



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

Bluebird Notes

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Volume 22 Number 2

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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Awesome NCBS 2007

Rick Studenmund spoke on behalf of *The Nature Conservancy* and the Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). Like the bluebird, the RCW has had their habitat greatly reduced. In this case their original extensive range has been decreased to 2% of the original. They nest in mature long leaf pines and drill a nest deep into the heart wood. Also like the bluebird, people are using special nest boxes

(Continued on page 15)



Dr. Mark Stanback of Davidson College reported on the temperature effect on bluebird fledglings raised in boxes with light exteriors compared to ones with dark exteriors. Simply put the failure rate of chicks increased in dark boxes was three (spring) to four (summer) times the failure rate in light boxes. There

(Continued on page 15)

Salinda Daley presented the scope of the NC Birding Trail It's Mission Statement is *To conserve and enhance North Carolina's bird habitat by promoting sustainable bird watching activities, economic opportunities and conservation education.*

Birding areas can be nominated for this collection of trails.

(Continued on page 15)



Dr. Cheryl Hoggard of the Piedmont Wildlife Center quickly converted a small cardboard box into a safe carrying case for injured birds. She poked air holes in the box using a ball point pen and rolled a handkerchief and formed it into a "donut" to support a bird in this box.

If you think that baby birds in the nest have been abandoned, check to see if they feel cold; if there are feces in the nest and whether they are dehydrated; i.e. is the skin of their abdomen wrinkled. The parents are taking

Bluebird Notes

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Bluebird Tales



February Backyard Bird Count



I participated in the recent February backyard bird count. These pictures were taken at the school where I work, (Rocky River Elementary). It isn't uncommon to see three or four bluebirds every morning upon arrival to work at seven in the morning.

My kindergarten class and I have even seen as many as four hanging to the side of the brick during lunch time, a truly beautiful sight to behold. Our school has interior court yards that have nesting boxes that are occupied every year. I can tell you that our efforts to help the bluebirds have paid off because I can see bluebirds in abundance as I travel in a two or three mile radius of the school.

Ruth McDonald, Concord, NC





Bluebird Tales



Captain Hook and Nest Box Builders

Robin Eisenbeis, Cary, NC



(Left) Six children and two adults display their newly created nest boxes that will be ready to put up in their Cary subdivision, Glenkirk, near the Preston Country Club in time for the 2007 bluebird season.

Robin Eisenbeis hosted a nest box building party for her three children, Oliver, Lydia and Dorrit, and their Bluebird neighbor enthusiasts, The Korabiks, Saturday, January 27th. Eight Bluebird nest boxes were built.

Below is a photo of "Captain Hook 2", the one-legged Bluebird who visits their feeders several times a day! It takes a bit more of a balancing act as he lands, but he is surviving wonderfully with one leg.



(Left) Lydia Eisenbeis, age 8, builds a nest box.

(Below) Oliver, age 10 shows off his carpentry skills.



NCBS



Above: Blue shirts left to right— Director Jim Jochum, Director Bill Satterwhite, Membership Chair David Hindsley, John Pickles and Bill Abbey; front—Historian Hank Moss.

Above left: Christin Ammons, mistress of the NCBS store.

Left: Bluebird Panel—Director Bill Satterwhite, Editor Helen Munro, Past President Chuck Bliss and Dan Finch, *Homes for Bluebirds*.

Lower Left: President Fred Benson, Catherine and Will Traylor, recipients of the 2007 NCBS Distinguished Award.

Below: Members enjoying the buffet lunch catered by Three Forks Restaurant.

Photos by Fred Benson, David Hindsley & Helen Munro.



2007



Above: Jimmy Dodson talks with Joyce Carmack. Chuck Carmack at his display. Virginia Pickles and Frances Phillips enjoying the Decorative Bird House Painting presented by the Carolina Tolars.

Right: John Pickles and Andy of REI, Inc. discussing a GPS (Global Positioning System) and how they work.

Below: Joseph Taylor talking to Gail Miller and other participants in the Bluebird Nest Box Construction Workshop.

Below Right: President and co-chairman of NCBS 2007 Fred Benson demonstrating the auto-running Electronic Bluebird Exhibits

A big thank you goes to both Fred and co-chair Bill Satterwhite for putting on this great meeting.



NABS 2007—Bluebird Partnerships

The North American Bluebird Society's annual meeting in 2007 will bring together the bluebird monitors (citizen-science) and the bluebird researchers (investigative-science) so that we can share what the bluebirds have to teach us about their world. The bluebird monitors will draw from the many North Americans that help the bluebirds through putting up nest boxes and checking on them. The bluebird researchers will be recruited from the colleagues of Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty of the University of Georgia. These scientists use the bluebirds as "experimental subjects" and investigate their mating habits and habitats.

This meeting will be held on the historic campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. Sleeping rooms will be available at the Georgia Center, a beautiful facility dedicated to Continuing Education. Rooms for meetings, vendors, exhibits and the silent auction will be conveniently located in this building. The speakers are currently being selected from bluebird researchers as well as from scientists investigating related topics.

The dates for this wonderfully informative and socially fun convention are Thursday, September 19 through Sunday morning, September 23. A pre-conference trip (Wednesday, September 19) will travel to Atlanta's breathtaking new aquarium and the Cyclorama, a 380 degree painting of the Battle of Atlanta. A post-conference trip (Sunday, September 23) is planned for Stone Mountain to see this magnificent monolith and the carvings depicting General Robert E. Lee and other Confederate leaders. Stone Mountain includes a railroad, museum and many other things to see and do. These pre and post conference trips will depend on the number of people signing up for them.

Thursday will include the NABS Board Meeting, four afternoon speakers, a NABS Reunion Dinner and an Affiliates Meeting. Friday will have a Bluebird L-breakfast, field trip to the Georgia Arboretum, a picnic lunch and a tour of historic Athens. Friday night's dinner will be at the Georgia Arboretum in the Conservatory. Saturday will find everyone listening to the scientific experts tell the secrets of the bluebirds.

Arrangements will be made for a local guide for a bird walk on Sunday morning.

This schedule has been planned for a full and fun meeting, not only show-casing our beloved bluebirds, but the great Southern Cities of Athens and Atlanta as well. Please remember that a convention is only as good as its delegates, and that you are part of this partnership.

This is your convention. The bluebirds are, of course, the excuse, but you are the reason.

Come, learn and share in this Bluebird Partnership.

Editor's Note: The NCBS Board has voted as an affiliate of NABS to donate money in support of this convention. As the editor of this newsletter and the co-chairman of NABS 2007 and because of our proximity to Georgia, I am urging you to consider attending. I am, also, looking for volunteers that would like to help with the registration, silent auction, door prizes, etc. Thanks.

Helen S. Munro
E-mail: hsmunro@ac.net
Phone: (910) 673-6936
FAX: (910) 673-7345



NABS 2007 Registration Form—Personal Information

Registrant #1

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|-------------------|------------|
| Name | NABS # |
| Street Address | City |
| State or Province | Zip or PC |
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E-mail if you wish to be contacted with updates

At the Convention I should be recognized as :

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Time Attendee | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendee of 10 or more |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NABS Board Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Former NABS Board Member |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter | <input type="checkbox"/> Artist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer |

Registrant #2—Only contract information that is different from Registrant #1.

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Name | NABS # |
| Street Address | City |
| State or Province | Zip or PC |
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E-mail if you wish to be contacted with updates

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Presenter | <input type="checkbox"/> Artist |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibitor | <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trip Leader | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer |

Complete this form and return with full payment to:

NABS 2007
c/o Helen Munro,
22 Bobolink Rd.

Jackson Springs, NC 27281

Checks should be made payable to **NABS 2007**.

- There will be space limitations on field trips. We will honor selections based on the postmark.
- We will send you an acknowledgement postcard within 3 weeks.
- Registrations will be accepted up until August 25, 2007. After that, registrations will be accepted depending on availability.
- Cancellations prior to August 25, 2006 will be refunded less any obligations already made.
- Make room reservations directly with the Georgia Center (800-884-1381). Identify yourself as part of NABS 2007 and Event # 61669.
- Not necessary to be a NABS member, but consider joining at the conference.

Meeting & Meals Registrations

| Registrant #1 | Cost | Registrant #2 | Description |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|---|
| | \$45 | | Registration for one to three days includes Saturday Lunch |
| | \$25 | | Thursday Night—NABS Reunion |
| | \$35 | | Friday Night—Banquet with Awards and Entertainment |
| | \$15 | | Saturday Morning—Bluebird L- Breakfast |
| | \$35 | | Saturday Night—Georgia Botanical Garden includes bus transportation to Garden |
| | | | Sub-Total fore Registration and Meals |

Field Trip Registrations

| Registrant #1 | Cost | Registrant #2 | Description |
|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|--|
| | \$65 | | Wednesday Pre-Conference Bus Trip to Atlanta (Aquarium, Cyclorama) |
| | \$30 | | Friday Bus Trip to Georgia Botanical Garden and Historic Athens. Includes Lunch. |
| | \$65 | | Sunday Post-Conference Bus Trip to Stone Mountain |
| | | | Sub-Total of Field Trips |
| | | | Total of Registration, Meals & Trips |

A blur of blue wings.

The attached photo is from mid-July 2006.

Caption: a blur of blue wings.

This is a mated pair sitting on their second brood. The nest box is one of 5 on a 4 acre tract. My census this year shows 3 inhabited by bluebirds, and at least 2 of the families had more than one brood. I did not count eggs, but saw at least 6 fledglings during my sporadic observations, though I'm relatively sure that my count of babies was lower than the actual amount. We started our bluebird trail 8 years ago with 2 boxes and have had great success. The population of bluebirds in the area has noticeably increased.

Tim Buckner, Weaverville, NC



Bluebird Nest

Hi,

We had a male blue bird die in the nest, just as if he fell asleep sitting up. I didn't get a chance to empty the nest the day I found it. He had been dead awhile as he was rather dried out.

Fast forward a week or two when my numb brain remembers that I need to bury the poor little fella. I open the box and female flies out! There were four little eggs, and the dead male woven into the nesting material!!!

I couldn't exhume the body without ruining the nest. So the little, dried out cadaver is still in the box, insulating four healthy eggs!

Just thought you might find this rather bizarre as I did.

God bless,
*DeDe Marshall
Samarkand, NC*

Sleeping Baby

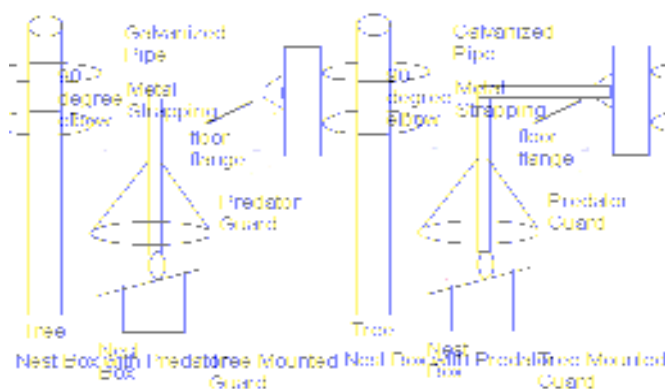


Hope you enjoy this photo. The clutch hatched late spring 06 in Loganville, GA (40 miles NE of Atlanta). All young birds survived.

Joe Klimek, Loganville, GA

Fred Benson's Tree Mounting System for Nest Boxes

Use 1/2" diameter galvanized pipe to make a "stand-off" mount. Cut an 18" length of 2 X 6 treated lumber and bolt two metal straps to one side. The straps are drilled at intervals so they can each be individually overlapped and secured around the tree with stove bolts. A floor flange is attached to the 2 X 6 block with bolts, a short length of pipe is screwed into the floor flange. A 90 degree pipe elbow is attached to the other end of the pipe pointing down. Another short length of pipe is screwed into the elbow. Drill and tap a 1/2" diameter pipe cap for a 1/4 X 20 TPI eye bolt. Use a 1/4" X 20 TPI nut to lock the eyebolt in place. The pipe cap is screwed on the lower end of the downward pipe. The nest box is attached to the eye bolt with a galvanized snap hook and staple bracket screwed into the roof. A cone shaped predator guard is attached to the pipe above the nest box with a hanger clamp as a collar. The cone shaped guard should be of a diameter to completely mask the nest box. It is fairly easy to make cone shaped predator guards from sheet metal and fasten the edges with rivets or stove bolts.



Staple Bracket for attaching nest box.



This approach will work on any diameter tree but is a fair amount of trouble to build and attach. You can loosen the mounting straps using the drilled interval holes as needed to accommodate tree growth.

Welcome Warren County Coordinator Stella Rideout

My name is Stella Rideout. I am married and have two grown children, a son-in-law and one grandson. Warren County has been home for me, except for a few years after high school, while continuing my education. My husband is from Warren County also.

We have made a few "house calls" together already to assist other bluebird lovers in putting up bluebird houses or refurbishing existing ones. With donations from some local supporters, we have put up four poles and bluebird houses at our new Warren County Parks and Recreation Complex. As construction and expansion continues at this Complex, we plan to add more houses and establish a bluebird trail. Bluebirds are fascinating to me and they remind me of my mother. She loved to watch them and that is where my love for them started. She passed away in March of 2005 at the age of 89.

Every time I see a bluebird I smile and remember the joy they brought to her and this joy will continue for generations to come.



Penny Road bird trail helps :spark students' interest in science

Reprinted with permission from the Apex Herald, Thursday, February 1, 2007
Shawn Daley, Editor

As an employee of the Environmental Protection Agency, John Sykes has seen a disturbing trend take place over the past few years. Fewer American students are pursuing science degrees and more scientific tasks are being outsourced to different countries.

So when Sykes and his wife, Ann, were asked to take charge of the building and grounds committee at Penny Road Elementary School, Sykes added one provision. He wanted to make sure the students became involved in projects dealing with the environment.

The one Sykes project generating the most interest among students and teachers is a recently completed bluebird trail.

With the help of N.C. Bluebird Society President Fred Benson and volunteer Bill Satterwhite, the Sykes have established an impressive avian environment. Besides bluebird houses, the trail also includes houses for song birds, woodpeckers and owls.

The Sykes hope students will learn about the importance of birds in the environment and, in the long run, develop a lasting interest in science. Although Sykes' expertise is computers, he is still worried that American schools are falling behind in promoting math and science.

"Last year, one of UNC's chancellors came and spoke to us {at the EPA}," said John. "There were only 200 graduates in computational science in the U.S. while there were 20,000 in China alone. We do a lot of computational research in toxicology, genomics and others and that work is going to be outsourced to other countries."

"That makes me somewhat concerned that maybe we aren't doing the best job with math and science and we need to get the kids involved outside and learning about the environment and science. Getting them involved at an early age will help develop their interest."

Ann, a former EPA employee and avid bird

watcher, said children need to learn about the environment because their generation could face serious problems decades from now.

"Global warming is going to be an issue for these kids," said Sykes (Ann). "They aren't going to have a choice and will have to get involved somehow."

Birds are a great way to develop children's interest in science because kids love watching wildlife.

"This school has a number of children bused here from Raleigh and other urban parts of the area," said Ann. "I seriously don't think those kids have seen birds in a setting with feeders and houses. I think it's important for them to recognize why the birds are important to the environment."

"Also, it's important for people living right here to take notice. Maybe it will help them realize that you don't have to cut down that tree or put pesticides on

things."

Building a bird trail and getting students involved in the environment also seemed to make sense at a school that shares land with a public park.

"This is such a unique environment where we have a school and park together," said Ann. "In a day and age when we are trying to build new schools and we are wondering where the land will come from this is a nice way to combine it all."

"Hopefully, the kids will learn that

there are options and you don't always have to tear down things and wreck woodlands to build something."

Besides the bird trail, the Sykes have also set up rain barrels and have planted hundreds of flowers to add to the school's natural setting. Both projects involved participation from students who learned about water conservation, soil and planting.

"Whatever we do with the grounds we try to work it into the curriculum and help the teachers out," said John.

So far, the Sykes' efforts have received plenty of positive feedback from school administrators and parents.

(Continued on page 13)





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.

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| Description of Item | Cost Postage Included | No. Wanted | Total |
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| Caps with NCBS Logo | \$ 13.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
| Bluebird Note Cards (12) | \$ 12.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
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| <i>Carolina Blue</i> T-Shirts | | | |
| by Dempsey Essick (S, M, L, XL) | \$20.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
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| New: Bluebird Earrings for pierced ears | \$10.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
| New: <i>Carolina Blue</i> Magnets | \$ 4.00 | X_____ | =_____ |
| | or 3 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 ncbbluebird.com website.

Volunteers WANTED

Immediate opening for a volunteer to support the (www.ncbluebird.com) website. Basic knowledge of HTML and website content management required.

Please contact Fred Benson (fbenson@ipass.net; (919) 469-0410) if you would like to volunteer your services for this important function.

Future openings for volunteers to fill Board positions starting in Spring 2008.

President—schedules Board Meetings and compiles the agenda.

V.P.—supports President and takes his place when necessary

Recording Secretary—takes minutes of all Board meetings.

Corresponding Secretary—sends out membership packets, thank you notes, correspondence, etc.

Treasurer—pay bills, writes checks, formulates budget, does quarterly report

Membership Chair—Deposits dues

Directors—These jobs vary depending on the interest of the directors. One may be the County Coordinator Chair; one may be the historian; one may be the newsletter editor; one could be the web master.

Board meetings are four times a year. A great opportunity to help the organization that helps the bluebirds.

County Coordinator Workshop



The first County Coordinator Workshop for Region #2 was held at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on Saturday March 3, 2007.

Thank you, Bill Abbey, for arranging no-cost use of the meeting room.

In attendance: Bill Abbey (Forsyth), Chuck Bliss (Randolph), Joseph & Jocelyn Taylor (Iredell), Ray Welch (Davidson), Paul Waldrop (Guilford), Bethany Shepherd (Surry) and Fred Benson (Rockingham).

Other County Coordinator Workshops will be arranged in the future. Their purpose is to discuss what County Coordinators can do locally to further the health of bluebirds.

Penney Road bird trail (concluded)

(Continued from page 11)

“I think the grounds really set the tone for a school,” said John. “We’ve added a lot of flowers and birdhouses, especially in front near the carpool line. I think if the grounds are colorful, nice and clean it sets a tone the school is also clean and well kept.”

“I hear from the principal (Mark Barber) all the time that kids love seeing the birds,” said Ann. “They are always telling him what types of birds they see. I’ve heard from teachers, too, who have said the kids love watching the birds near the

windows. Thankfully, we haven’t had any reports of kids getting ‘pooped’ on or dive bombed.” Perhaps the only negative coming from Penny Road environmentally friendly landscape can be felt at the nearby subdivision of Waterford Green. The Sykes have already received a few lighthearted comments from their former Apex neighbors. “Some of the parents from Waterford Green, where we use to live, said now they know where all their bluebirds have gone,” said John. “They are all living here at the school!”

North Carolina Bluebird Society

NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

North Carolina Bluebird Society Dues:

() 1 Year (\$10.00)

() 3 Years (\$25.00)

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City, State & Zip _____

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I prefer to access the NCBS Bluebird Notes newsletter via the Internet rather than have it mailed to me.

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| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

Access information will be sent to the E-mail address you furnished including advance notification of membership expiration.

If you elect to receive the Bluebird Notes newsletter by mail, your Membership Expiration appears on your Mailing Label.

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

Special Membership Offer for Members of NABS' Affiliate Organizations

In their continuing effort to align NABS closer with affiliates, the NABS Board is extending a discounted membership offer to NCBS members.

**This is a special offer only available from
1/1/2007 through 12/31/2008
\$15 a year for both single (\$20) and
household (\$30) memberships
Good for renewals and new memberships**

Your annual membership in NABS helps support bluebird conservation, research and education. *Thank you!*

**North American Bluebird Society
PO Box 43
Miamiville, OH 45147
www.nabluebirdsociety.org/APlus**

Name _____ # _____
(Renewal only)

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ email _____

NCBS 2007 Speakers continued from page 1.

Rick Studenmund—RCW

(Continued from page 1)

that are put into the live longleaf pines by removing a chunk of the tree using a chain saw. The RCW nests are monitored, the young are weighed, sexed and banded.

Fort Bragg has the largest population of RCW as a result of the army's commitment to their care and protection. There are laws that protect the nest and control building on the property with the mature longleaf pines and the RCW nests.

The Nature Conservancy is acquiring ownership or control of land contiguous to Fort Bragg as they fight to increase suitable RCW habitat. *The Nature Conservancy* is active in conservation efforts all over the world. RCW is only one of the NC projects

Salinda Daley –NC Birding Trail

(Continued from page 1)

if they are on public land and have a safe parking area. Applications for the Piedmont area closed April 1, 2007. The mountain area is the next area from which to nominate a site. Go to www.ncbirdingtrails.org for more information and the application form.

Did you know that tourism is the second largest industry in North Carolina and that 1.3 million birders in NC generate \$2.5 billion in expenditures? Forty percent of these birders are non-residents. Participation in the NC Birding Trail is an “opportunity to educate the public about the importance of wildlife & habitat.” Birder Friendly Business/Community training sessions are available so that communities can learn how to take advantage of this birding interest.

Dr. Stanback—Temperature Effects

(Continued from page 1)

is no question that high temperatures (above 104° F or 26 ° C) are detrimental to the bluebird embryos.

Two general conclusions were that spring clutches have a greater success rate than summer ones and that northern populations have greater hatching success than southern ones. Again, this is a reflection of temperature.

Dr. Stanback also addressed the question of whether by helping the bluebirds we are affecting the survival rate of other species. By decreasing the size of the entrance hole to one and a fourth inches, he found that the number of nuthatch nestings increased dramatically. This size hole is too small for the bluebirds and so now favors use by the nuthatches.

Dr. Cheryl Hoggard—Bird Triage

(Continued from page 1)

care of them if these three conditions are not true. Many people panic if they do not see the parents around. They try to rescue birds and feed them. Even if they prove to be abandoned, do not feed them. Use the triage box and get the babies to a rehabilitator.

Dr. Hoggard emphasized that the most common mistake that people make is to “kidnap” healthy fledglings. These are the ones that the parents are teaching to hunt for food, but appear to be alone because the parents are up in a tree out of sight. Again, if injured or truly abandoned, use the triage box with a soft non-frayed cloth in the bottom and a “donut” if there is need to support the bird during transportation.

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) |
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