

# BLUEBIRD NOTES

## PHOTOGRAPHING BLUEBIRDS

### Tips from Sue Williams, Craven County Coordinator

An important element in any photo, and this is true for bluebirds, is light. Taking pictures in soft, natural light is key to getting the details in the feathers and on the white parts of the bird. I rarely go out in the middle of the day to shoot, unless the birds are in a shady part of the yard. Otherwise, the light is too bright and the whites are 'blown-out' and the colors lack tonal quality. An overcast day is fine to shoot, but the best times are in the early morning and evening, when the light is especially nice; this is referred to as the 'golden hour.'

Having a telephoto lens is also important, unless you are fortunate to have a bird blind in your yard, right next to the bird box. It was not until I received a 150-500mm lens that I began getting the results that I wanted with my bird photography. Even then, it takes a lot of practice and a lot of patience to capture these tiny, beautiful creatures, but it is well worth the efforts.

Get as close as you can to the birds, but screen yourself from their sight. I have an oleander shrub that is about eight feet tall that provides a good place for me to hide in a lawn chair with my camera ready to go. Sometimes I even sit in my car in the yard with my camera lens propped up on the passenger window and wait for the birds to arrive.

Not a photography tip, but important, nevertheless: create a bird-friendly habitat, especially conducive to bluebirds. I ordered two Gilbertson bird houses in January of this year, from Amazon.com, after two years of struggling to keep the House Sparrows out of the traditional wooden 'bluebird' nestboxes. For some reason the sparrows don't like the PVC, but the Bluebirds like it fine. The bluebirds claimed both boxes raising three broods.

(All photos on page 1 by Sue Williams.)

Sue Williams, New Bern  
[neuseriverphotography@gmail.com](mailto:neuseriverphotography@gmail.com)





**North Carolina Bluebird Society  
(NCBS)  
Mission Statement**

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society. [www.ncbluebird.org](http://www.ncbluebird.org)

**Words from NCBS President**

Welcome to Dana Glenn, our newest board member. Dana was elected to the Board of Directors at our annual meeting and brings a wonderful spirit of excitement to our group. Check out her story on page 3.

As the bluebird nesting season comes to a close for 2016, remember to record and submit your completed data survey to Stella Rideout. You will find the "Data Survey 2016" form on page 11. This information is extremely helpful as we monitor our bluebird population condition from year to year.

Our 2017 Annual Conference will return to Haw River State Park on **Saturday, April 22, 2017** and we're looking for members to assist with this event. Save the date!

**Ken Kernodle, Durham**

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this an unique publication.

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# BOARD MEETING AND NEW DIRECTOR

## July Board Meeting

The NCBS Board of Directors met Saturday, July 16 at the Orange County Library in Hillsborough. With a majority of members present, Ken Kernodle called the meeting to order and welcomed new board member, Dana Glenn. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes recorded by Beverly Frassinelli from the Annual Conference. Next Carrie Helston gave a brief treasurer's report emphasizing that the Annual Conference held on April 22-23 at Haw River State Park was a success. David Hindsley, Membership Chairman, updated the board on current memberships with 417 members in good standing and the number of mailing labels needed for the summer issue of *Bluebird Notes*. Other reports were presented by Glenda Ryan/Web Administrator, Cheryl Gay/Editor, and Joye Stephenson/State Coordinator.

Under new business, the board reviewed two grant applications to fund bluebird habitats. After lengthy review, it was decided to approve one \$200 grant and defer the second applicant with further review at the October meeting. Dana Glenn agreed to contact both organizations to obtain further information and to coordinate the board's recommendations. Other business included the summary of the Annual Conference evaluations suggesting improvements for next year's event. Approximately 70% of the evaluations were completed by the attendees. At the meeting conclusion, Ken Kernodle announced, because of family commitments, Joye Stephenson will resign as State Coordinator as soon as a replacement is found. The meeting was adjourned until Saturday, October 22 from 1:00-4:00pm at the Orange County Library.

(This page contains brief notes from the board meeting which are not the official minutes.)

## Welcome New Board Member, Dana Glenn



Dana Glenn, originally from Gaston County, now resides in Albemarle and has been a bluebirder since 1998. Attending to trails in both North Carolina and South Carolina, she has monitored as many as 105 boxes at a time. Dana reports once finding a nest with white eggs and probable offspring who also laid white eggs. She has been to three NABS annual conventions in Canada, Illinois, and Nebraska and serves as County Coordinator for both Stanly and Gaston Counties.

With twenty-five years as a school teacher and a certified NC Environmental Educator, Dana brings much knowledge and experience to the board. As a self-described semi-retired middle school teacher, Ms. Glenn continues to substitute teach and tutor. She says, "I am so happy to be back with NCBS and hope everyone is having a successful bluebird season." As she expressed at the recent board meeting, Dana loves NCBS because, "bluebird people are such nice people and we need more nice people in the world."

**DID YOU KNOW?** NCBS Board meets four times each year usually in January, April, July and October at a central NC location. Contact Ken Kernodle or Beverly Frassinelli for additional information.

# NEWS from the NEST



New fledgling just landing on the ground.  
Watchful parents nearby!



Helen Gonzales, Clemmons



Chick about to jump from the box (one of five) that fledged.



The baby I photographed this morning was funny. He sat there for the longest time. It was like his parents didn't get the memo that they were to meet him at the feeder! He was not giving up. The food was inches away, but he didn't know how to get it. He figured they would show up sooner or later!

Below, "I wish dad would bring us some more food, don't you?"

Jim Kunkle, Shelby



First flight and landing from the box. Sibling watching from below.

Three photos above by M.E. Dossembach, Durham

# NEWS from the NEST



Our four babies (we lost one) are into their fourth week and mom and dad are still feeding them. Mom has finished her third nest. What a great mom.



One juvenile of two pairs coming in for a mealworm meal. They are so comfortable with me, as I was only 6 ft away when I snapped this picture. Hunger over fear, I guess.



It has been 6 weeks since this juvenile hatched and he was reluctant to eat on his own. He would take a worm or two, but he still wanted to be fed. That was unacceptable behavior and dad repeatedly pounced on him when he opened his mouth for food and dive bombed him. The mom had food but didn't feed it to him. When the baby ate on his own dad finally left him alone. Tough love.



One of two babies from our first brood: Dad gets a lesson on how to feed. Mom is on her nest with her second brood of 5 eggs so far.

Four photos above by Russ Bauman, Biltmore Lake



Imagine my surprise early last week when discovering these five babies. They were approximately one week old. The ants arrived a few days later but are now gone. These babies are so content and produce a lot of warmth. It is a great feeling to check on them and see how they are thriving.

Maggie Goldston, Raleigh



4th of July Nest

The fourth egg was laid on Independence Day. The first brood contained five, white eggs which fledged in mid-June.  
Cheryl Gay, Garner

# PHOTOGRAPHING BLUEBIRDS

More Photography Tips Continued from Page 1



## Tips from Russ Bauman, Buncombe County Coordinator

It is important to know the bluebird's behavior. They fly, swim, dive, and eat. Knowing this ahead of time can better prepare you to photograph them.

**LET THE BIRDS COME TO YOU.** By putting out mealworms I can anticipate when and from where the bluebirds will come. I know when they feed and generally how many will show up. For flying shots, I set my camera on manual focus in an area where the bluebirds will fly through. Then I just take the photo. You don't always get a good photo, but when you do it can be a great one.

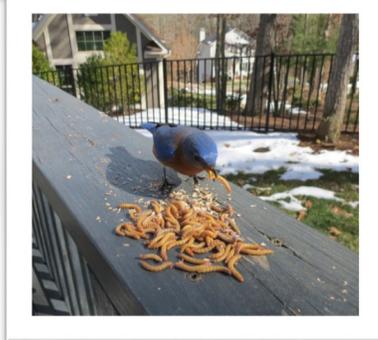
**USE YOUR CAMERA TIMER.** Bluebirds didn't object to a camera nearby and it gives you an opportunity to shoot close up. My camera has a timer that will fire off ten frames after a given time period. I know how long it takes for the bluebirds to come and eat so I set my timer accordingly. Beautiful pictures can be had.

**A SHOOTING PLATFORM FOR BLUEBIRDS.** A simple project you can do that will result in great photos is to strap dead branches on a fence near the nestbox. The bluebirds use them daily and often hunt from them or take a rest break. This allows for an unobstructed view and has given me many beautiful pictures.

**SHOOT EARLY OR LATE.** The light at dawn and dusk is softer, not harsh and the shadows aren't deep. The bluebird colors are more vibrant as well. (All photos on page 6 by Russ Bauman.)

Russ Bauman, Biltmore Lake

[susie.russ@att.net](mailto:susie.russ@att.net)



## A Few More Photography Tips from Jim Kunkle, Cleveland County Coordinator

- ◆ Bluebird feeder on my deck handrail about ten feet from my kitchen window.
- ◆ Photograph year round. In the summer there are adults feeding babies. In the winter there are adults and the juveniles from the summer.
- ◆ Keep the windows clean you can generally get good shots.
- ◆ Use cups in my nestboxes which enables me to pull them out, lay them on the grass, and get shots of the eggs and the babies.

Jim takes photos with his Nikon Coolpix P510 which has a 42x zoom lens. He states the newer Nikons have a 60x zoom factor which takes excellent pictures and can be purchased at several retail stores or online.

## DR. BLUEBIRD'S RX

It was a beautiful day and I had been checking my boxes for several hours. It appeared to be one of my best years: many eggs, baby birds, no wasps, snakes or ants. Box # 22 was next. It had always had three fledglings each year. I walked briskly across the golf course meadow and opened the door of box #22.

Three great looking baby birds opened their mouths wide for food. The eyes appeared to be in the beginning process to open.

Suddenly, ants began to race onto my hands from the bottom of the nest. Then I realized the ants were all over my body. It was like an invasion. I closed the box quickly to slap at the ones on my hands and clothes. When I walk up to any box, I always check the surrounding area and post. No ants had been observed or evidence of a four-legged predator or wasp flying around the box. I opened the box again and took each baby out to check for ants and other parasites. Again, more ants roared out of the box. The birds were ok, but now I had lots of ants on me, and the ants were in full rage.

Quickly, I put the three babies in the shade on the ground. I covered them with my hat to protect them from the rays of the sun. Then the task began: me vs. the ants of box #22. The ants were winning; on my clothes, in my shirt, crawling up my legs. I took off my shirt and I must have looked like a windmill slapping at ants on my body using my shirt as a fly swatter head to feet. To my surprise, my pants dropped to my knees in my crazy fit to kill the ants. I had no belt on that morning. I heard my wife's last words as I left the house ring in my ear: "Honey, here is your belt." "No" I responded, "the pants are too tight."

Then, I heard, "John, are you ok?" Quickly, I recognized my dilemma: shirt off and pants had fallen down to my knees and I was dancing around like I was doing the jitterbug. I was almost naked on the golf course except for my Fruit of the Loom. I yelled back, "Yes Susie, it is an ant nuclear attack." As I continued to slap at ants on me, I pull up my pants and put on my shirt. Then, I could see her running with something in her hand. It was a can of Raid. Nothing like meeting a woman half dressed at a bluebird box with a can of Raid!

Finally, I got most of the ants off me before she arrived. I decided it was time to destroy the ant nest. I picked up a long stick on the ground and attempted to pierce the nest in the box and pull it out. It seemed as though it was glued to the box. I finally disposed of the ant nest. Then I broke off a pine twig from a tree to use like a broom. Finally, no ants in the box. I made a nest in a cone like manner from the pine straw. I checked my babies under my cap and they appeared happy. The parents were not happy and were zooming around my head making all kind of noise. Quickly I placed each one in the new nest. They wiggled around and closed their mouth and eyes. WOW....what a surprise. Eight days later, I checked box #22 again. As I approached the box very carefully, I did not see any ants, but heard the birds flapping their wings and observed one head was out of the entrance of the box. My nest worked. When I arrived again later in the day, the birds had fledged.



John Allen, Davidson  
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# FISHING LINE TO DETER HOUSE SPARROWS

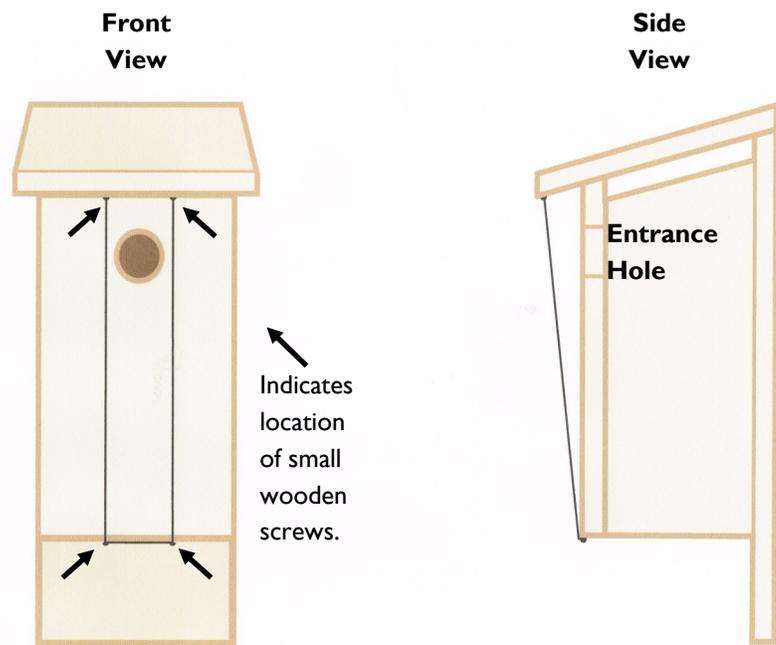
## USING MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE TO DETER HOUSE SPARROWS

Many bluebird monitors are installing monofilament fishing line on the front of nestboxes to deter House Sparrows from using nest boxes. I have personally used this method for about 15 years and with very good results. It does not seem to deter other native songbirds such as tree swallows, house wrens, titmice, or chickadees from using nest boxes, as I have had successful nestings of all of these other songbird species in nest boxes with the line installed. I have spoken with many other bluebirders at our educational booth at events who have also reported good results.

Four small screws: two on top, two on the bottom of the nest box spaced 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inches apart.

Six pound test monofilament fishing line placed vertically, pulled taut along the length of the nest box.

For side opening boxes, there is no need to move the line when monitoring the nest box. For top or front opening boxes, it is best to tie the line permanently to the upper left screw, then bring it down and wind along the bottom screws, then bring it up to the top right screw and leave a little extra line that can be wound around the screw to be secured by the threads of the screw. Always tighten the screws completely on the top of the nest box to prevent any injury.



### Some factors which affect the effectiveness of this method include:

**Timing of the installation of the line:** If the house sparrows have already been using the box and have developed a bond to that particular nest box, including activities related to building a nest or laying eggs, they will be more persistent in continuing to enter the box in spite of the line.

**Length of the roof overhang:** If the roof does not have at least a 2" overhang, there will not be enough space between the line and the front of the nest box, which will make it ineffective.

**The configuration of the installation:** The standard method is to install the 6 pound test (clear) line vertically just outside both sides of the entrance hole, and attached at the bottom of the nest box so that it does not dangle, which would increase the chance that the birds could become tangled in it. With a standard entrance hole of 1- $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, the distance between the two strands of line would be 1- $\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

Joan Watroba, Editor and Charles Lucas, Illustrations

*This article is from the Summer issue of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania's seasonal newsletter.*

*Reprinted here with permission.*

# PROBLEM SOLVING

In the spring issue of *Bluebird Notes*, problem solving information from the *Bluebirds Forever* publication was reprinted as requested by members especially from those who monitor nestboxes. Solutions for these problems related to other birds competing for that bluebird box are summarized below.

**HOUSE SPARROWS:** One of the worst enemies of the bluebird are House Sparrows. They will break eggs, kill the young and adults by inflicting serious head wounds, and drive bluebirds from nesting sites. It is not unusual to find a dead bluebird woven into a House Sparrow nest. House Sparrows (and Starlings) are not protected by federal law like native North American birds. (Be sure to know the difference between House Sparrows and our native sparrows.) When House Sparrows build in your boxes, remove the nest and eggs, then destroy them. There is a new initiative called Sparrow Swap that takes the eggs for research. Bluebirds often return to nest in areas that have been freed of House Sparrows. Place nestboxes as far as possible from buildings where House Sparrows are present. Inbox traps are available.

There have been two previous articles concerning these pesty House Sparrows written by Caren Cooper and Robert Wolk (both in Summer 2015) who are both NCBS members. Also, contact the Sparrow Swap project for more information on how to donate eggs for research.

<http://scistarter.com/project/1380-Sparrow%20Swap>  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCE-FHjgr4Twr6-O9FIMu7g>



**HOUSE WRENS:** Male House Wrens will puncture bluebird eggs within their territory if they have a nesting failure, usually in mid-summer and in early morning. Male wrens will also fill all boxes in their territory with sticks and defend them against other birds. Since House Wrens are attracted to brushy areas, place bluebird nestboxes as far from these areas as possible. Do not disturb wren nests as they are protected by federal law. Besides, it only encourages the wren to destroy other nests/eggs. You could erect House Wren boxes (with 1 5/16" diameter entrance holes) near brushy areas for their use.

**STARLINGS:** Destroying other bird eggs and nestlings, the Starling will take over all nesting cavities. Prevent this by using nesting boxes with entrance holes of 1 1/2" or 1 9/16" diameter.

**Read how other NCBS members resolved problems for successful bluebird nests continued below and on page 10.**

## **HOUSE CALL: ANTS**

Ant infestations in the nestbox can be a very serious problem, especially in the presence of baby birds. If not removed, ants can kill the nestlings! The ants lay their eggs under the nest cup and, when hatched, will cover the baby birds and suffocate them.

I have successfully removed ants from several active bluebird nests. The technique is simple.

Remove the nest cup with the babies inside and place it in a box or bucket with a towel over the top to keep them calm. Make a new nest of pine straw using a small incandescent light bulb or a tennis ball to form a cup. Brush or blow all of the ants off the nestlings then sprinkle diatomaceous earth in the nestbox next

Continued on Page 10

# PROBLEM SOLVING

HOUSE CALL: ANTS Continued from Page 9



Bill Satterwhite, Wake County Coordinator

Carefully place the chicks in the new nest and watch them snuggle down as if nothing happened. If your nest is not as perfect as the original nest, don't be concerned; the parent will make adjustments of her own.

Diatomaceous Earth (often referred to as "DE") is an off white talc-like powder that is the fossilized remains of marine phytoplankton. When sprinkled on a bug that has an exoskeleton (such as bed bugs, ants or fleas) it compromises their waxy coating so that their innards turn into teeny tiny bug jerky. But it doesn't hurt mammals. We can eat it. We do eat it! It's in lots of grain based foods because lots of grains are stored with diatomaceous earth to keep the bugs from eating the grain. Can be purchased at garden and some hardware stores. For more information, check out this website <http://www.richsoil.com/diatomaceous-earth.jsp>.

Bill Satterwhite, Raleigh

## SERIOUS ABOUT PREVENTION

My little short story and photo hopefully will be useful to others. Box had been in place six to eight years before predator (assuming it was a snake) got five nestlings in 2015. The reason I assumed the predator was a snake is that both times the nest itself was not disturbed as it would have been if it had been a racoon, etc... . As a result, I moved the nestbox to a more open area and applied Murphy's Oil Soap to the pole. Then four nestlings fledged in June of 2015.

April 2016's nest of five eggs was lost to a predator. This is when I got serious about predator prevention. As shown in the photo, I used double sided tape (mounting tape) to hold a coarse one-inch rope in place around the pole. Next I used all-weather duct tape to anchor vertical strands of cat-brier up and down the pole. Finally, I sprinkled Ortho Snake-Be-Gone all around the bottom of the pole. I got all these supplies at the local hardware store. On July 6, yippee, four nestlings fledged from this box.

I have heard that sand placed in a two inch square around the bottom of the pole is also a snake deterrent which is possibly less expensive than the pellets. One more fact, I got the cat-brier plant from my neighbor's huge Norwegian pine tree.

Diane Hankins, Asheville



# DATA SURVEY 2016

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Nestbox/Trail Location (county, city) \_\_\_\_\_

## **Field Record Observation Notes Summary**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of first egg laid (start of season)

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # nestboxes monitored this season

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # bluebird eggs laid

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # other species cavity nesting eggs laid

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # bluebird eggs hatched

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # other species cavity nesting eggs hatched

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # bluebird fledglings

\_\_\_\_\_ Total # other species cavity nesting fledglings

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of end of season last fledglings

## **Comments**

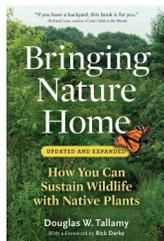
Use additional sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Please include your name, address, and contact information for future reference. Thank you.

Please return by December 2016 to:

**Stella Rideout, NCBS Board of Directors**

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**Save the Date! Sunday, October 30**

**Location: Pinehurst Fair Barn**

**1:00pm - Doors Open      2:00pm – Dr. Douglas Tallamy Presents:**

**“Restoring Nature's Relationships at Home”**

Dr. Tallamy is a nationally-known & respected author and speaker on preserving & restoring local ecosystems. He is Chair of the Entomology Department at the University of Delaware.

Specialized relationships between animals and plants are the norm in nature rather than the exception. It is specialized relationships that provide our birds with insects and berries, that disperse our bloodroot seeds, that pollinate our goldenrod, and so on. Plants that evolved in concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere.

Doug Tallamy will explain why this is so, why specialized food relationships determine the stability and complexity of the local food webs that support animal diversity, why it is important to restore life to our residential properties, and what we can do to make our landscapes living ecosystems once again.

[www.bringingnaturehome.net/gardening-for-life.html](http://www.bringingnaturehome.net/gardening-for-life.html) Door prizes. Beer, wine, soft drinks, water & snacks available. Books & songbird nest boxes for sale. Includes author “meet and greet” & book signing. Come for a fun Sunday afternoon and bring your friends and family.

# COUNTY COORDINATOR NOTES

## Croasdaile Garden Club Adds Nestboxes in Durham County

In January, Ken Kernodle, President of the North Carolina Bluebird Society and Steve McDaniel, Durham County Coordinator spoke to our Croasdaile Garden Club. Besides answering FAQs of bluebirds, they encouraged us to support increasing the population. The ladies took it to heart. With the help of Ken and Steve, fourteen nestboxes were purchased for our own yards. But it didn't stop there, the Croasdaile Garden Club purchased and the Course Superintendent and his grounds crew replaced ten old boxes and added two new ones on the Croasdaile Country Club golf course.

Garden club members have been observing and maintaining the boxes and reporting the data to the North Carolina Bluebird Society. Ten of the boxes have successfully produced families of birds, although not all are Eastern Bluebirds. It turns out that Tree Swallows are also cavity nesting birds and like the boxes. As a result, we have three boxes with Tree Swallows and seven boxes with bluebirds producing twenty-nine baby bluebirds and eleven baby Tree Swallows. Two boxes that were installed a bit later are still vacant. Some of the bluebirds have already fledged and at least two boxes have a second nest under way. Since bluebird pairs typically produce two and sometimes three broods a year the golfers can look forward to seeing the birds flitting around the boxes for the next few months. What fun!

Dot Doyle and Susan Antle, Durham



Steve McDaniel, Durham County Coordinator and Emma Smart



### DID YOU KNOW?

Your membership renewal date is located on your *Bluebird Notes* mailing label for a convenient reminder when to renew your membership.

# COUNTY COORDINATOR NOTES

## Bill Satterwhite, Wake County Coordinator, Receives Conservation Award



At its May 13th meeting, North Carolina Society of the Daughters of American Revolution, Caswell-Nash Chapter had the privilege of presenting a Conservation Award to Bill (Charles J.) Satterwhite for his contributions to the preservation of bluebirds. Bill was “turned on” to bluebirds in 1992 when he put up his first bluebird box and had immediate visitors. Since then, he has been responsible for establishing and/or monitoring 17 bluebird trails with a total of 148 boxes. A trail he established at the University Club has 7 boxes. In addition to the bluebird trails, Bill has been active in the North Carolina Bluebird Society since 1996, serving on the Board of Directors for many years. He is currently Honorary Director and also Wake County Coordinator for the Society. Bill not only builds and erects boxes, he

also makes presentations to garden clubs, schools, retirement centers, libraries, etc. He recently held a workshop on bluebirds at the J.C. Raulston Arboretum. Bill has been recognized for his work with bluebirds by various organizations and was the Tar Heel of the Week for Raleigh’s News and Observer in 2014. Bill celebrated his 96th birthday in March!

## NCBS Membership Recruitment Tip from Beaufort County Coordinator, Sandy Rhodes

In late March, Sandy organized and distributed a bright, blue folder to the attendees at her initial county meeting. The folder contained NCBS informational materials such as *Bluebird Tips*, “What’s in Your Nest” data survey form, the mission statement, annual conference agenda/registration flyer and a membership form encouraging all present to join. This charter meeting was held at the local Pizza Inn and thanks to Sandy’s efforts, there have been approximately fifteen new members from Beaufort County this year.

### DID YOU KNOW?

North Carolina Bluebird Society  
accepts tax deductible donations.  
Donate in memory or honor of your  
loved one by mailing your donation to:

Mrs. Carrie Helston, Treasurer  
7060 Landingham Drive  
Willow Spring, NC 27592



Nancy Schiffman, Brunswick County Coordinator, designed these presentation boards for bluebird talks throughout her county.

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**Volunteer Position Needed: State Coordinator to organize and guide the efforts of NCBS County Coordinators.  
Contact Ken Kernodle by phone 919-724-9470 or email [president@ncbluebird.org](mailto:president@ncbluebird.org).**

## Notes from the Editor

Around July 10, an item came in the mail that hardly ever appears in our roadside box: a hand-written letter penned on ruled notebook paper with cursive writing. The contents of the letter included a news item for this issue of *Bluebird Notes* along with a photograph. In this age of instant emails and messaging via computer or cellphone, I really appreciate and value these priceless communications from loyal NCBS members. Additionally, this past spring another handwritten note card was received saying:

*Many thanks to all involved in keeping the NCBS going strong. The newsletter keeps getting better and better. I'm happy to be the one monitoring etc... for my garden club.*

Other than hearing my husband say, after he retrieved the mail, "you've got another bluebird letter", the best part entails visualizing your unique bluebird tales and feeling the excitement in your cursive words like "yippee" and your punctuation marks — !! So keep sending those letters, notes, and emails with your bluebirding stories and adventures. Because of your input, *Bluebird Notes* truly reflects the members that monitor daily, solve problems, shoot pics and most of all, love Eastern Bluebirds.

Also, I want to personally thank Sue Williams, Russ Baumann and Jim Kunkle for their photography tips and mostly, for responding promptly (less than one day) to my email requesting their top three or four tips to photographing bluebirds. NCBS has much to be proud of with members like Sue, Russ and Jim.

Additionally, I want to give a shout out to Helen Munro and Risa Jarman (Ray Welch, too) for their tireless efforts in designing *Bluebird Notes* for many years. If you would like to serve on the Publications Committee, please contact me. For those who have previously expressed interest, expect a call soon. Happy bluebirding.

Cheryl Gay, Garner  
[editor@ncbluebird.org](mailto:editor@ncbluebird.org)

## NCBS Membership Form

NCBS memberships are for one or three years. New members will receive the current issue of our newsletter, *Bluebird Notes*, *Bluebird Tips* and will receive quarterly newsletters which include informative and interesting articles.

Dues: \$10.00 per year or \$25 for three years

Gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_ to:

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Check box if you prefer to access the *Bluebird Notes* via the Internet.

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Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you also have an interest 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)

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