



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

Bluebird Notes



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The North Carolina Bluebird Society
ncbluebird.com

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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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In Memory of Jack Finch—NC's Mr. Bluebird

I can still remember my first trip to Bailey, NC, to see Jack Finch. At that time he was doing an experiment to see how close non-banded bluebirds will sit on a mealworm feeder. Based on this information, he devised a perch for the top of the feeder as long as this distance.

Another Bailey trip found that he had purchased a teenage mannequin and put mealworm cups in the hat and on the outstretched hand. His plan was to substitute himself for the mannequin. On yet another trip, I noticed small peat pots with holes lashed to a



Jack at the Pottery Festival, 11/13/2005

tree. These were his way of collecting bees for some men from Canada who sold bees to greenhouse growers for pollination. This was right next to a picnic table covered with a sheet of plywood so that the ground feeding birds would be protected from the hawks and next to that was a tree in which he had planted mistletoe seeds for propagation.

I knew I was getting close to Finch's Nursery when I saw the straight rows of the Princess trees that produce the lightweight

(Continued on page 11)

Annual Meeting—NCBS 2007— Speakers

Dr. Mark Stanback
Department of Biology, Davidson College

Topic: Effects of temperature on bluebirds

Dr. Stanback has conducted extensive scientific experiments on the effects of temperature on bluebird physiology.

Mr. Rick Studenmund

The Nature Conservancy
Topic: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Conservation

Mr. Studenmund is Director of the NC Sandhills Landscape Project and has extensive



experience with RCW conservation. He is based in Southern Pines.

Staff member

Piedmont Wildlife Hospital
Durham, NC

Topic: Bluebird Triage Techniques
How to stabilize bluebirds until they can be transported to a wildlife hospital or certified wildlife rehabilitator.

Ms. Salinda Daley

Coordinator - N. C. Birding Trail

Topic: Purpose and status of the N. C. Birding Trail Project

Ms. Daley will explain the idea behind the N. C. Birding Trail Project and where the project stands. She is based in Raleigh.

Bluebird Notes

Issue 19 Vol. 3

Fred Benson –President
Co-Chair, County Coordinator Program
(919) 469-0410 fbenson@ipass.net

Helen S. Munro – Past President, Editor
(910)-673-6936 hsmunro@ac.net

Randy Senzig—Vice-President
(919) 779-4079 rsenzig@nc.rr.com

Bruce Fensley – Rec. Sec.
(910-692-6054) bfensley@earthlink.net

David Hindsley – Recording Chair
Kay Hindsley – Corresponding Sec.
(252) 823-0737 jdhind@earthlink.net

Diane Scales – Treasurer
(910) 673-2004
dianelynn@carolina.net

Hank Moss – Ed. Dir.-Historian
(910) 692-2328 hmjr@pinehurst.net

Ray Welch
(336-764-0226)
rwelch5@bellsouth.net

Virginia Pickles
Co-Chair County Coordinator Program
(919-658-3062)
pic658@nc.rr.com

Jim Jochum – Director
(336) 288-7975 jjjochum@aol.com

Bill Satterwhite - Director
(919) 787-5248 billsatt@intrex.net

Liz Schmid - Director, Web Mistress
(336) 595-6379
liz.schmid@earthlink.net

Christine Ammons – Store Manager (828)
287-3502 towhee@blueridge.net

Bill Abbey—Sponsorship Chair
(336) 766-5857



Bluebird Tales

Photos by Ed Erkes



Woodpecking Bluebirds

We have an unusual bluebird scenario here and I wondered if you could give us an idea of why the birds are behaving the way that they are.

At the end of April or beginning of May a pair of bluebirds began perching on the mullions of our breakfast room window. Although they do occasionally bump up against the glass, they don't seem to be defending their territory (against their own reflection), but rather they act as though they want to get into the house. The female will sit for long periods, sometime puffing her feathers and propping her head against one of the mullions-- it almost looks as if she's asleep. There are several bluebird boxes on the property and we've seen them at one of the boxes. They have two babies and recently started bringing them to the window to look in as well. Do you have any ideas as to why they're doing this?

Many thanks!

Lynda Acker, Southern Pines, NC
p.s. Readers, any ideas?

Fledgling Pictures

Hello NC Bluebird Notes Editor,

My family had fun on our most recent fledge day on May 8, 2006.

All

five baby bluebirds fledged early that morning. Two of the baby bluebirds had a difficult time flying from the ground to the safety of a near by tree limb. I was more than glad to help the babies with this task. After moving the two babies to a tree limb the adult blue birds calmed down and were very appreciative of my help. The baby bluebirds sat in the same spot for over an hour which allowed me to get some close up photos.

We now have three new baby blue-birds that were born on July 4th.

Happy Bluebirding!

Rick, Karen & Michele Mitchell
Charlotte, NC

Pictures on Page 3 were sent along with this email.

Thanks for sharing these great pictures of fledglings. *Editor*



Bluebird Tales



Photos by Ed Erkes

If you build it, they will come

My 16 year old son Brad Buske built 26 Bluebird houses that he and his father put up around the entire perimeter of our 7 acre pasture. We live in Angier, NC, about 25 miles south of Raleigh. We have 11 acres with 7 of that in pasture for 3 horses. We feed the birds from feeders year round with sunflower seed. This has been one of Brad's chores to make sure that the feeders are filled.

His Dad wanted him to learn some basic carpentry and last summer on his break from school his project was to build these houses at his leisure.

They put the houses up in February and we have at least 4 families living in them this year. I have never seen so many Bluebirds.

It would be great if you could recognize him in any way for his efforts. He does not know that I am writing you, so it would be a great surprise.

Thanks,
Jan Buske, Angier, NC



2005 North Carolina

Editor's note: After Reah Kittelberger tallies the number of bluebird eggs, hatchlings and fledglings, she sends the survey forms to me to summarize the comments. This is like being in a candy store and told that you can only pick so many pieces of candy and must leave the rest! I have tried to pick the ones that tell a story and are educational. There are many that tell of unhatched eggs, dead fledglings and adults all with unknown causes. There are reports of vandalized boxes and destroyed nests, but again all we can do is to try to educate people to the need to leave the nest boxes alone. We can move the boxes to better locations and figure out ways to outfox the snakes, cats, raccoons and hawks. Some of this is futile, but such is nature. We know the bluebirds are the good guys, but then so are the other creatures.

There is some of this to which you will take exception. If you wish to suggest better ways of doing baffles, for example, please feel free to write or email me. (See page 14 for street and email address.)

This particular column is written once a year and appears in the February issue of *Bluebird Notes*. If you would like to be the one to go through the surveys and pick out the comments to share, please let me know. These are not in any particular order this year. I have had to leave out some I would have loved to include because of space. Thanks to everyone that responded with their survey and comments. It is great to know that there are so many bluebird friends.

Helen Munro, Editor

Greensboro, NC – I was delighted at the success of the trail this year. In March of this year, we replaced all the nest boxes on the Championship course with our Wild Birds Unlimited nest box made of recycled milk jugs and placed them all on poles with cylindrical shaped raccoon baffles. The cone shaped baffles in years' past had been plagued by wasps building their nests under them. It was highly successful this year. I hope everybody else experienced the same.

Barbara Haralson

N. Wilkesboro, NC—We are feeding the bluebirds mealworms and enjoying their beauty.

Lea W. Barnes

Hickory, NC—We had three boxes with three sets of bluebirds and were hoping to get one box with four broods, but no such luck.

David Frye

Ellenboro, NC—We have been helping the bluebirds for a long time. My daughter Kasey was 9 when she had her first bluebird box. Now her children are enjoying our nest of bluebirds. Bluebirding is a wonderful way to get kids to think about things around them. My grandchildren have already learned that by limiting the use of pesticides in the garden leaves food for the birds and we still have plenty to harvest while we share our plants with a few bugs for bird food.

Debbie Crawford

Southern Pines, NC—Wasps continue to be a problem. My solution to this is vasoline on the roof of the houses.

Hank Moss

Mebane, NC—At the beginning of the mating season, most of my time in the city of Mebane was spent removing house sparrow nests, eggs and babies. Not a pleasant task, but totally necessary, as the boxes in town are not being monitored. We selected and numbered a trail of 12 boxes at the cemetery and the library. After weeks of continuous removal of house sparrows, I finally started seeing signs of bluebirds. Out of 5 boxes, we had 17 bluebird eggs laid and six house wren eggs. One bluebird nest was attacked, 2 eggs broken and the other 2 abandoned—revenge of the house sparrows. I have been assured that all the remaining bluebird boxes in town will be removed and selected ones installed to attract bluebirds and allow monitoring. This is exciting news! Mill Creek Golf Course saw the replacement of 17 Peterson style bluebird boxes with a square side open box, opened with a Phillips screw driver. Nest building started mid-April. Sadly, we lost 5 eggs and 9 babies to black snakes. A quick baffle, using the materials on hand, was a "tutu" made with black one-half inch plastic mesh deer netting. This, unfortunately (or note!), resulted in the deaths of 5 snakes. Golfers were going out of their way to look at dead snakes trapped in the netting! Much hoo-haw and discussion!

Next we made "hoop skirts," using fiberglass window screening which is pliable enough to sew casings top and bottom on a sewing machine. Of course, each one had to be custom fitted to each tree, measuring screen and wire to fit the diameter of the different trees. First tried this under a box a Carolina Wren had nested in and since her nest remained unmolested, ended up putting this under every box. I am happy to report that in mid July, a previously unused box was found with four bluebird nest eggs, which hatched and fledged successfully in mid Au-

Nesting Survey Summary

Compiled by Helen Munro

gust. We hope our hoop skirts will work well during the entire mating season next year. Mill Creek golf course is monitored by the Mill Creek Garden Club.

Linda Nunemaker

Yadkinville, NC—I had a good year with small amount of sparrow problems. I used 47 NABS type boxes, 10 Troyer boxes, and for Gilwood boxes. My trail is 31 miles round trip in rural Yadkin County. I have had to replace the door pins and bushings in my four-year-old truck from opening and closing the door so much checking my boxes. I have fledged 3836 bluebirds in the last 10 years.

Bob Southard

Unions Mills, NC - I have had a goal to fledge over 300 bluebirds with my 55 boxes. Changing the location of just a few boxes was a big help. This year I fledge 306 bluebirds but there were 18 nest attempts that were a total loss and others had success, some as small as one bluebird fledged.

Christine Ammons

Four Oaks, NC - One bluebird pair laid four sets of white eggs and hatched all but one of the eggs, but a snake got babies of one set. The parents used three different boxes. the first set of five was completed by March 20 thus first egg was laid March 16. The second set of five eggs hatched May 16 and that made 10 fledglings from same box. Then they moved to a box on a utility pole and laid five eggs by June 10. Five hatched and were seven days old when I checked July 1st . When I checked on July 10, I found a clean, neat, empty box. I guess a snake ate them. The pair moved to a box up the road, covered up four blue bluebird eggs that should have hatched on July 8. I checked that nest on July 10 and found the new nest containing one white egg on top of the four blue eggs. There were four white eggs on July 13, three hatched and fledged. So, this female laid 19 eggs in four sets and hatched 18 of which 13 fledged. There were lots of boxes in this area occupied by bluebirds. I caught and destroyed one house sparrow in the area. Also a feral cat caught the female bird as she came out with egg shell half. The egg shell and feathers were on the ground near the box and the four babies were cold and lifeless with no mother to brood them. One egg in a set of didn't hatch. I set a trap and caught the cat.

Ethelene M. Allen

Wadesboro, NC - We had 64 nest boxes and of those 47 had bluebirds. We fledged a total of 369 bluebirds. There

were six white bluebird eggs and one set of six chickadee eggs. A couple of boxes shared with flying squirrels that would nest in the box, then bluebirds would nest and then squirrels would move back in.

Doug and Luke Edwards

Greensboro, NC—Five eggs did not hatch in one nest box because the female bluebird was constantly driven away by an aggressive mockingbird.

Jim Jochum

Wilkesboro, NC—Five white eggs hatched and fledged.

Jim Felts

Fort Mill, SC—We had only 1 pair of bluebirds. They alternated the boxes used for each new nesting. We had a total of 4 boxes on one acre. The pair I had were very territorial. I finally took down two boxes because the pair were constantly protecting the whole yard. The first brood was in the back yard nest box. The second brood nested in the front yard. The third went back to the backyard and the fourth brood was in the front yard.

Cheryl Blethen

Moorestown, NC—I saw 4 hawks at one time in the cow pasture near the house. The birds were so cautious that I hardly saw them. This was my first experience with so many hawks around. I didn't realize how worried I could get over my bluebirds. I've been handicapped for about 7 years, can hardly get about, but I care about the birds. It is a wonderful experience for me to be able to share with my sister Christine Ammons. My husband and I had a trail about 10 years ago and he got sick and passed away. We gave most of the boxes to R.J. Edwards since they were on his property. Thank you for all the good information.

Carol B. Radford

West End, NC -The first nesting of bluebirds this year was not successful. The second was the best year ever for our second brood. I only had a rare third nesting before. This year five boxes had eggs for three broods which gave us the best bluebird year ever. Our most interesting experience was for a bluebird couple to build a nest in the far left bluebird theater. This had to be a third nesting for one pair and I counted it as such since it was during the time of third nestlings. I tried to discourage them but they insisted on this site. I have feeders like Jack (Finch) instructed me. There are three in a row. They would come out of the nest, go straight into a

(Continued on page 6)

2005 North Carolina Nesting Survey Summary (concluded)

(Continued from page 5)

feeder with worms or raisins, and right back into the nest box and went back and forth many times a day. They are even smarter than we think. It was where I could see it from my chair in the living room. So they were monitored well.

Iris and Richard Johnson

Jacksonville, FL - While all five bluebirds set on a cable wire 15 feet high, a Mockingbird chased away the father and returned to find the mother is watching over her three fledglings. The Mockingbird disappeared. The kids and mom flew to a fence and sat waiting on Dad to return. A loud "calling" from Dad had come from a thick bush and Mom went to check out "Dad" while the kids stayed put. Racing out of the Bush came Mom with a Mockingbird not a foot behind! The Mockingbird had mimicked the call the father! She led him over into the yard and as I turned to look at the kids, they flew right by me with Dad leading the charge! I don't know what happened over in the yard as a tall wood fence blocked the view, but in a few minutes, all five were heading back over the fence and the Mockingbird was nowhere to be found.

Curiosity got the best in me and in a few minutes I was at the tall fence peeking in between the wood slats. It was then that I summarized what went on. Several teenagers were throwing water balloons at everything. The water balloons were blue and white and orange. The colors of our local school here!

Carvin A. Lambert

Apex, NC - I had three broods of bluebirds with five eggs each time. Only four eggs would hatch. I fed them meal worms several times a day. If I'm not out at feeding time, particularly with the first two broods, parents would perch on dome feeder awaiting their file of worms. When babies were brought to the dome, it was so amusing to see them eating on their own. When Mom arrived, they looked to her with mouths open! Even older birds (freckled and young) would try the open mouth routine. Four days prior to fledge of new batch, the previous batch was viciously chased away by Dad. It was interesting to observe the Dad's role of training them. Chasing them when he had brought them to the feeder in the first place. With the third batch, he was more relenting and allowing them to go to the feeder. With the third batch I observed Mom and Dad came to regular seed feeder, picked through the shelled sunflower seeds and fed those to the babies. Each time I was on vacation I hired my little neighbor's

girls, who sit for my indoor cats, to feed the birds worms two and three times a day. I couldn't stand to abandon them least they abandon me! The children loved it and so did the birds!

Jeannette Barringer

Southern Pines, NC - We have completed our 12th year of monitoring the Longleaf Bluebird Trail. Our data shows 2291 bluebirds have fledged. On a sadder note one third of our bluebird eggs did not hatch this year and four dead blue feathered nestlings were found in one box. Hawks continue to multiply in the tall pines around the golf course. Jim has made stovepipe cylinders for raccoon guards.

Jean and Jim Walker

Summerfield, NC - My father built a bluebird box and gave it to me. I hung it late in the season (May) and even learn later about your website. I observed a female building a nest and I checked it occasionally, but no eggs. I figured that she gave up but I would have to clean the box soon. Yesterday I went outside and heard birds chirping. I checked the box and know there are at least two hatchlings. I left them alone a short while and tried to peek again. At that point, I saw a shadow above me and heard the snap of wings, like someone snapping a towel. I looked up and could only see the silhouette of a bird hovering above warning me to back off. Today I observed a male bluebird near the box. I'm sure there are bluebird hatchlings. When my father built the box, he put the opening on the bottom for easy cleaning. After the next one was built, I saw the design on your website and will try to fix the box for the next season.

Iris Carter

Raleigh, NC - Although the first brood of bluebirds had five eggs laid, none of them hatched. It could have been that we had painters at our house. However, the second brood had four eggs and they all hatched and fledged. At first, I only saw two juveniles at our birdbaths and suet feeders, but lately I have seen four speckled bluebirds at the suet feeder. My, they love to eat!! The bird houses are on the edge of our rose garden. It was tough for me to tend the flowers with a male bluebird guarding the nest. The flight is so effortless but as he dived bombed me, I could hear the beating of his wings and a clucking sound.

Jim and Ellen Kelley

NABS 2007—Athens, GA, September 19 to 23, 2007

The North American Bluebird Society has had a year of change. Changes in their location. (Address is now P.O. Box 43, Miami OH 45147.)

Changes in their leadership. (Jonathan Rideway of New York is now the President) and changes in their Board Meetings. (There is a phone conference call of all Board Members once a month.)

What hasn't changed is the annual meeting. This year it is being held at the University of Georgia and the emphasis is almost 100% on Bluebirds. These are bluebirds as described by scientists who count on the bluebirds nesting in the boxes that are provided. Dr. Patty Gowaty was the speaker at the 2004 NCBS annual convention. Her question of who had seen bluebirds mate was answered with silence! We all monitor, but no one had seen how the eggs get created in the first place. She has gathered students and colleagues to tell of their experiences with the

"Science of Bluebirds".

Affiliates across the continent are contributing to the cost of speakers and meeting rooms rentals. NCBS led the way with their contribution followed by Tennessee Bluebird Trails, Virginia Bluebird Society, Indiana Bluebird Society, Natural Area Guardians, Jo Daviess County, IL and the Texas Bluebird Society. I thank those who have contributed and look forward to hearing from other societies or individuals willing to support this Bluebird Partnership between NABS and the University of Georgia.

The NCBS newsletter will have a copy of the registration form. The information on the schedule and speakers bios will be on the www.nabluebirdsociety.org site by mid-February. NC is close to Georgia and it is going to be a great meeting. Mark your calendar and "come on down!"

"Hi-tech Barn Swallows"

A couple of Minnesota Barn Swallows have raised the bar on the scale of "Swallow IQ." For the past four years, a pair of Barn Swallows has nested inside the lumberyard entryway at the Home Depot store in Maplewood, Minnesota. At least one pair has learned that if they fly a tight circle in front of the motion detector above the double doors at the entry to the Home Depot, the doors open. Each bird then flies one more loop as the doors open and swoops inside where the pair has built a nest atop a small pipe near the ceiling. When a bird is ready to leave, it flies a tight circle in front of the motion detector inside the doorway and the doors again open for Home Depot's small avian customers. Keith Stomberg, a supervisor at the store, first noticed the birds nesting inside in the summer of 2001. He was fascinated by their apparent learned behavior and left them alone to raise their families.

It was a good place for the swallows to raise their young because there were no predators or bad weather. The pair typically raised two broods each year. When the birds returned to nest in 2003, he contacted the

staff of the Non game Wildlife Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Wildlife biologist Joan Galli observed the nesting swallows and was amazed to see how the birds had adapted to the unique setting in order to raise their families. "We typically think of the crow family and the parrot family as among the most intelligent of birds," according to Galli, "but apparently the swallows have a few tricks of their own that help us appreciate how birds are constantly adapting to survive in novel human-created environments. "One of the assistant managers locked the door early," Stomberg recalled. "The barn swallows weren't done yet. They actually picked him and harassed him until he unlocked the door like, 'Hey! Unlock the door dummy, I'm not done feeding my kids!' "

"<<http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/9016396.htm>>

NCBS 2007—Saturday, March 31– Workshops

1 Decorative Bird House Painting

Instructors: Heart of Carolina Tolers (www.hoct.org)

Workshop attendees will receive a "base coated" fully functional bluebird house to paint. Acrylic paints and brushes will be furnished. Attendees may keep the painted bird houses.

2 Bluebird Nest Box Construction

Instructor: Mr. Joseph Taylor—NCBS County Coordinator for Iredell County and proprietor of Carolina Woodcrafters - maker of bird houses, feeders, etc. Workshop attendees will receive in "kit form" a fully functional bluebird nest box to assemble under Mr. Taylor's guidance. Attendees may keep the assembled nest boxes.

3 Global Positioning System (GPS) for Bluebirders

Instructor: Staff members - REI, Inc. Cary, N. C.—REI is a well known national supplier of high quality outdoor equipment and supplies. Workshop attendees will receive a brief overview of GPS and its capabilities and "hands on" practice with handheld GPS units under the guidance of REI staff members. NCBS attendees are encouraged to bring their own GPS unit if they own one. Many bluebird organizations and individual bluebirders are using GPS to facilitate mapping, bird banding, activities, and trail management.

#4 Preparing and conducting Unattended Auto-running Electronic Bluebird Exhibits

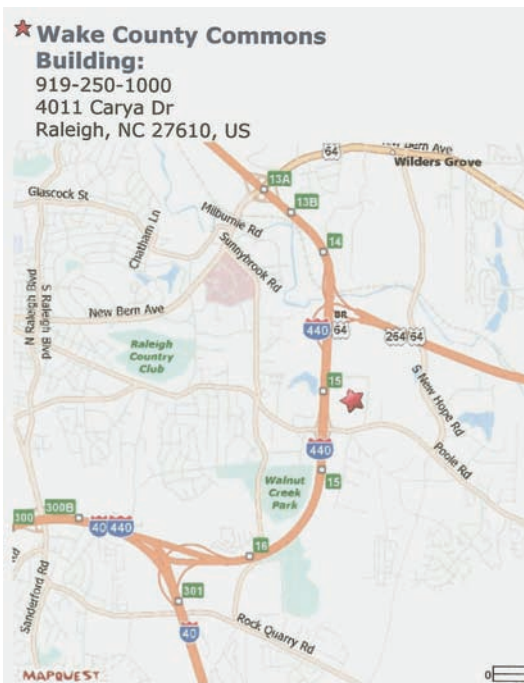
Instructor: Fred Benson, President N. C. Bluebird Society—Fred developed a highly successful unattended auto-running electronic Bluebird Exhibit that was a major attraction at the NCBS 2006 N. C. State Fair booth. Learn how to use relatively inexpensive off-the-shelf equipment available from Wal-Mart, K-mart, Target, etc. to deliver stunning electronic exhibits that can be used at parks, county fairs, libraries, schools, museums of natural science, etc. This capability is a great addition to standard fixed media exhibits commonly used. Presentations, photo albums, nestbox plans, bluebird information, etc. can be prepared and distributed on CDs to NCBS County Coordinators, teachers, librarians, and others who are called upon to conduct bluebird seminars, presentations, and exhibits. It is a great complement to the *Inside the Nest Box* DVD. Pointer based presentations can be delivered that are similar to Power Point presentations without the need for a laptop computer. Attendees will explore the techniques and tools of this technology and receive a CD that can be used as is or tailored to meet their needs.

#5 Photography for Bluebirders

Instructor: Mr. Chuck Carmack, Chuck Carmack Photography -Learn tips and techniques for photographing bluebirds from a professional wildlife photographer.



Photo by
Chuck Carmack
Printed with
permission.



Directions to Wake County Commons Building

Take the Poole Street Exit (#15) off of Rt. 40/440.
Turn left on Cary Dr.

Directions to the Microtel and Golden Corral

Take Exit 13B (64 Business) off of Rt. 440 and the
Microtel is on the right. The Golden Corral is on the
left after passing the Microtel.

**North Carolina Bluebird Society Annual Meeting
 Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the Wake County Commons Building.
 Off of Poole Rd.
 Raleigh, NC**

Schedule

Workshops—9:00 a.m. to 11 a.m.—Sign up on registration form.

Bluebirders Forum—9 a.m. to 10 a.m.—

Moderated panel answering bluebird questions posed by the audience. Three member panel will include Bill Satterwhite, Chuck Bliss and Helen Munro.

Exhibits—8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

County Coordinator

Exhibit about the County Coordinator Program and a call for volunteers to become County Coordinators.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Exhibit about Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and the need to help conserve them.

N. C. Birding Trail

Exhibit about the N. C. Birding Trail.

Experimental Bluebird Paraphernalia

Exhibit of experimental bluebird items -- nest boxes, roost boxes, Yardcam, Nestcam, etc.

Lunch—11:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Speakers—12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Speakers are listed on page 1.

Coffee, NCBS Membership, NCBS Store and Vendors 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Cut along this line

Registration Form—Saturday, March 31, 2007

Name #1 _____ Name #2 _____

Phone # 1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____

County _____

Please send checks to: NCBS, c/o Helen Munro, 22 Bobolink Rd., Jackson Springs, NC 27281

910-673-6936

hsmunro@ac.net

attending

_____ **Adult registration & Lunch** \$15 \$ _____

_____ **Child registration & Lunch** \$ 5 \$ _____

_____ **Adult registration only** \$10 \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

_____ **Will be there for dinner on Friday night.**

Return by March 14, 2007

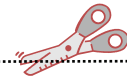
Friday: March 31, 2006

Traditionally the guest speakers and the NCBS Board Members meet the night before the annual meeting for dinner. This gives everyone an opportunity to socialize and to put the give-a-way bags together for the Saturday Meeting.

This year we will meet at the Golden Corral (9191-231-6905) on Poole Rd. at 7 pm. We will be in the room reserved for the Bluebird People. The cost is \$10.00 including tax and gratuity. No reservation is needed for this, but please indicate on the registration form whether or not you are coming so we can look for you.

Rooms have been set aside at the Microtel Inns & Suites for NCBS attendees on Friday night, March 30, 2007. The rooms will have two double beds or one king size bed. The rate of \$42.95 plus tax also provides a good Breakfast Buffet from 6:30 to 9:30 am Saturday morning. The Microtel's phone number is 919-231-0002. Identify yourself as being with the North Carolina Bluebird Society.

Cut along the line below and submit this registration form.



Workshop Schedule

Please indicate the number of the workshop, for example #1a, that you are interested in attending. You will be notified by email (or phone), if there are any changes. (Limit per workshop is 5 to 10 people.)

Name #1 _____ WS# _____ Name #2 _____ WS# _____

Name #1 _____ WS# _____ Name #2 _____ WS# _____

Time	Workshop Title	Workshop Title	Workshop Title	Workshop Title	Workshop Title
9:00 - 10:00 am	# 1a Decorative Bird House Painting	# 2a Bluebird Nest Box Construction	# 3a Global Positioning System (GPS) for Bluebirders	#4a Preparing and conducting Unattended Auto-running Electronic Bluebird Exhibits	# 5a Photography for Bluebirders
10:00-11:00 am	# 1b Decorative Bird House Painting	# 2b Bluebird Nest Box Construction	# 3b Global Positioning System (GPS) for Bluebirders	#4b Preparing and conducting Unattended Auto-running Electronic Bluebird Exhibits	# 5b Photography for Bluebirders

Will & Catherine Traylor retire as County Coordinators

Will and Catherine Traylor of Fayetteville were among the first of the North Carolina Bluebird Society's County Coordinators. They did programs in Cumberland County as well as some of the surrounding counties. Catherine monitored the bluebird trail put up by NCBS at the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens. Will and Catherine were always there to help with the annual meetings working on both Friday night to assemble the "goody" bags and also on Saturday. They organized all the helpers for the 2002 NCBS in Fayetteville. This picture is from the Biltmore Tour during the NABS 2005. NCBS thanks them for all their activities over the more than ten years that they have been active.



In Memory of Jack Finch—NC's Mr. Bluebird

(Continued from page 1)

wood for future nest boxes. I have been testing one produced from this wood in 1996 and it still looks new. Jack went out of his way to use recyclable material. The banana boxes for the nest boxes, the bottom of two liter soda bottles in the mealworm feeders, the corrugated cardboard for the mealworms to live in as well as a system to handle mealworms without touching them! *Homes for Bluebirds* was founded in 1973, a year after Jack started making houses because one of his sons did not recognize the song of a bluebird. In 1998, he attended the North American Bluebird Society meeting in Regina, Canada. At one of the meetings, members were hotly debating the merits of oval vs. round holes and standard vs. Peterson boxes as they quoted statistics as to how many bluebirds preferred one type of box over another. Jack stood up with a smile on his face. First, he defended his design and announced that he had no intention of changing it based on the research. As he put it, "I am not going to let a bird brain tell me how to build a box."

The evidence of one his experiments was found on the golf courses of Foxfire Village, NC. He did a series of nest boxes on ten foot poles to see if this cut down on the predators. These were part of the 2,200 boxes that he checked at the time. The poles have been cut in half and are still in use.

Jack was an active member of both the North Carolina Bluebird Society and the North American Bluebird Society. Up until a few years ago, he had attended most of the meetings of both. He financially contributed so that I could attend my first NABS meeting in 1998 because he



This picture is from www.danfinch.com. Dan, a potter, is one of Jack's sons and his website also features *Home for Bluebirds, Inc.* and blueberry bushes for which Jack and Finch's Nursery are also famous. Notice his North Carolina Bluebird Society hat.

felt that it was important for the President of NCBS attend the national meetings.

Homes for Bluebirds and the purchase of bluebird boxes were the purpose of my visits to see Jack, but I always got something extra. Jack, we will miss you.

Helen Munro, Editor & Past President of NCBS

P.S. Jack Finch requested that contributions be made to *Homes for Bluebirds, Inc.* in lieu of flowers. Send contributions to:
Homes for Bluebirds, Inc. Memorial
C/O The Heritage Bank
P. O. Box 10
Bailey, NC 27808

Orphaned bluebirds rescued by care giver

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On the first day of June 2006, an ambitious house cat captured and killed a female bluebird and caused the male to abandon their youngsters from recently hatched eggs. The people who shared the property with the bluebirds recognized the dilemma and attempted to sustain the four youngsters by feeding them a mixture of pulverized dog food, oat meal, multiple vitamins, and water. Although the youngsters devoured the food, they began to lack vigor and normal activity, so the residents contacted the Coulee Wildlife Rehabilitation team. The recovery folks relocated the young bluebirds to Sheila Engstad, a volunteer caregiver to needy birds.

Sheila fed the young bluebirds a commercial preparation for hand feeding baby birds called "Exact" and produced by Kaytee. The dry formula was mixed with water to a sticky consistency that was easily transferred to the gaping mouths of eager youngsters.

The young birds thrived on this formula and demanded feeding about every 15 minutes during daylight hours. Of course, each feeding produced a fecal deposit from each youngster. Thank God for paper towels to keep their cage clean and sanitary.

The formula was continued throughout their stay of about 20 days but was supplemented the last week with meal worms to familiarize them with natural insect food. The two male youngsters were unable to stand as they developed. A veterinarian examined them and found fractures in their leg bones that were irreparable, so they were euthanized. It was not apparent if the leg bones fractured due to injury or malnutrition. The two female youngsters remained healthy and continued to develop. On June 25, the two juvenile females were taken to New Amsterdam, a few miles west of Holmen, where they grew up. A bluebird house was placed in a resident's yard in preparation to release the bluebirds in ideal habitat.

It was decided that the feathered youngsters should be allowed to become familiar with their new environment for about an hour before their release. They could see, hear, and respond to the resident bird population and experience their new environment.

As I approached the site, Sheila already had placed the caged bluebirds about 25 feet from the earlier placed bluebird house and was observing a pair of adult bluebirds perched on a telephone line over the cage. Before I

could get my camera out, the adults swooped down and landed on the cage as if to welcome the exited youngsters. Wow! We decided immediately this was ideal bluebird habitat.

We discussed how to make the release so the excitement of their escape wouldn't cause them to head for the "county line." We decided to place them together in the bluebird house and restrain them from leaving for a short time by placing a hand over the entrance. They were excited and pushed to escape for a short time, but their fluttering ceased abruptly as we cleared their escape route.

Sheila remained close to the house so I could photograph her and the young bluebirds as they fledged just like other young bluebirds fledge. They came out cautiously and single file and fluttered slowly to the telephone wire overhead where they perched separately while we watched almost in disbelief.

Then surprisingly they both flew to a higher wire, where they perched close together as they often did in their cage. The adult bluebirds appeared again as the youngsters flew to a nearby tree and then returned to the line overhead.

We left the scene feeling amply rewarded and gratified for our efforts and experiences. And because of Sheila's care giving, there are two more healthy bluebirds in our wonderful world of bluebirds.

Leif Marking is a longtime member of the [Brice Prairie Conservation Association](#) and has been instrumental in promoting bluebird habitat in the area..



Sheila Engstad is all grins as the orphaned bluebirds she nursed back to health are ready to move into their own home. An area family had found four baby bluebirds and turned them over to Engstad, an expert bird caregiver.

North Carolina Bluebird Society

NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Please complete this form and send it with your check made payable to "NCBS" to:

North Carolina Bluebird Society
ATTN: David Hindsley
135 Lakeview Drive
Tarboro, NC 27886

I am interested in:

- _____ Assisting with the annual meeting
 _____ Serving as a NCBS Board Member
 _____ Helping with the newsletter
 _____ Conducting a bluebird workshop
 _____ Contacting my local paper with news
 _____ Volunteering to be a NCBS County Coordinator
 _____ Other (please explain)

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

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

Help Needed

Volunteers for the Annual Meeting are needed for the following functions:

- Registration/NCBS Desk—Check in and register people; collect dues for new and renewed memberships; distribute name tags.
- Make Coffee—Coffee pots are available, but someone needs to purchase coffee (will be reimbursed) and make fresh coffee throughout the day.
- Setup/Cleanup—Be there at 7 a.m. to set up chairs and tables; be responsible for collecting trash; and be available to cleanup at the end of the day.
- Facilitate catered lunch—Arrangements are being made for the lunch (Fred Benson and Bill Satterwhite), but they need help with table decorations, set up of food and shepherding people through the line.
- Auction/Drawing—Donated door prizes, silent auction items and possible raffles need someone that can be at the annual meeting at 8 a.m. and check the items in; decide what is to be a door prize and what is a silent auction item and label them accordingly.

Please contact Fred Benson at (919) 469-0410 or fbenson@ipass.net to volunteer.

New Cumberland County Coordinator

Tom Cain is the new Cumberland County Coordinator. He is 68 years old, retired and a widower. He has 3 children, a son in Las Vegas, son in Oregon and a daughter in North Carolina. He has been a bluebirder since 2003 and cares for the Bluebird Trail at Clark Park in Fayetteville. Tom is also a Senior Citizen Volunteer with the Fayetteville/Cumberland Park and Recreation Dept. Between the Bluebirds and Seniors, Tom is a very busy man. We are honored to have him as part of our team. Welcome Aboard Tom!!!

Virginia Pickles, County Coordinator Chairman
(919-658-3062) pic658@nc.rr.com



Volunteers needed for the N. C. State Fair 2007 Fair Dates: October 12-21

NCBS had a very successful exhibit at the 2006 N. C. State Fair. A Coordinator is needed to head up the NCBS 2007 State Fair Exhibit Team. Volunteers are also needed to help the Coordinator prepare the exhibit, put the exhibit up, staff the exhibit, and take the exhibit down after the Fair. The bluebird have made a great comeback thanks to the efforts of bluebird societies like NCBS. However, it is important to promote bluebird conservation. As older bluebirders become inactive, it is imperative that the next generation is educated in the why and means to support bluebirds and other cavity nesters.

At least two societies (Maine & Mississippi) have disbanded due to declining interest. Participation in the N.C. State Fair provides NCBS a unique opportunity to promote bluebird conservation to thousands of fair attendees as well as attract new members. It is one of the ways that NCBS is staying active and healthy.

Without a Fair Coordinator and volunteers to help with the exhibit, NCBS will not be able to participate in the 2007 State Fair. Check your calendar for October 12 to 21, 2007.

Even if you cannot be the Coordinator, call or email Fred Benson your willingness to man the booth for a couple hours or to help with set up and



Fred Benson, wife Myra, and grandson Alex in the NCBS booth.

tear down.

Contact Fred Benson

919-469-0410

fbenson@ipass.net

P.S. Fred Benson and Virginia Pickles are revitalizing the County Coordinator Program. County Coordinators are being contacted to verify their continued interest. New County Coordinators are being sought and County Coordinator Workshops will be conducted in different parts of the state. Again, a chance for you to get active. Contact Fred or Virginia.

North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

ALAMANCE	Fran Outhwaite	(336-226-4770)	MECKLENBURG	Doug Archer	(704-846-1019)
ANSON	Heyward McKinney	(704-694-3240)	MONTGOMERY	Don Berrier	(336-461-4457)
BLADEN	Mike Jackson	(910-863-3839)	MOORE	Helen Munro	(910-673-6936)
BRUNSWICK	Don Adams	(910-454-9856)	ORANGE	Sally Freeman	(919-471-2462)
BUNCOMBE	Gladys & Sam Phillips	(828-669-1010)	PITT	Dr. Edward Davis	(252-756-4165)
BURKE	Karen Gilliam	(828-437-6772)	POLK	Barbara Rowe	(828-863-4253)
CABARRUS	David Silla	(704-788-3778)	RANDOLPH	Chuck Bliss	(336-625-5423)
CASWELL	Mary Beth Moore	(919-563-2828)	ROBESON	Pete Roberts	(910-671-4702)
CHATHAM	Lloyd Edwards	(919-837-2468)	ROCKINGHAM	Fred Benson	(919-469-0410)
CHEROKEE	Carolyn Stockton	(828-494-4350)	ROWAN	Nancy Liggins	(704-636-8127)
CLAY	Carol Reid	(828-837-5807)	RUTHERFORD-	Christine Ammons	(828-287-3502)
CLEVELAND	Dewey Meeks	(704-734-1482)	STANLY	Richard Griffin	(704-474-4666)
CUMBERLAND	Tom Cain	(910-630-3970)	SURRY	Bethany Shepherd	(336-352-4455)
CURRITUCK	Heather Robbins	(252-599-7410)	SWAIN	Karen Jacobs	(828-488-6202)
DAVIDSON	Ray Welch	(336-764-0226)	UNION	Augustus Moore	(704-821-4624)
DAVIE	Steve & Lori Collier	(336-712-0720)	WAKE	Elizabeth Kloster	(919-866-0660)
DURHAM	Dee-Gee Gates	(919-681-3900)	WAKE	Bill Satterwhite	(919-787-5248)
EDGECOMBE	Ann Kent	(252-823-7862)	WARREN	William & Jill DeVries	(252-257-1330)
FORSYTH	Bill Abbey	(336-766-5857)	WATAUGA	John Whitley	(828-963-1911)
GASTON	Dana Glenn	(803-684-2300)	WAYNE	John Pickles	(919-658-3062)
GRANVILLE	Phil Walters	(919-603-0472)	YADKIN	Bob Southard	(336-679-8376)
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HENDERSON	Joe Sanders	(828-651-0920)	YORK, SC	Bill Hilton, Jr.	(803-684-5852)
HYDE	Sherri Surrat	(252-926-9313)	Web-site –	Liz Schmid	(336-595-6379)
IREDELL	Joseph R. Taylor	(704-872-7682)		liz.schmid@earthlink.net	
JOHNSTON	Ethelene Allen	(919-963-3831)		Virginia Pickles (919-658-3062) or	
LINCOLN	Pat Probst	(704-735-5780)		Fred Benson County (919-469-0410)	
MCDOWELL	Carol Gilliam	(828-738-0655)		Coordinator Chairmen	

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