped in the waste from the big animals. The disappearance of horse-drawn equipment and other vehicles over the years reduced their food supply, and their numbers also decreased.

Unlike in North America, where sparrows are considered pests, in their native Europe these “cheeky chip-pers” are symbols of the rural country side, but birdwatchers are concerned as these little creatures are slowly vanishing.” *Jack Elrod*



Looking Glass Falls
Photo—Kevin Berner



Catherine & Will Traylor learn about the Biltmore Bluebird Trail at the Horse Barn of the Biltmore Estate.

Photo—David Hindsley



Doug & Ethel Marie LeVasseur enjoy the field trip to the North Carolina Arboretum.

Photo—David Hindsley



David Hindsley, NCBS Board Member, took many of the pictures at NABS 2005.

November *Bluebird Notes* will highlight David Huffine and Frank Newell, recipients of the NABS Conservation Awards.



The Biltmore Estate in all its May glory.

Photo—Hilda Thompson



Edith Blaylock and Jim Jochum enjoy the NABS 2005 Banquet. Jim is a past president of NCBS and Silent Auction Co-Chair.

Photo—Catherine Traylor

Meeting Collage



Julie Zickefoose (left) presented a talk, *A Hummingbird Summer*. This was a joint project with her daughter Phoebe (right). *Photo— David Hindsley*



NCBS Web Mistress Liz Schmid presented Thank You gift certificates to Chuck Bliss, Bill Abbey and Helen Munro, the three Co-Chairs of NABS 2005. *Photo— Janice Petko*



Claire Bryant, author and craftswoman, was responsible for workshops on painting bluebirds on tote bags and making bluebird greeting cards. *Photo— David Hindsley*



Wayne C. Davis discussed English House Sparrow problems and some solutions. *Photo—Janice Petko*



Chuck Bliss standing behind Maria Bliss and Deborah Stewart, Silent Auction Co-Chair. *Photo - Fred Benson*



NABS President Steve Garr presented NCBS President Helen Munro with a recognition plaque for NABS 2005. *Photo— Janice Petko*

Bird Brain?? Cavity Nester Trivia

From 1990 *Bluebird Notes*, Vol 5 #4

1. What Christmas carol includes the lyrics “..Gone away is the bluebird..”?
 2. Who founded the North American Bluebird Society?
 3. Which states have one of the bluebird species as their state bird?
 4. How are bluebirds a part of the classic movie *The Wizard of Oz*?
 5. What feeling do you get if “Mr. Bluebird’s on [Your] Shoulder”?
 6. If “I can hide ‘neath the wings of the bluebird as she sings...” what will not happen?
 7. How many species of bluebirds are there?
 8. To what genus does the bluebird belong?
 9. Who founded the North Carolina Bluebird Society?
 10. In this culture the dove symbolizes peace, the egg bravery and valor. What does the bluebird symbolize?
 11. What famous writer and naturalist said, “The bluebird carries the sky on his back”?
 12. Which cavity nester was originally proclaimed (1933) the North Carolina state bird only to be dethroned one week later and replaced ten years later (1943) with the cardinal?
- (Answers on page 14.)

NC Bird Watching

North Carolina is one of the 18 states for which Bill Thompson III (Editor of *Bird Watcher’s Digest* and husband of Julie Zickefoose) has compiled a bird guide. “Each guide profiles the state’s 100 most commonly encountered bird species and includes color photographs and range maps to assist with accurate identification. The year-round guides feature practical information that includes bird feeding preferences, bird-friendly plants, 10 best bird-watching spots, and a variety of useful resources in a colorful, easy-to-read format. “The series includes the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. Creating these state guides was an enormous challenge and a tremendous pleasure. In North Carolina I was fortunate to draw on the knowledge and talent of Norma Siebenheller, a long time North Carolina bird watcher. Norma’s willingness to share her knowledge with other birders is what makes this state guide special. Our goal is to inspire a new generation of bird watchers in each state.”

Bill Thompson, III

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Native Plants—A Second Look

I submit that our bluebird society’s role as an environmental agent should in no way foster the spread of “invasive nonnative plant species of any description.

The NC Bluebird Society’s list of plants (in the pamphlet *Bluebirds Forever*) providing seasonal food is, at the very best, misleading. Several of the recommendations—specifically Russian Olive, White Mulberry, Japanese Barberry and Autumn Olive—are on the USDA list of invasive plants which incidentally provides recommendations for control and destruction of these plants (Nonnative Invasive Plants of Southern Forests by James H. Miller).

Our continent is blessed with a plethora of desirable native plant species which have for eons supported a wide and varied selection of animal species seeking seasonal sustenance. (Alliteration unintended.) We need several experts in the field of avian food supply to tackle this issue and make studied recommendations of plants native to North America which include no undesirable species and which are available to the home horticulturalist.

Bill Abbey, Clemmons, NC

Editor’s Note: Bill Abbey will head up the committee to review the plant recommendations the next time that Bluebirds Forever is revised.

Lochmeer Bluebird Trail

Submitted by Linda Fuller & Fred Benson
Cary, NC

Thanks to the encouragement of Fred Benson and a grant from the North Carolina Bluebird Society, Linda Fuller was able to facilitate a cooperative arrangement between the public Lochmere Golf Club (LGC) and the Lochmere Homeowners Association (LHA) in Cary, NC, for a Bluebird Trail to provide a haven for cavity dwelling birds and an educational opportunity for the residents in Lochmere.

In September 2004 the golf course managers gave permission to install NCBS approved boxes. The 100-acre golf course provides an ideal environment for a Bluebird Trail. Golf course personnel agreed to provide bluebird monitors the use of golf carts during non-peak golfing hours so the trail could be monitored on a weekly basis during the nesting season and the trail could be kept in good repair throughout the year.

In October 2004 the Lochmere Homeowners Association Board approved the placement of NCBS approved boxes in the Lake Park area adjacent to the golf course. Linda Fuller was given permission to write articles for the quarterly newsletter, *The Lochmere Clan*, about the establishment of a Bluebird trail, solicit contributions for the maintenance and expansion of the trail, and to provide educational experiences for Lochmere residents by inviting them to become active trail monitors and to attend educational activities associated with learning about cavity-dwelling birds.

In December 2004 phase one of the project was completed. Twenty traditional wooden boxes (i.e. one nuthatch box), seven modified Gilbertson boxes, and one Peterson box were installed. All houses were mounted using 3/4" diameter EMT poles and PVC baffles (2' long by 4" diameter). Each house was identified for monitoring purposes with a numbered metal plate located on the back of the box.

Wooden Houses

Wooden bluebird houses were purchased from the North Carolina State Employees Credit Union and the following modifications were made to them:

1. Metal roof caps were added to increase the life of the houses.
2. Roof line slot vents were added to each side of the houses to increase cross ventilation and prevent heat build-up under the roof.
3. Heavy gauge plate steel 1 1/2" diameter hole covers were added to discourage hole enlargement by woodpeckers and squirrels.
4. Half inch diameter drain holes were drilled in the center of the floors for additional drainage.
5. Houses were coated externally with high quality oil-based wood redwood tinted preservative.



Modified Gilbertson Houses

The Gilbertson houses were built from scratch using a modified design:

1. The 4" diameter PVC nesting cavity floor was made by gluing a PVC test cap to the bottom with heavy duty PVC glue. Half inch diameter drain holes were drilled in the center of the floors.
2. The roof was extended an inch to provide more overhang protection for the entrance hole. Metal roof caps were added to the roofs to extend the life of the houses.
3. Two slot vents were cut near the top of the cavity to increase cross ventilation and prevent heat build-up under the roof.
4. The nesting cavity was attached using a drawer-like approach enabling the cavity to be inspected much like a drawer is opened by sliding it out on rails. A single metal pin was used to lock the drawer in place.



Peterson House

The basic Peterson design was slightly modified.

1. A metal roof cap was added.
2. Roof line slot vents were added to increase cross ventilation and prevent heat build-up under the roof.
3. A half inch diameter drain hole was drilled in the center of the floor for extra drainage.
4. A heavy gauge plate steel 1 1/2" diameter hole cover was added to discourage hole enlargement by woodpeckers and squirrels.
5. The house was coated externally with high quality oil-based wood redwood tinted preservative.



(Continued on page 15)



Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box

Recorded by the Cornell Birdhouse Network

Summer 1999

Produced by the North Carolina Bluebird Society

Available for \$13.85 including shipping and handling.

Two tapes for \$25; Three for \$35; Six for \$70

E-mail towhee@blueridge.net to price larger quantities.

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North Carolina Bluebird Society Products

| Description of Item | Cost Postage Included | No. Wanted | Total |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|--------|
| New: Caps with NCBS Logo | \$ 13.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
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| New: <i>Carolina Blue</i> Tote Bags | \$ 15.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
| <i>Carolina Blue</i> T-Shirts | | | |
| by Dempsey Essick (S, M, L, XL) | \$20.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
| Lands End knit shirt with collar (M, L, XL) | \$35.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
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| or 5 for \$10.00 | | X_____ | =_____ |
| <i>Bluebirds, Inside the Nestbox</i> Video Tape | \$13.85 | X_____ | =_____ |
| Also available in DVD format, same price | \$13.85 | X_____ | =_____ |
| (2 for \$25; 3 for \$35; 6 for \$70) | | | =_____ |
| Total | | | =_____ |

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Date of your order is _____

Video tapes and DVDs are available on the ncbluebird.com website.

More Information on a new “Way to Mount a Bluebird House”

Submitted by Don Adams
Southport, NC

Editors Note: This is an update to the article written by Don Adams suggesting a new way to mount a bluebird house. I have now done four this way and it has been a learning experience.

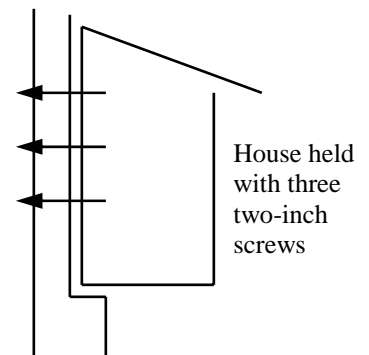
Don’s original scheduled 40 PVC pipe was one inch and a quarter. When I asked for PVC pipe, I said one inch and a half and that is what I used. I think that the one inch and a quarter has less sway to it and when I do it again, I will ask for one and a quarter.

The second thing I learned was that a five foot section for the bottom part is better than the six foot section incorrectly mentioned in the original article. I could get the pole into the sand and the five foot one came out to be the right height with the nest box screwed into the sixteen inch piece that was placed into the coupling at the top of the five foot section.

To recap—A five foot section of one and a quarter



Side View of house bracket



scheduled 40 heavy wall PVC pipe is put into a hole made by driving the same size metal pipe into the ground. The five foot section has a coupling cemented to the top and the sixteen inch piece with the nest box is placed into the coupling, but is not cemented. The attachment of the nest box is shown above.
Helen S. Munro, Editor

More E-mail from Fred Benson

(Continued from page 7)

I decided to conduct an experiment based on the interest the bluebirds showed in the Downy Woodpecker nest box filled with pine wood chips. I bought some large molded wood fiber nursery pots from a nursery supply company. I cut one of the pots down and filled it with wood chips and put it into a bluebird house. The female bluebird completed her nest in the house in about an hour. She pulled some of the chips out, made a cup shaped indentation in the remaining chips, and put a small amount of pine straw on top.

Fred

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C. Roger Fisk

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<http://www.growerssolution.com>

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Female bluebird built this nest in about 1 hour.

Notice the wood chips she removed from the nest cup.

North Carolina Bluebird Society

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 Mail to: David Hindsley 5801 Danville Dr.
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Mission Statement

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in our home areas.

Please help the bluebirds by volunteering to help with:

- _____ Newsletters
 _____ Meetings
 _____ Box Building
 _____ Publicity
 _____ Membership
 _____ Nominations
 _____ County Coordinator program
 _____ On Board of Directors

Contributions to the Newsletter

Sharing Bluebird information and stories make this an unique publication

Please submit to: Helen Munro, Co-editor
 22 Bobolink Rd. Jackson Springs, NC 27281
 Phone - (910) 673-6936 Fax - (910) 673-7345
 e-mail - hsmunro@ac.net

For Slide Programs, Videos and Education Material,
 Please Contact: Hank Moss, Jr.
 525 Fairway Drive Southern Pines, NC 28387
 (910) 692-2328 hmjr@pinehurst.net

Bird Brain Answers (from page 8)

1. *Walking in a Winter Wonderland*
2. Dr. Lawrence Zeleny of Maryland
3. New York, Missouri, Idaho, Nevada
4. July Garland sings about their flying *Over the Rainbow* and wonders why she can't too.
5. Zippity-Do-da, Zippity-Aye!"
6. "The six o'clock alarm will never ring."
7. Three—Eastern, Western & Mountain
8. Sialia
9. Linda Phillips of Greensboro
10. Happiness
11. Henry David Thoreau
12. Carolina Chickadee

Attention NCBS Members

Check out the May *Bluebird Notes*

<http://www.ncbluebird.com/news>

Password: **bluenotes**

If you like this delivery method and would like to receive your NCBS newsletter, *Bluebird Notes*, on line, please do this:

Send your email address to **newsonline@ncbluebird.com**.

Four times a year you will be emailed the internet address and password to access the newsletter a full ten days early.

The advantages of receiving an electronic newsletter—seeing the pictures in color and deciding to print out one page, a couple pages or all sixteen pages. . You will not receive a newsletter in the mail.

Wishing to change back, send a note to **newsonline@ncbluebird.com**.

Dear NCBS Members,
 A postcard was sent to all members offering them the chance to become an on-line newsletter subscriber. Unless you sign up for this, your newsletter will continue to come in the mail. There is concern about computer viruses coming in with this newsletter. Every effort will be made to make sure that this doesn't happen.

Helen S. Munro

NABS 2006—Next Year in Texas



April 26 - 30, 2006
Airport Hilton, San Antonio

Phone 1.800.HILTONS and ask for the \$89.00 "NABS" rate. It's good 3 days before and 3 days after the convention. The hotel furnishes free airport transportation 24 hours a day, every hour.

The "Red, White & Bluebirds, NABS 2006 Convention" media presentation that debuted in Asheville can now be viewed through a visit to www.NABS2006.com. It's set to the music of "Blues in the Heart of Texas", the convention song.

Registration for the NABS 2006 Convention opens September 1st!

Lochmeer Bluebird Trail

(Continued from page 11)

In response to the first article published in *The Lochmere Clan* twelve Lochmere residents volunteered to monitor the trail, to build nest boxes, or to help maintain the trail. Booklets with the following information were provided to monitors at our first meeting in February 2005:

- *All About Bluebirds, Their Natural History* from the NCBS website
- Monitoring Guidelines compiled from various sources
- Detailed information on problems with English Sparrow (other pests and predators were included in the Monitoring Guidelines)
- List of trail monitors, contact information, and their trail assignments
- Monitoring forms for the 28 boxes
- Information on other cavity dwelling birds that might occupy the boxes other than bluebirds (chickadee, wren, titmouse, nuthatch, etc)
- How to raise mealworms
- Bluebird tips, the NCBS/NABS 2005 Schedule of Events, and a NCSB membership form – all from the NCBS website

Tammie Zemler, one of the monitors, set up a web site for the Lochmere Bluebird Trail which includes group email, a calendar to post monitoring times, a folder for photos and bluebird articles, a database to enter monitoring details, an Excel workbook with monitoring forms for each box, a map of the Lochmere Bluebird Trail, and a file with contact and general information for monitors.

Monitoring began in mid-March 2005. Although we have had our share of tragedies due to cold weather and predators, we have increased the bluebird population. As of July 1, 2005 we had fledged 33 bluebirds, 16 chickadees, 11 white-breasted nuthatches, and 5 wrens. Currently we have 22 bluebird nestlings, 23 bluebird eggs and 4 wren eggs as well as some partial nests.

When more funds are accumulated the trail will be expanded on holes ten through eighteen of the golf course as well as to other common areas in the Lochmere development. If you would like to help us expand the trail, a tax-deductible check to the Lochmere Bluebird Trail Fund can be mailed to 107 Greensview Drive Cary, NC 27511.

North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|--|----------------|
| ALAMANCE | Fran Outhwaite | (336-226-4770) | MCDOWELL | Carol Gilliam | (828-738-0655) |
| ANSON | Heyward McKinney | (704-694-3240) | MECKLENBURG | Doug Archer | (704-643-3841) |
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| BRUNSWICK | Don Adams | (910-278-3872) | ORANGE | Arthrell Sanders | (919-732-4698) |
| BUNCOMBE | Gladys & Sam Phillips | (828-669-1010) | PITT | Dr. Edward Davis | (252-756-4165) |
| BURKE | Karen Gilliam | (828-437-6772) | POLK | Barbara Rowe | (838-863-4253) |
| CABARRUS | David Silla | (704-788-3778) | RANDOLPH | Chuck Bliss | (336-625-5423) |
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| HENDERSON | Joe Sanders | (828-651-0920) | Web-site – | Liz Schmid | (336-595-6379) |
| HYDE | Sherri Surrat | (252-926-9313) | | liz.schmid@earthlink.net | |
| JOHNSTON | Ethelene Allen | (919-963-3831) | | | |
| LINCOLN | Pat Probst | (704-735-5780) | | | |

If your county does not have a coordinator, please
Call Chuck Bliss (336-625-5423).

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