



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

Bluebird Notes



NCBS is an affiliate of NABS.

PUBLISHED BY
The North Carolina Bluebird Society
ncbluebird.com

December 2007 through February 2008

Volume 23 Issue 1

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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Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities
555 E Connecticut Ave
Southern Pines, NC 28387
www.weymouthcenter.org
Weymouth Woods
Sandhills Nature Preserve
1024 Fort Bragg Road
Southern Pines, NC 28387

NCBS 2008 —Southern Pines, NC—April 5th

The morning segment of NCBS 2008 will be held at **Weymouth Center**. This grand old house was home to the Boyd family. James Boyd was an author and editor of *The Pilot of Southern Pines*. The afternoon segment will be at **Weymouth Woods**, land donated by Mrs. James Boyd in 1963. Your registration fee will include lunch, speakers and a “goody bag”. There will be tickets for chances on door prizes, the opportunity to shop at the NCBS Store along with a Silent Auction .

Dan Finch, son of Jack Finch (founder of *Homes for Bluebirds*), regrets that he has a scheduling conflict so Helen Munro, Editor of *Bluebird Notes* for the past eleven years, will share her bluebird experiences and bluebird pictures submitted by readers to the newsletter. Susan Campbell of Southern Pines will do a presentation on Hummingbirds. Contrary to popular beliefs, NC hosts more than one species of hummers.

Every two years NCBS elects officers and directors for the NCBS Board. This is the year for an election. Check page 14 to see how you can help. Talbert’s Catering will serve lunch on the side patio off the meeting room. It will feature hot dogs, hamburgers, tomato, lettuce, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, drinks and dessert. Taking your lunch into the garden will definitely give you “lunch with a view”. After lunch, we will drive to Weymouth Woods. There will be a Red-cockaded Woodpecker program. Weather permitting there will be a misting net demonstration and the banding of song birds. The Natural History Museum at Weymouth Woods will be open and shows the role of fire in the longleaf pine eco-systems.

See page 10 for information on a hotel and a Friday night get-together. Room reservations should be made by Saturday, March 15th. Registration for this annual meeting is due by Friday, March 28th.



Bluebird Notes

Issue 22 Vol. 4

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Bluebird Tales



Where Bluebirds Sing Again

This is the title of Frank Newell's article in the October 2007 issue of Guideposts. The NCBS Board voted to send his Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc. a donation.

“Guideposts October issuecontains this month's "Living Green" series story about the efforts of a North Carolina man to renew habitat for bluebirds. When Frank Newell retired from the military and returned to his boyhood home, he noticed right away that changes in land use had caused a "housing problem" for wildlife. Bluebirds were especially impacted by the clear cutting of trees and removal of old farm fence posts that had been nesting places. Longing for the happy sound of bluebirds singing again on his land, Frank built one bluebird house, then another and another. Now, after 77,000 more bluebird houses and founding Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, he's proof that even one person can have a very positive impact on our natural environment.”

Quoted from the Forbes.com website.

Thank You Note

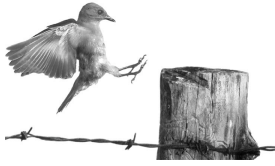
November 13, 2007

North Carolina Bluebird Society Helen Munro
22 Bobolink Rd.
Jackson Springs, NC 27281

Ms. Munro,

We here at Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc. would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous donation. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and will go toward our countless efforts to continue to save the precious bluebirds. With your support, we have been able to reach many individuals through our website that may have otherwise never known about our rescue operation as well as the NC Bluebird Society. Thank you for your continued support of the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc.

Thank you,
Frank B. Newell



Bluebird Tales



My First Experience with Bluebirds By Doyle Robertson Jr.

In February of 2007, Mr. B. J. Taylor, the Iredell County Coordinator for the North Carolina Bluebird Society, introduced me to Bluebirds. He let me see a Gilbertson style Bluebird house he had just completed in his wood shop and I was very impressed with its design. After looking the house over really good I went home and designed my own version of what I had seen. I named my first Bluebird house the Robertson Junior house and installed it on a light pole in the front of my home (See picture at right).

After looking at my creation for a while I thought it was missing something - a Perch. I then created what I now call my "Junior" Bluebird perch system and attached it to my Bluebird house (see picture below). It was an instant hit with all the Bluebirds in my area.

At this point I knew nothing about Bluebirds or where to mount a house for them so I chose the only place I could see it from my porch - the light pole in front of my house. It is about 15 feet from a heavily traveled main highway. Just above my Bluebird house is a basketball sized light fixture, which burns all night, and behind it is a medium sized American flag, which vigorously waves in the wind. The house is mounted approximately 4 1/2 feet above the ground.

The Robertson "Junior" style Bluebird house with Perch Success History:

March 30, 2007	3 babies fledged	No mortality
May 30, 2007	3 babies fledged	No mortality
July 30, 2007	3 babies fledged	No mortality

I truly believe that I owe my success with this house to the perch I created which I call "Junior". The Bluebird parents used "Junior" (the perch) religiously to feed all three sets of babies they had, to rest



on and to watch out for predators. Note the size and placement of the perch. Larger birds cannot sit on the perch because of the overhanging roof. I believe that having my perch there made it easier on the par-

ents. The babies also used "Junior" on their exit from the house to sit on and get ready for their first flight.

Thanks to B. J. and the information he shares with me on a regular basis I have designed six additional Bluebird houses all of which have a "Junior" style perch on them. I will continue to field test these new designs and let you know what happens.

By the way, B. J. gave me one of his professionally built Gilbertson style house, which I have mounted in my yard so I can determine if his (without a perch) or mine (with a perch) work better. It is my belief that I could have had four families this year had it not been as hot as it was in August. On many occasions I saw several Bluebirds going in and out of my "Junior" enhanced Bluebird houses but I guess it was just too hot for them.

Editor's Note: My understanding is that you do not use perches because it makes the bluebird house attractive to House Sparrows. However, House Sparrows do not like Gilbertson Boxes. Anyone have any comments?



North Carolina Nesting Survey 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>	<u>1st date</u>
Apex								
Theresa Korab	1	1	8	6	6	1	0	15-Apr-07
Asheville								
Diane Hankins	4	2	13	12	12	1	0	6-Apr-07
Benson								
McGee's Crossroads Elementary School	14	7	40	9	6	3	0	15-Mar-07
Burlington								
Kathryn Carroll	8	5	23	22	21	0	0	21-Apr-07
Frances Outhwaite	30	28	154	143	122	8	0	27-Mar-07
Chapel Hill								
Lois Herring	4	4	21	17	17	1	0	2-Apr-07
Carol Woods Com. C/o Sue Fletcher	30	21	151	119	114	4	3	10-Mar-07
Clemmons								
Bill Abbey	62	52	400	329	313	22	6	4-Apr-07
Concord								
Jennifer Linn-Raby	2	1	7	6	6	1	0	22-Apr-07
Dudley								
Georgia Pacific Bluebird Trail	14	7	49	39	39	0	0	26-Feb-07
Durham								
Dennis Duryea	1	1	3	3	3	0	0	1-May-07
Fayetteville								
Marijane Hailey	1	1	8	7	7	1	0	29-Jun-07
Wilbur & Catherine Traylor	6	4	21	5	5	0	0	8-Mar-07
Four Oaks								
Ethelene Allen	50	39	313	239	213	13	8	15-Mar-07
Goldsboro								
Waynesborough Garden Club	8	2	10	9	9	0	0	18-Apr-07
Greenville								
Henry T Peszko	1	1	9	9	9	1	0	13-Apr-07
Greensboro								
Paul E. Waldrop	26	16	85	81	79	12	4	2-Mar-07
Bryan Park, Course c/o Robert Rothrock	49	35	261	261	221	35	20	1-Apr-07
Richard Steinert	1	1	8	8	8	2	0	15-Feb-07
Hickory								
Lake Hickory CC c/o David G. Frye	68	47	319	192	171	21	3	20-Mar-07
Holly Springs								
Steve & Elena Grantham	1	1	4	4		0	0	8-Mar-07
Jackson Springs								
Foxfire Garden Club c/o Helen Munro	79	68	457	323	310	33	4	1-Apr-07
Kings Mountain								
Glenn C. Sellers	4	4	32	26	26	2	1	
Liberty								
Brian H. Greene, JR	3	2	20	7	7	2	0	
Lincolnton								
Doris D. Sanders	3	2	18	17	16	1	1	16-Mar-07

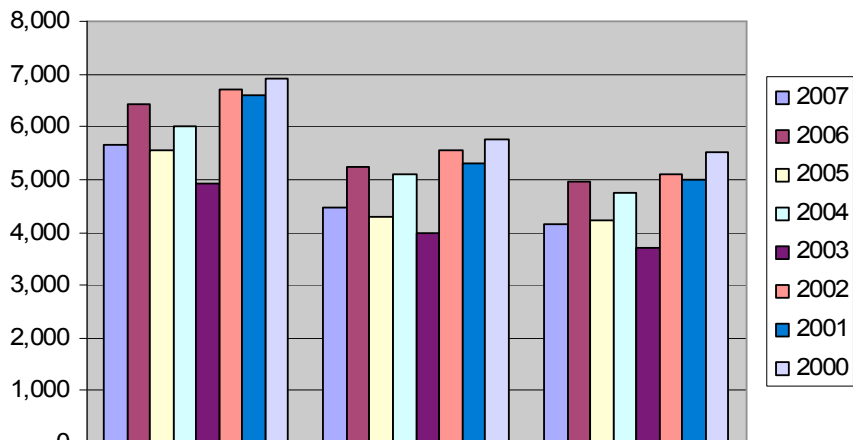
North Carolina Nesting Survey 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u># BB w/bb</u>	<u>eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>	<u>1st date</u>
Morganton								
Linda Julien	19	18	140	98	91	13	2	31-Mar-07
Mt. Olive								
John & Virginia Pickles	4	2	15	12	12	0	0	13-Mar-07
New Bern								
Don Elsass	2	2	13	13	13	1	0	21-Mar-07
North Wilkesboro								
Lea W. Barnes	1	1	13	10	10	1	1	31-Mar-07
Pfafftown								
Bill Brewer	20	20	68	63	63	4	0	7-Apr-07
Pinehurst								
Joyce & Len Tufts	21	15	65	48	33	3	0	28-Mar-07
Purlear								
Zane T. Walsh	19	11	116	113	97	11	4	1-Apr-07
Raleigh								
Carol Kepler	11	7	48	33	26	4	0	7-Apr-07
Scott Bass	1	1	4	4	0	0	0	
Susan Wyatt	29	18	142	102	97	9	3	27-Mar-07
Sandy Thach	4	2	15	14	14	1	1	19-Mar-07
Natalie Wilson	2	1	15	14	10	1	1	17-Mar-07
Trinity Academy of Raleigh	11	11	56	34	34	3	0	31-Mar-07
P Kusterer	1	1	4	4	4	0	0	15-Mar-07
Louise Dail	1	1	11	11	11	1	1	23-Mar-07
Patrice Cooke	3	1	8	5	5	1	0	15-Apr-07
Jim & Ellen Kelly	2	1	9	9	7	1	0	3-Apr-07
John & Laurie Nuhn	3	1	9	7	7	1	0	6-Apr-07
Ravenscroft School c/o Reah Kittelberger	4	3	20	20	20	3	3	30-Mar-07
Reah Kittelberger	4	2	7	2	2	0	0	6-Apr-07
Lois Mopsik c/o Reah Kittelberger	1	1	14	14	14	1	1	15-Mar-07
Bill Satterwhite	35	20	131	106	103	6	1	21-Mar-07
Jane Currin	4	1	13	11	11	1	1	24-Mar-07
Southern Pines								
Jim Walker	60	61	206	138	131	20	5	15-Mar-07
H. Moss, Jr	94	67	447	373	373	21	1	21-Apr-07
Statesville								
Sue Ligon	4	3	35	16	13	1	2	31-Mar-07
Tarboro								
Kay & David Hindsley	6	2	25	23	23	2	1	31-Mar-07
Thomasville								
Rev. Chet Byerly	2	2	7	7	7	0	0	10-Apr-07
Union Mills								
Carol B. Radford	2	2	19	14	13	2	1	7-Mar-07
Barbara W. Evans	2	2	8	7	7	1	0	15-Apr-07
Christine B. Ammons	58	42	501	372	349	30	26	28-Mar-07

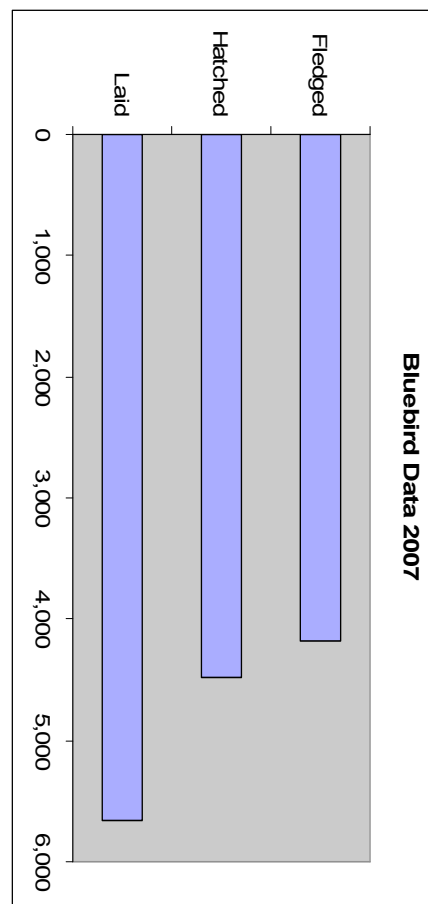
North Carolina Nesting Survey 2007

<u>Name</u>	<u># of</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>	<u>1st date</u>
Union Grove								
Joseph H & Anne J Critchley	5	3	22	21	21	2	0	24-Mar-07
Wadesboro								
Doug & Luke Edwards	63	51	410	365	344	23	13	1-Apr-07
West End								
Marisa Back	1	1	8	7	7	1	0	7-Apr-07
Pinehurst Greenway Trail c/o Marisa Back	11	7	51	40	40	5	3	30-Mar-07
Gene & Joanne Lentz	2	1	10	9	9	1	0	30-Apr-07
Robert & Ruth Stolting	15	15	76	53	38	6	0	2-Apr-07
Iris & Richard Johnson	12	6	68	56	56	5	4	
Wingate								
Ruth Carelock	6	3	21	11	11	4	0	24-Apr-07
Wilkesboro								
Jim Felts	38	32	237	196	186	10	4	14-Mar-07
Samuel Bullard	6	5	33	33	24	1	1	25-Mar-07
Winston Salem								
Frank Williams	35	16	105	98	98	7	0	4-Apr-07
Totals	1094	814	5659	4479	4174	372	130	

Blue Bird Eggs Data 2000-2007



	Laid	Hatched	Fledged
2007	5,659	4,479	4,174
2006	6,430	5,241	4,962
2005	5,559	4,314	4,236
2004	6,011	5,092	4,761
2003	4,932	3,998	3,693
2002	6,723	5,563	5,098
2001	6,613	5,324	4,996
2000	6,923	5,765	5,522



North Carolina Nesting Survey Comments 2007

Lincolnton, NC This is the third year I have been keeping records on my boxes. I did not send a survey in last year but had a very successful year.

This year was successful also, but a little odd. I have three boxes. The box in the back of my house has had a brood of Chickadees two years. The box in front of my house has had bluebirds every year. Last year I put a camera in the box and was able to watch the first brood after they hatched and thru the fledging. Quite interesting. I watched the second brood all the way. I cleaned out the box and kept a eye on it for some time. No new nest. Sometime later I checked the box in the backyard and lo and behold there were 4 babies, which fledged sometime within the next week. Don't know when.

My camera got hit with lightening but I kept watching and sure enough on 7/20 a new nest was started in the front yard box, only four eggs were laid and yesterday 3 fledged. One egg did not hatch.

During the time the camera was in the nest, the babies would look up towards it like they could hear it or something. I'm assuming that is why the third brood was raised in the backyard box.

That is another thing I don't understand. Last year I had four broods in the same box and I think I would have had four broods in the same box this year but for the camera. Is that possible or were there two sets of parents. I thought blue-birds only had three broods.

Doris D. Sanders

Raleigh, NC Lots of sparrows around, but think they are friends with the bluebirds. They all eat mealworms and sunflower chips together!!!

Mama & Daddy brought first babies to feeder for mealworms. Never saw second set at feeder. Temperature very hot after these babies

fledged. Wonder if they survived?

Third set had just started coming to roof and to feeder for mealworms with Mama and Daddy. They have survived this 100 plus weather so far. Hope they all will survive. They come to my whistle.

Louis Dail

Southern Pines, NC There were the usual number of Northern Wren nests built this year (8). Cowbirds laid eggs in three boxes and unidentified nests in two different boxes.

Have filled in NC Bluebird Society survey for 13 years.

Jim Walker

Wingate, NC One nest had a wasp nest in the top of box and one nest had spiders' web and bumble bee inside. After cleaning, this box was used by bluebirds two times.

I enjoyed watching the bird bath in the yard. The adults bring the young birds to the bird bath from the surrounding trees and show them how to drink and bathe. They come three and four at a time. The bluebirds don't know if they want a drink first or a bath first.

Ruth Carelock

Clemmons, NC This seems to be the year toward which Tanglewood Trail has been working for 25 years. (Surveys have been submitted for 21 years.)

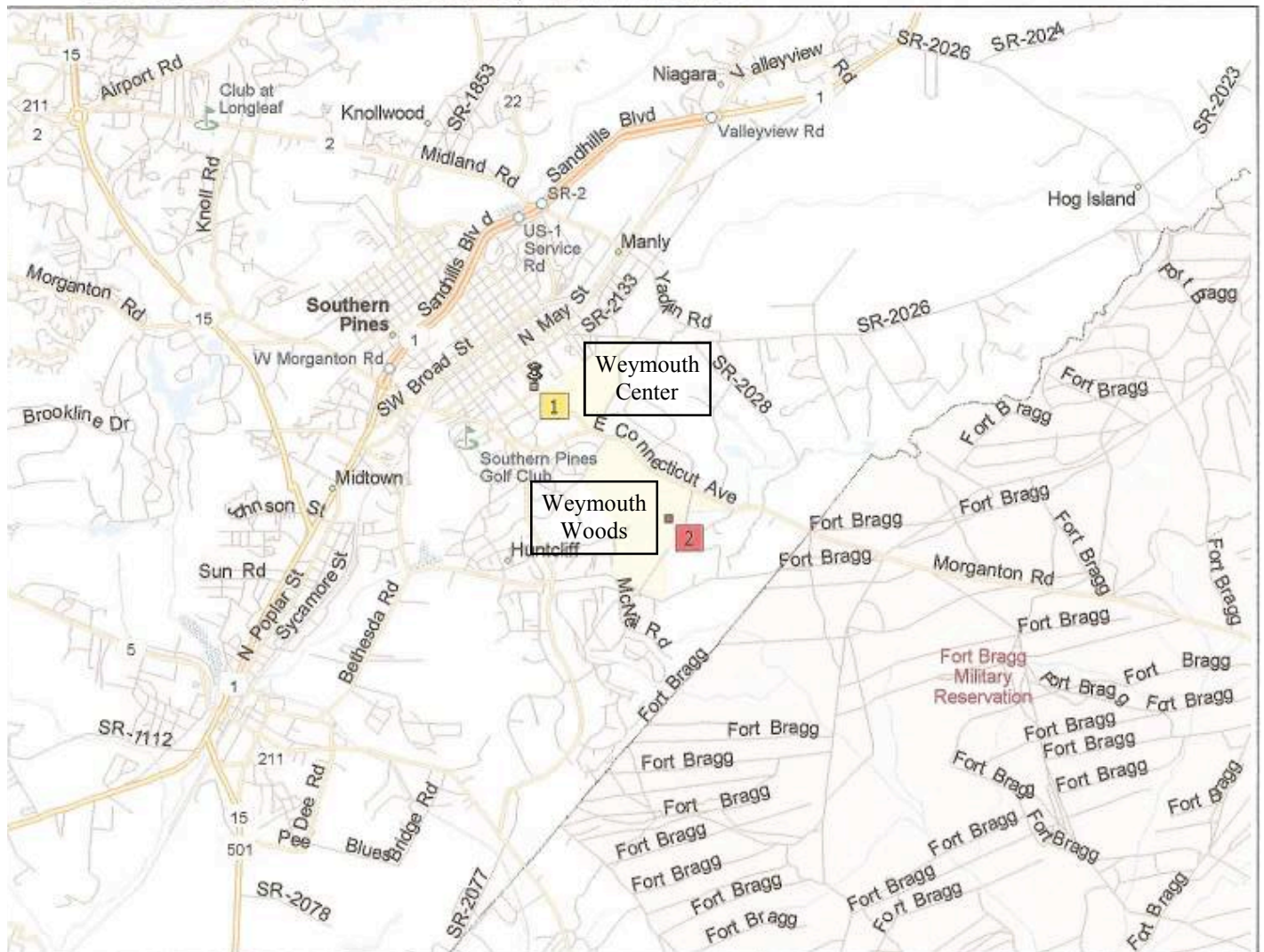
The birds seem to have "stood in line" to get into a nest box! Behaviorally, the bluebird nesting activity appeared to be almost frantic !! Repeatedly, as soon as a nesting pair cleared the nestbox following fledging, another nest was begun and eggs laid!!

Bluebirds fledged at an all time high for Tanglewood: 313 from 62 boxes in 2007 vs. 311 from 79 boxes in 1988.

Bill Abbey

(Continued on page 11)

Directions to Weymouth Center, Southern Pines, NC



Directions:

From the Raleigh area: Take Route 1 south toward Sanford. Continue past Sanford to the Exit that includes Midland Road and Sandhills Community College. At the exit stop sign turn left (east) and go into Southern Pines. Turn left at Connecticut Ave. After the red light at May St. and Connecticut Ave, turn left into Weymouth Center.

From the East (Fayetteville): Take Rt. 401 west and then 211 toward Aberdeen. Take Route 1 North and again exit for Midland Road and Sandhills Community College, turn right on Midland Road, go into Southern Pines. Turn left at Connecticut Ave. After the red light at May St. and Connecticut Ave, turn left into Weymouth Center.

From the West (Charlotte): Take Route 74 east and Route 1 North. Exit for Midland Road and Sandhills Community College, turn right on Midland Road, go into Southern Pines. Turn left at Connecticut Ave. After the red light at May St. and Connecticut Ave, turn left into Weymouth Center.

**North Carolina Bluebird Society Annual Meeting
 Saturday, April 5 at the Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities
 555 E. Connecticut Ave
 Southern Pines, NC 28387**

Coffee, NCBS Membership, NCBS Store, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Vendors— 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Bluebirders Forum—9 to 9:30 a.m.— Informal Question and Answer period—Ray Welch, Moderator

Welcome – 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.—Acting President Helen Munro, Wing of a Song by Kay Hindsley

Bluebird Memories– 9:45—10:30 a.m.—Editor Helen Munro

Break for everyone—10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

County Coordinators meet in Garden Room— Chuck Bliss & Virginia Pickles

Hummingbirds in North Carolina—11:00—11:45 a.m.—Susan Campbell

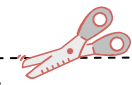
NCBS Elections—11:45 a.m. to Noon—Acting President Helen Munro presiding.

Lunch—Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Drive to Weymouth Woods (1024 Fort Bragg Road, Southern Pines, NC) (1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.)

Red-cockaded Woodpecker program— TBA

Banding songbirds—Susan Campbell



Cut along the line below and submit this registration form.

Registration Form—Saturday, April 5, 2008

Name #1 _____ Name #2 _____

Phone # 1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____

County _____ First Time Attending Annual Meeting? Yes ___ If no, how many? ____

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 28, 2008

Friday: April 4, 2008

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 Sand Trap in the Days Inn (Route 1) at 7 pm. Meals will be ordered from a menu. No reservations are 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 Days Inn for NCBS attendees on Friday night, April 4, 2008. . The rate is \$65 plus tax which also includes a Breakfast Buffet which starts at 6:30 am Saturday morning. Please make your room reservations by March 15th.

The Days Inn phone number is 800-262-5737 or 910-692-8585. Identify yourself as being with the North Carolina Bluebird Society.

The Days Inn is at the Morganton Road Exit off of Route 1 in Southern Pines. Follow the directions on page 8. The Morganton Road Exit is south of the Midland Road exit.



Trinity

Reah Kittelberger spoke about bluebirds to first and second graders at the North Ridge Elementary School, Raleigh, NC. The pictures were drawn in response to her presentation. It was the first time anyone had come to their school to speak about the birds. The students were very interested and well behaved. Each one picked up a little bit about bluebirds from what Reah said and the "Inside the Nestbox" video which one student described as "awesome".

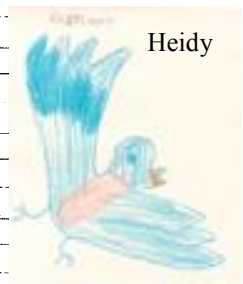


Lindsay

Birds eat worms and
bugs.

I love blue

birds. Josh



Heidy

Thank you for coming.

Blue birds stay clean.

They eat bugs.

Love Alex M. Alex

North Carolina Nesting Survey Comments 2007

(Continued from page 7)

Fayetteville, NC Last bluebird nesting in 2006 produced four eggs, none of which hatched. In 2007, in two different boxes there were five eggs and four eggs and none of them hatched.

I live in a rural area and suspect we have a sterile male. Looking for answers.

Wilbur & Catherine Traylor

Concord, NC This year we had the bluebirds trained to come for mealworms at AM and PM feeding times. We went through so many mealworms that we started growing our own.

I wanted to mention that we used crushed moth balls to keep snakes out of our yard and away from our bird houses.

Jennifer Linn-Raby

Statesville, NC I had one couple that built a new nest on old eggs. When I emptied the box once, there were eleven old eggs in the nesting material. I've never had that happen before, and can't explain it. Before that they had raised two normal families.

Sue Ligon

West End, NC First nesting in our box this year was a "single Mom". Through the "egg to fledge" period no male was seen. Our back porch is only twenty feet from the nest box and we watch it closely. She laid her first egg on April 7 during that weekend when we had low temperatures of 23, 24, 23 degrees that killed our county's peach and blueberry crops. I helped this Mom by providing mealworms to substitute for her male helper. Three babies fledged (two female and one male).

Marisa Back

Morganton, NC Many eggs just disappeared. A few had been pecked. All dead babies were no more than two or three days old, but without obvious injuries except for one on the ground

just outside box. Black snake seen in one nest.

Linda Julien

Chapel Hill, NC My husband's severe and fatal illness came just at nesting time. I was not able to monitor the nests as carefully as unusual, but the bluebirds carried on well on their own. The sign of a bluebird can raise the lowest of spirits.

Lois Herring

West End, NC Male bluebird pecks at windows between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. I assume he sees his reflection in the window and thinks it is another bluebird, or else he is requesting his morning serving of mealworms.

Gene & Joanne Lentz

Union Grove, NC For about 12 years I had one of those apartment houses for purple martins, but no birds 'til this year. The colony moved in and gave us a show every night.

We hope that every member had good results in 2007.

Joseph & Ann Critchley

Raleigh, NC The hard freeze in April and the severe heat and drought in the summer seemed to both have an impact on the overall production rate. During the heat/drought clutches were smaller and a few babies were very small and died.

Susan Wyatt

Tarboro, NC We moved here in April 2006 from Fayetteville and have observed so many wonderful birds at the lake: Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher, Dowitcher, Canada Geese, White Egret, one Pied Billed Grebe that kept us entertained winter and spring.

We videoed the first nesting of bluebirds and observed some peculiar behavior.

Kay & David Hindsley

(Continued on page 13)

North Carolina Nesting Survey Comments 2007

(Continued from page 11)

Asheville, NC I had a lot of fun trying to predict when the nestlings will leave the box. This year I saw three First Flights on three different days.

I had read that the parents “call” to the babies when it’s time to fledge. This year I actually witnessed this behavior. The sound the parents make is a low-pitched chortle and they make it from a nearby bush or tree. Sometimes they have to keep it up a long while to coax the babies out of the box.

This is the first time monitoring a nest with the first egg laid July 14. All others have been earlier by several weeks. This group of three (one of four eggs did not hatch) survived eight days in the 90 degree weather, two of which were record highs of 93 and 94. There was no measurable rainfall during this time.

Diane Hankins

Raleigh, NC Our first clutch was started kind of early (March 17) There were several nights that the temperatures went below freezing. Each night it was to freeze, my husband and I went out and placed warming pads around the outside and under the bottom of the box. I don’t know if it helped, but all the birds fledged. We used hand and foot warmers that you get at an outdoor store.

Natalie Wilson

West End, NC This has been a crazy year. We should have had more birds fledge. This was our first experience having predators (snake and cat) other than children in the past. Also the late cold spell may have impacted our results as it did many things.

We have taken our three year old great grand daughter with us to monitor the houses. She has had a great time and so have we. She even pretended to be a bluebird and the pool was her bird bath. So bluebirding has many joys.

Richard & Iris Johnson

Raleigh, NC First set of fledglings visited mealworms bowl until mid-July with a parent bird or two. It is fun watching these “teenage” birds entice their parents to feed them. Parent birds patiently tried various methods to get the fledgling to feed on their own.

Patrice Cook

Raleigh, NC Last year in Box 9, we had two clutches of white eggs. We surmised that the same nesting pairs had started in Box 9 again this year, but for some reason , they moved into Box 10 evicting a family of chickadees. The monitor of Box 9 said that he heard a rattle snake in that box, but upon closer inspection, the “rattle” was a buzzing sound that was being made by a very large bumblebee who had made himself at home in the nest of Box 9. However, this pair waited no time in moving back to Box 9 for their second brood of white eggs—three eggs, three fledglings! Home Sweet Home.

Trinity Academy of Raleigh

Raleigh, NC Experienced seeing older fledging of first brood feeding babies of second brood. Older fledglings of second brood fed babies of their brood. Quite a site to witness the fledglings helping Mama and Papa bluebird feed the babies.

I would like to see the date of the first egg laid of the third nesting so that I could compare my bluebird egg dates with other bluebirds. Please add this important item to your survey. Thank you.

Sandy Thach

Southern Pines, NC This survey should be simplified. There is entirely too much time required. If you have only a few houses, this would not be a problem.

Hank Moss, Jr.

(Continued on page 15)

North Carolina Bluebird Society

NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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- _____
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Sharing Bluebird information and stories make this an unique publication

Please submit to: Helen Munro, Co-editor
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Slide Programs, Videos and books can be borrowed,
 Please Contact: Hank Moss, Jr.

525 Fairway Drive Southern Pines, NC 28387
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NCBS Elections

The Board is responsible for the Annual Meeting, four newsletters a year and working to educate the general public on how to productively interact with bluebirds. Many of the Board Members have served since the early 1990s. They each have a job to do, do it willingly and when asked to serve another term, agree that they will. This organization would not run smoothly without them.

However, it is important that we vary the leadership. Different leaders have different ideas. The addition of the web site and its ability to reach a world wide audience makes it important that NCBS keeps up and, if possible, just a little ahead of the times.

The selection of the Board is rather informal. Hank Moss contacts each current Board Member, asks them if they will continue to serve and then seeks replacements for the empty positions.

This year he is looking for a President and two directors. Volunteering to be a director is a great way to become involved. No current Board Member is willing to be President. Think of how good it would look on your resume! As acting President, I will help set up the Board Meetings for the rest of 2008 and even send out the agendas!

Don't be shy. Please contact Hank Moss (910-692-2328 or hmjr@nc.rr.com).

Helen Munro, Acting President

North Carolina Nesting Survey Comments 2007

(Continued from page 13)

Fayetteville, NC Best Choice? This spring I replaced my bluebird house with a nice, new, cedar one. For years, the birds had nested there; some years successfully and some not.

In the very back of my yard there is another OLD bluebird box located about four feet from a huge stand of red tip bushes and totally surrounded by ivy that has grown up the post and all around the box. The squirrels have chewed the hole until it measures almost two inches across. The chickadees have nested there and happily left the other box alone for the bluebirds.

Now that I have this nice new box, I assumed it would be gladly accepted by the bluebirds. Not so! The bluebirds ran the chickadees off and raised two broods in the ratty, OLD, ivy surrounded box.

I can hardly wait until next year to see which box they will choose!

Marijane Hailey

Greensboro, NC Pushing 90 years old and legs are not as agile as they used to be. It is not likely that I will be able to check Bryan Park Player Course boxes next year. It would be an unfortunate crime not to service such good producing boxes. The boxes do need attending to as well as being repaired which I have done. There have been no sign of predators over the years and it is a rare occasion to find birds other than bluebirds in the boxes.

Bob Rothrock



Picture of Bob Rothrock 6/04/07. Note the predator guards

Help Needed

Bob Rothrock is looking for someone to take over the Bryan Park Player Course Bluebird Trail. Please, someone in the Greensboro area, take a chance and volunteer to help. Everyday that you monitor a bluebird trail is like Christmas. You just never know what wonderful surprises will be awaiting you. Monitoring is done between late March and mid-August once a week. Late afternoons and evenings are good times. Because this is a golf course, arrangements to monitor have to be made with the Golf Course Manager. Bob's phone number is 336-294-4810 or call me (Helen Munro, 910-673-6936).

For years, Chuck Bliss tabulated the Bluebird Survey Data and wrote up the comments. Rhea Kittelberg has done the last three years of data and I have been writing the comments.

The NCBS Board has decided that the survey needs to be redesigned and is looking for everyone's input. I am hoping that Rhea will continue to do the data next year. I am looking for someone that would be interested in doing the Comments. This is a matter of selecting comments that include unique information, tell interesting stories and help to educate our members on bluebird behavior. The forms become available the first of November and are printed in the February newsletter. Again, call me, email me or write me. (Information is on the opposite page.) There are always more comments than room in the newsletter and I apologize for those that I can not include due to the lack of space.

Thanks.

Helen S. Munro, Editor

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BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY
THE NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

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