

# BLUEBIRD NOTES

## NEW BLUEBIRD TRAILS

### Bluebirds on the Oklawaha Greenway

The Oklawaha Greenway is a 4-mile paved path in Hendersonville that meanders from Jackson Park to Berkeley Mills Park along Mud Creek through wetlands, urban settings, and meadows. Because the Greenway follows the natural setting of the creek, it has a very gentle grade and is inviting to everyone from the young to the not-so-young. It has also become very popular with residents who desire health and exercise alternatives to gyms and exercise clubs.

Thanks to a generous grant from the NC Bluebird Society, and collaboration between the City of Hendersonville, the Apple Country Woodcrafters, and the Young Naturalists 4-H Club, the Eastern Bluebird will find the Greenway more inviting.

The City of Hendersonville readily approved the project for a few reasons: it was of no cost to the city yet got citizens involved, the design of the nestbox was in keeping with the natural setting, and it complements the pollinator, native trees and wildflower themes exhibited along the greenway.



4-H Club Young Naturalists Family Project

Continued on Page 6 - Hendersonville Trail

### Haw River State Park Kicks Off Nesting Season

Prior to the 1930s, the Eastern Bluebird was one of North Carolina's most common songbirds. By 1979, human activities and severe winters resulted in a 90% decline in bluebird populations which led the US Fish and Wildlife Service to declare bluebirds as rare and uncommon. The continuing loss of natural habitats, nesting sites and other problems faced by bluebirds indicate that this beloved bird will continue to need our help to survive (*reference, NC Bluebird Society, Inc.*).

On Wednesday, March 1, 2017 North Carolina Bluebird Society President Ken Kernodle, along with past President Ray Welch, wife Betsy Welch and society member Steve McDaniel installed eight new Eastern Bluebird nesting boxes at the Iron Ore Belt Access at Haw River State Park. The addition of these eight boxes, along with five bluebird boxes previously donated by the society in 2014 to The Summit



Ranger Angelia Allcox with NCBS members Betsy Welch, Steve McDaniel and Ray Welch

Environmental Education & Conference Center, will provide ample opportunities for the Haw River State Park ranger staff to educate the public on the importance of placing, maintaining and monitoring these new homes in a protected natural area.

Continued on Page 7 - Haw River Trail



**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**

Spring .... the season of “results” for bluebirds! Trusting all your actions during the winter months has turned into wonderful results this spring. Remember to monitor your boxes at least weekly.

Thanks to all of you who attended the 2017 Annual Conference at Haw River State Park on April 22. My review of the completed evaluation forms were so encouraging! If you would like to be a part of the 2018 Annual Conference “planning committee,” please let me know.

Special thanks ... Joye Stephenson and Cheryl Gay! Joye, for your many years of devoted and dedicated service as a NCBS Director and State Administrator of the County Coordinator Program! Cheryl, for being our Editor for the past two years, transforming our newsletter, *Bluebird Notes*, into the professional publication it is today. Thanks so much to both of you for giving of your time and talents to the NCBS.

**Ken Kernodle, Durham  
NCBS President**

**Bluebird Notes**

**Vol. 32 Issue 2**

*Bluebird Notes is published by  
North Carolina Bluebird Society, Inc. four times a year:  
Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall*

Sharing your bluebird articles, stories and photographs makes this an unique publication. Please submit to:  
Ken Kernodle, President  
e-mail: [president@ncbluebird.org](mailto:president@ncbluebird.org)

**Board of Directors  
Contact Information**

Ken Kernodle, President  
[president@ncbluebird.org](mailto:president@ncbluebird.org)  
919-724-9470

Beverly Frassinelli, Vice President  
[vicepresident@ncbluebird.org](mailto:vicepresident@ncbluebird.org)  
919-943-8039

Carrie Helston, Treasurer  
[treasurer@ncbluebird.org](mailto:treasurer@ncbluebird.org)  
919-577-6824

Vacant, Recording Secretary

Kay Hindsley, Corresponding Secretary  
[correspondingsecretary@ncbluebird.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@ncbluebird.org)  
252-823-0737

Ray Welch, Immediate Past President  
[rwelch5@bellsouth.net](mailto:rwelch5@bellsouth.net)  
336-764-0226

Dana Glenn  
Administrator of County Coordinators  
[director-dg@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-dg@ncbluebird.org)  
704-616-1742

Dave Helston  
[director-dh@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-dh@ncbluebird.org)  
919-577-6824

David Hindsley  
[recordingchair@ncbluebird.org](mailto:recordingchair@ncbluebird.org)  
252-823-0737

Stella Rideout  
[director-sr@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-sr@ncbluebird.org)  
252-257-3137

Lynn Siefferman  
[director-ls@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-ls@ncbluebird.org)  
828-262-7082 (w)  
828-355-9149 (h)

Chuck Brewer  
[director-cb@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-cb@ncbluebird.org)  
919-387-4673

Mike Graziano  
[director-mg@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-mg@ncbluebird.org)  
919-676-4209

Bill Satterwhite, Honorary Director  
[director-bs@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-bs@ncbluebird.org)  
919-787-5248

Ex-Officio  
Glenda Ryan, Web Site Administrator  
[webadministrator@ncbluebird.org](mailto:webadministrator@ncbluebird.org)  
919-802-1241

# ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



Ken Kernodle, President



Dave Helston, Nominating Committee Chair

## Reports and New Business from Annual Meeting

**Membership Report:** David Hindsley reported that we have maintained a little over 400 in our membership for the last several years. Membership renewal notices will be sent to 66 members this quarter along with one final newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carrie Helston informed the members that money comes into our organization four ways: membership dues, donations, proceeds from Conference, and sales of goods from our store. Expenses are primarily grants, publishing and mailing, and website administration. This year we are set up to accept credit cards at the conference.

**Web Administration Report:** Glenda Ryan reported the Online Store has been set up. Ken discussed how CaféPress works on their charges and our profit on the merchandise. Dave and Glenda gave a demonstration on the screen for everyone to better under-

stand how to order items from the store. Dave demonstrated how to add items to your cart and that it's similar to what Amazon does. Carrie reported that there are samples of some of these items at the Convention Store, and you can order them online.

**County Coordinator Report:** Ken introduced the new State Administrator for the County Coordinators, Dana Glenn. To demonstrate NC Counties, she made a poster which highlighted in blue indicated appointed County Coordinators and in white counties that need Coordinators. Dana showed the County Coordinator Notebook, and said for anyone who would like to become a coordinator, this notebook will provide everything you need to know.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Dave Helston reported that we have a Board of Directors consisting of fourteen members. Every year we rotate, so every year we have seven positions that come up per year. There is a commitment for a two-year term. Members of the Board who have agreed to continue for an additional two years are: Dr. Lynn Siefferman, Stella Rideout, David Hindsley, Carrie Helston and Dave Helston. Two new board members are Chuck Brewer and Mike Graziano so that leaves two board vacancies. We have four meetings per year, which are usually held in Orange County.

Under new business Ray Welch made a motion to nominate Beverly Frassinelli, Current Secretary, as Vice President. All nominations were voted and approved by majority vote.

These Annual Meeting notes are summarized from drafted minutes by Interim Secretary, Beverly Frassinelli and are pending approval at the July Board of Directors meeting.

**Welcome New Board Members**  
**Chuck Brewer**  
**Mike Graziano**

# NEWS FROM THE NEST

First brood of three are out and being attended to by Mom and Dad. Mom just started building her second nest early May.

Russ Bauman, Biltmore Lake  
Buncombe County Coordinator



Look at this nest.....it is a perfect nest! She did a great job. Bluebird nesting season is definitely here again. I look forward to this all winter.....I will keep you posted on my nests, and babies this year. Please let me know what kind of luck you are having! I would love to hear about your experiences, and what's happening in your backyard. Just drop me an email, text, or picture to let me know what's going on.

Here's wishing you a great season, and a lot of successful nest experiences! By the way, I took these pictures after dark. Sometimes you can get good pictures after dark with a flash! During the day it's often hard to control the kind of light you're getting.

Jim Kunkle, Shelby  
Cleveland County Coordinator



Our resident bluebird population was overjoyed with the new house and within days, a nest was built and 5 eggs were laid and you can see the quint babies in this photo. All of the grandchildren are anxiously waiting to hear the tweets of the new birds when they fledge to the trees.

Tom Rains, Garner

# WAKE UP WITH FRIENDS

I like to get up earlier and grab a cup of coffee and sit out on the deck and enjoy the forest around us. At 7:15 in the morning I am not the only one up. I hear a dog barking in the distance and I can see a few walkers strolling thru the neighborhood. My backyard is awake as well and our bluebirds and others are up for another day. Biltmore Lake is fortunate in having so many different birds to enjoy. I have seen 49 species and they give me a year round color show.

(Clockwise from top right:) The Carolina Wren mom is busying making breakfast for her baby that waits on a nearby perch.

Our bluebird mom is having breakfast with two of her kids at the breakfast table, while dad is feeding another baby a sunlit mouthful of mealworms.

A very sleepy Northern Flicker is on the birdbath, maybe splashing a little water on his face to wake up.

Every morning I receive a beautiful wake up from our feathered friends.

Russ Bauman, Biltmore Lake  
Buncombe County Coordinator



Keep those photos coming and your nesting stories for the  
*Summer Bluebird Notes*.

Remember when submitting photos to include:  
date/location/event photo was taken; caption for the photo;  
brief description related to the photo;  
submitters name and e-mail address

Photo submitted via website by Debbie Robillard

# HENDERSONVILLE TRAIL

Continued from Page 1 - New Bluebird Trails

So far, 14 nestboxes have been installed in Jackson Park and along the Greenway. The hybrid nestbox design that was used combines the best characteristics of the Jack Finch design and some improvements suggested



Henderson County Young Naturalists 4-H Club

by the X-Box design. Two major advantages of the Jack Finch design are a top covered with aluminum flashing and straight saw cuts on the sides. Since the top is usually the first item to fail on a nestbox, the aluminum flashing extends the life by many years and provides a reliably dry cavity for nestlings. The X-Box design, like the Jack Finch design, is simple and easy to assemble. But the larger roof offers better protection from wind-driven rain, and the inner roof offers better protection from the roof being ripped off by predators.

Laying out the material for a project of this size presented a challenge. However, the Apple Country Woodcrafters of Henderson County were all too happy to help. The size of the facility, the quality of the equipment, the fact that the design uses only straight cuts, and the enthusiastic support made it easy for Laurie Bingaman Lackey to layout, cut, and drill

the material for the 15 nest boxes in less than 90 minutes.

We often hear that ‘kids today don’t get outside enough to see and enjoy the benefits found in nature.’ Let there be no mistake, this theme is not part of the culture at the Henderson County Young Naturalists 4-H Club. The club held multiple sessions to learn about the plight of the bluebird and how they could help, to assemble the nestbox kits, and install four of them in Jackson Park. According to Club Leader Ranae Worrell, the nestboxes will provide a sustainable project allowing older members to train new members and pass on the legacy. The close proximity to the meeting room will ensure that monitoring the nestboxes will be part of their activities during the nesting season.

The nestboxes will provide an excellent opportunity to educate the public on the benefit of the bluebirds and how people can help ensure they thrive. The Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway coordinate several “Walk and Talk” sessions on the greenway to discuss native trees, wildflowers and the benefits of pollinator habitats. Several volunteers have already stepped forward to help monitor the nestboxes.

Many thanks to the NC Bluebird Society for making this project possible, to the Apple Country Woodcrafters for their assistance in cutting the material, and to the Henderson County Young Naturalist 4-H Club for their help in assembling and installing the finished nestboxes. For more information contact Joe Sanders at [joesanders0522@gmail.com](mailto:joesanders0522@gmail.com) or at 828.243.6732.



Finished nestbox on the greenway

By Joe Sanders, Hendersonville  
Henderson County Coordinator

# HAW RIVER STATE PARK TRAIL

Continued from Page 1 - New Bluebird Trails

The mission of the NC Division of Parks and Recreation is: **Conservation:** To protect North Carolina's natural diversity through careful selection and stewardship of state parks system lands; **Recreation:** To provide and promote outdoor recreation opportunities in the state parks system and throughout the state; and **Education:** To encourage appreciation of North Carolina's natural and cultural heritage through diverse educational opportunities; for all citizens of and visitors to the State of North Carolina. NC Bluebird Society's goal is to increase bluebird (and other cavity nesting bird) populations in every NC county. NCBS works toward its goal by promoting bluebird projects among its members and other interested groups in the state; conducting educational programs and workshops; distributing educational materials; collecting and sharing nesting data; and encouraging and aiding the development of nestbox trails. Given that our missions are so similar, it's no surprise that our partnership is a "Naturally Wonderful" fit.

To learn more about Eastern Bluebird nestbox maintenance and monitoring, Haw River State Park will be hosting an on-site tour at our Iron Ore Belt Access on Saturday, May 27, 2017 starting at 10am. Join Ranger Allcox and find out what park staff, and our NCBS friends, are doing to help ensure the resurgence of these beautiful birds.



President Ken Kernodle, Betsy Welch and Steve McDaniel, along with Past President Ray Welch

Special thanks goes to Mr. Frank Newell and the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc. (126 Newell Farms Road, Warrenton, NC 27589) for the building and donation of our eight newest nesting boxes. For more information visit: [www.easternbluebirdrescue.org/](http://www.easternbluebirdrescue.org/)

Angelia Allcox, Park Ranger  
Haw River State Park



Donated Boxes



Team Work: McDaniel, Welch, and Kernodle



Park Ranger Angelia Allcox

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



April 22, 2017 was the second time I attended the NCBS Annual Conference at Haw River State Park. I was again pleased for another opportunity to spend a Saturday in this gorgeous place with other bluebird enthusiasts. The scenic beauty alone was worth the drive. Mother Nature was smiling again this year with the sun shining from a Carolina blue sky dotted with white fluffy clouds.

Starting at 8 am, an hour was allocated for registration and mingling, with plenty of coffee & pastry snacks. Some folks spent time browsing the neat array of raffle and auction items. Everyone who registered was given a new colorful 2017 tote bag filled with goodies. Carrie Helston, Marty Dickens, and Dana Glenn so kindly spent time greeting guests and manning the registrations. By 9 am the festivities were off to a great start. Ken Kernodle, NCBS President, and Park Ranger, Angelia Allcox welcomed the group and the day of fun continued.



All Annual Conference Highlights Photos By Glenda Ryan  
Kay Hindsley was an integral part of the conference. Kay's smile, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for bluebirds was so inspiring. Her *Bluebird Med-*

*ley* was so touching it brought happy tears to my eyes. She also facilitated the "Bluebird Showcase" featuring a variety of bluebird items, such as pictures and books, combined with interesting stories. One pearl of wisdom that stuck out for me was how the bluebirds stay focused on their goals even when faced with difficult challenges.

Jim Kunkle's chronological series of photos demonstrating the life of bluebirds, from eggs in nest, to baby bird, thru fledges was awesome. Additionally, he provided some nice pictures of adult bluebirds, such as a bluebird on a feeder with 6 inches of snow. Photos of bluebirds interacting with other birds, such as the cardinal & bluebird in tree in winter snow, were a visual treat.

The "Avian Reproduction" presentation given by Dr. Gary Davis, previous professor at NC State University Department of Poultry Science, was very informative. It included many visual supplements, which were greatly appreciated and helped drive home his points. His talk included discussion of bluebird eggs, as well as eggs from various birds. Discussion about the life cycle of chicken egg growth was well received. Interesting trivia to learn that chicken eggs with double yolks never hatch. Another fun fact he mentioned is bluebirds have three toes, which helps with perching.

Dave Helston and I gave a demonstration of the new online store, which features merchandise with the NCBS logo and bluebird photos. Much thanks to Dave for leading the discussion, as his public speaking skills & humorous outlook are outstanding. Our products include coffee mugs, note cards, coasters, hats, keychains, pot holders, puzzles, and more. A display of sample products was presented at the conference. The store can be found from a link in top left corner of [ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org).

It was exciting that we had vendors and members from two different Wild Birds Unlimited Stores. Chuck Brewer from the Chapel Hill store, <https://chapelhill.wbu.com>, and Pamela Pepsin and Mike Graziano from the Durham store, <https://durham.wbu.com>. We are pleased to welcome Chuck and Mike as new board members!

Ray Welch informed about a sizeable donation of unassembled nestboxes he recently received from Mr. James Furr of Burlington. Ray was able to quickly assemble several in time to bring for sale at the meeting. Good idea, as many were sold. Great job, Ray.

Continued on Page 9

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Continued from Page 8

A report from David Hindsley informed of 418 current members in good standing. The treasurer report from Carrie Helston was favorable, with an increase in donations and new membership.

Ken mentioned our new microsite, [ncbluebirdannualconference.org](http://ncbluebirdannualconference.org), which has been recently implemented. This site will be available year round with information about past and upcoming conferences. Ken also noted that the Facebook for NCBS has reached a sizeable following. The value of this online social media is clear. A lot of helpful information and beautiful bluebird pictures can be found on the Facebook page. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/North-Carolina-Bluebird-Society-175851979123608/>.

Dana Glenn, who will be taking over as the state administrator for the county coordinator program, spoke with enthusiasm about her new position. Joye Stephenson has served in this role for many years. I can



Dana Glenn, County Coordinators Report

speak from personal experience about the outstanding work Joye has provided for NCBS. Joye will be greatly missed, but her dedication to bluebirds will continue. Joye will still be helping Bill Satterwhite run the Bluebirders of Wake club and manage other bluebird activities in Wake County. Bill and Joye will continue as NCBS County Coordinators for Wake County.

Dana demonstrated a map of North Carolina with visual indications of counties (in blue) that have representation and those needing help (in white/blank). A new county coordinator for Sampson County was added at the conference. Darenne Honneycutt signed on when realizing from Dana's map that her county was

blank, so the map already scored. Well done, Dana and welcome, Darenne.

Park Ranger Angelia Allcox was very busy helping make the 2017 conference a success (as she also did in 2016). She gave an excellent talk about the park, including the new portion named Iron Ore Belt Access. She and Ken guided a tour around a field of nestboxes recently added to this area. Even after the conference concluded, she and Ken gave a bonus walk around the lake near the conference center to view the trail of five bluebird boxes. Both of the walking tours included sightings of baby bluebirds.

The meals provided by Haw River exceeded our expectations. Even as a vegetarian, I had many delicious options. And the coffee available all day long was a lifesaver for me. Kudos to the staff!

It was wonderful to see Chuck Bliss, from Randolph County, in the audience. Chuck was a dedicated board member for many years. I knew him from his work as director and leader of the NCBS county coordinator program. I was impressed to hear from Ray that Chuck coordinated the placement of the historical signage along NC 581 north of Bailey, NC honoring Jack Finch (maker of Bailey bluebird boxes). I also learned that Chuck was a charter member of NCBS, previous Vice-President, and instrumental in setting up the NCBS county coordinator program. I want to say thanks to Chuck for helping bluebirds for so many years.

Another charter member in attendance was Bill Abbey. I do not know Bill personally, but Ray gave some highlights of the dedicated efforts by Bill for bluebird conservation for many years. Bill has tended to 84 bluebird boxes at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons, NC for many years. He presently looks after 40 some boxes, all currently full, at Tanglewood. Bill speaks to hundreds each year about bluebirds. It is great to hear of such devotion to bluebirds. Much thanks to Bill.

It was also great to see so many people raise their hand as first time attendees. One was one of my friends, Kathy DeVoe. She helped me remember some of the events for this summary. Also, thanks to Jim Kunkle, Ken and Ray for jogging my memory and providing some additional data for this article.

Continued on Page 15

# CHURCH PROJECT HELPS BLUEBIRDS

On March 8, Ken Kernodle and Beverly Frassinelli with the NC Bluebird Society, met with Jill Hemming Austin, Durham Stake Primary President, and her son Truman, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 400 Country Club Drive in Chapel Hill, NC. Jill had invited us to meet her at the church to look at the church's property, and to help with choosing potential sites for bluebird houses for an upcoming project. We walked the church grounds, and were delighted to find landscaped areas, open fields, wooded areas of mixed hardwood and pine trees, with overhead utility lines. All of these elements make up the perfect landscape for attracting bluebirds, as well as other cavity nesting songbirds native to North Carolina. Ken shared some helpful tips with Jill about the specifics of pole sizes, height to place boxes, bracket placement on the backside of boxes, and some other mounting and assembly information. On April 22, Jill wrote to tell us about the Durham Stake "Girls Activity Day." Forty-five girls, ages 8 to 11, constructed 8 bluebird boxes. They used \$9 kits from Frank Newell's Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group in Warrenton, NC. Jill reported that the girls had a fantastic time and came away very proud of their accomplishments. She also said, at the end of the day the bluebird boxes came up several times as one of the highlights. After completing the assembly of the boxes, the girls helped mount some of the houses at the activity site, and other houses were placed at chapels in Chapel Hill, Durham, and Mebane. Jill shared these photographs with us. Also, as part of the program, the girls learned about the plight of the bluebirds and their resurgence. The DVD "Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box" was shown, which is always a delight to both young and old. Jill reported that not only was this project a learning experience, but the girls were very proud of their accomplishments. Jill, thank you for letting the NCBS be a part of this exciting and educational project. Ken and I, as representatives from the NCBS, were thrilled and honored to be invited to participate in this project to help the bluebirds.

Beverly Frassinelli, Hillsborough  
Orange County Coordinator  
NCBS Vice President



Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Girls's Activity Day Photos



# COUNTY COORDINATOR CORNER



Ann McGuire, Davie County Coordinator and Juanna Wooten Wilkes, Ashe County Coordinator giving a bluebird presentation to Women's Club in Mocksville on May 11.



Bill Satterwhite, Wake County Coordinator, was honored and presented with the prestigious *William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement*. On May 17th, the Association of Retired Faculty of NC State University held this annual awards luncheon stating, "He (Bill) is truly a great example of what can be accomplished in retirement. For nearly 25 years, Bill has been a force supporting the re-establishment of the Eastern Bluebird population in Wake County." Congratulations, Bill, on this highly impressive recognition.

## DATA SURVEY 2017

Be the early bird and start recording your nesting activity now for the *2017 Data Survey*. Every backyard box to the bluebird trail counts in the NC collection data. According the North American Bluebird Society, " sending surveys at the end of nesting season increases our knowledge of cavity nesting birds. A box that is not monitored may do more harm than good."

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 and please return by December 2017 to:

**Stella Rideout, NCBS Board of Directors**  
 480 US Highway 158 Bypass, Warrenton, NC 27589  
 Email: [wcbbluebird07@yahoo.com](mailto:wcbbluebird07@yahoo.com) Telephone: 252-257-3137

# WORDS OF ADVICE

## Cheap Drink of Water

Help your feathered neighborhood friends beat the heat this summer with an inexpensive source for a clean, cheap drink of water. Birds must have water, food and shelter to survive, the same as any other creature. Birds use water for drinking, grooming and staying cool. During the hot summers and extended droughts, a clean drink of water can be very difficult for them to find. One can devise a very simple inexpensive source of water to one that is very elegant and you can help birds now and into the future. Shown below is a picture of my fountain which I would call “a middle of the road,” but the birds love it as do the creatures at night!

A shallow pan such as an old cake or pie pan with some weight in it will fit the bill very well. If you have a basement like mine, I bet you can find something suitable. Another item is an old garbage can top with some rocks in it will work great. If the lid still has the handle one may need to dig a little bit in order to level that lid. If you are searching for a container to put water in, let your mind roam free.

We all put out the food, we put up the nestboxes, and putting out a container of water meets the life needs of the birds. Make water available and they will come!

Please remember to change the water each day in order to not get mosquitos and other such problems.



## The Summer Heat

According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the range for bird egg development is 96.8F to 104.9F. If egg temperatures are lower, embryonic development slows. Higher temperatures can be lethal for the embryo. Bluebird eggs and nestlings cannot survive temperatures exceeding 107F. Prolonged excessive heat can severely impact nestling health due to dehydration and heat stress.

Temperatures inside a nest box can reach 120F and are often at least 10 degrees higher than the outside temperature. Some research indicates that if temperatures outside are 100-104F, the percentage of eggs that hatch drop and nestlings under nine days old can die. Up to 6-9 days old, the nestlings are as sensitive as eggs to cold and heat. Use a high/low thermometer during full sun in your nest boxes to see if they hit 107 degrees. Ventilation is very important to help cool the box on hot summer days. (Reference: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania)

## When Checking Your Boxes, Check for Ticks

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue and a skin rash called erythema migrans. If untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and nervous system. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removal of ticks promptly, and reducing tick habitat. Ticks that transmit Lyme disease can occasionally transmit other tickborne diseases as well. (Reference: Center for Disease Control and Prevention)

All three articles: *Cheap Drink of Water*,  
*The Summer Heat*, and *Check for Ticks*  
Ray Welch, Winston-Salem  
Davidson County Coordinator  
NCBS Past President

# WEBSITE Q & A

## Please Help, 4/5 Eggs Destroyed

Not sure if anyone can help me, but I went to check on the nest in the bluebird house and only found one egg left. I looked around and believe I found all four of the five other eggs lying on the ground destroyed. Any idea what could have caused this? What can I do to save the last egg? Yes, the mama has still been to the nest. What can I do to prevent this in the future? I am so devastated. This is my first time putting up a bluebird house. Thank you, Jill Goldstein

Dear Jill,

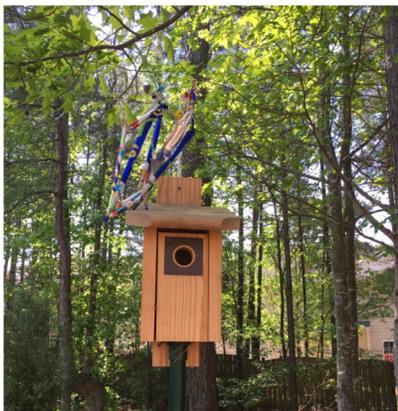
Your email note of April 16 addressed to the NCBS has been forwarded to me for a reply. This question is one of the most numerous questions of the season and one of the most difficult to answer. When one gets an infestation of English/House Sparrows (HOSP) they are difficult to control or eliminate. We could spend the rest of the day addressing this problem. So with that in mind, I am going to tell you that it sounds exactly as if you have a HOSP problem and suggest a website to view.

The best bluebird resource information is on the website of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) in connection with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, written by Beth Zimmerman. The web address for this site is [sialis.org](http://sialis.org) (sialis being the Latin word for bluebird). There is an index on the left-hand side of the page of some great topics. I would start with *House Sparrow Control, Problems and Control*, and *Sparrow Spookers*. Follow these three topics by reading all of the others. By the completion of these three topics, you probably will want to read all of the other topics.

Beth's suggestions are methods that have worked for others, and may or may not work in your situation. I have had the best luck with the fishing line on box front and the Van Erp trap. Next to last effort would be to relocate the box to a place where you can see the box and enjoy the bluebirds. With the last effort being to remove the nestbox completely. Please, please do not allow the english sparrow to raise more of these predators!

In closing, we appreciate your notice to NC bluebird Society and hope that you will feel free to contact us again if needed or to telephone me at 336-764-0226. As Beth Zimmerman says, "May all of your blues be birds"!

Ray Welch, Winston-Salem  
Davidson County Coordinator  
NCBS Past President



Dear Ray,

Thank you for getting back to me. Exactly what I was thinking was happening. I did all my research last night because I was panicked ... made this today ... crossing my fingers. How often should mom be visiting the nest? She did come back and go in the house at least once since I put up the spooker and one egg is still there.

Jill

# COUNTY COORDINATORS

<b>State Administrator</b>	<b>Dana Glen</b>	<a href="mailto:director-dg@ncbluebird.org">director-dg@ncbluebird.org</a>	704-616-1742
ALAMANCE	Chris Williamson	<a href="mailto:chrisw@piedmontfeed.com">chrisw@piedmontfeed.com</a>	336-264-4963
ALLEGHANY	Susie Miller	<a href="mailto:susie.mrsmiller@gmail.com">susie.mrsmiller@gmail.com</a>	336-372-5292
ANSON	Sharon, Dave, Katie Edwards	<a href="mailto:david.edwards.de33@gmail.com">david.edwards.de33@gmail.com</a>	704-695-4002
ASHE	Juanna Wooten	<a href="mailto:bobbyjuanna@gmail.com">bobbyjuanna@gmail.com</a>	336-462-2110
BEAUFORT	Sandy Rhodes	<a href="mailto:srhodes7@hotmail.com">srhodes7@hotmail.com</a>	252-943-8822
BLADEN	Mike Jackson	<a href="mailto:michael.jackson@kurary.com">michael.jackson@kurary.com</a>	910-874-2894
BRUNSWICK	Nancy Schiffman	<a href="mailto:nancyschiffman@aol.com">nancyschiffman@aol.com</a>	910-833-7011
BUNCOMBE	Russ Bauman	<a href="mailto:susie.russ@att.net">susie.russ@att.net</a>	828-667-9007
BURKE	Karen Gilliam	<a href="mailto:lewop4k@live.com">lewop4k@live.com</a>	828-234-9664
CABARRUS	Cindy Matthews	<a href="mailto:mealwormmadnessetc@gmail.com">mealwormmadnessetc@gmail.com</a>	704-453-4215
CARTERET	Ken Roberson	<a href="mailto:kenmikecl@aol.com">kenmikecl@aol.com</a>	336-402-2752
CASWELL	Mary Beth Moore	<a href="mailto:mbandtm@triad.rr.com">mbandtm@triad.rr.com</a>	336-214-8283
CATAWBA	Kristin Dzimitrowicz	<a href="mailto:kbdipad@gmail.com">kbdipad@gmail.com</a>	828-781-8517
CHATHAM	Lloyd Edwards	<a href="mailto:geobrudder@gmail.com">geobrudder@gmail.com</a>	919-548-3438
CHEROKEE	Carol Reid	<a href="mailto:carolreid51@yahoo.com">carolreid51@yahoo.com</a>	828-361-1220
CLAY	Carol Reid	<a href="mailto:carolreid51@yahoo.com">carolreid51@yahoo.com</a>	828-361-1220
CLEVELAND	Jim Kunkle	<a href="mailto:james.k27@att.net">james.k27@att.net</a>	704-480-7600
CRAVEN	Sue Williams	<a href="mailto:neuseriverphotography@gmail.com">neuseriverphotography@gmail.com</a>	252-259-0198
DAVIDSON	Ray Welch	<a href="mailto:rwelch5@bellsouth.net">rwelch5@bellsouth.net</a>	336-764-0226
DAVIE	Ann McGuire	<a href="mailto:anncarltonmcguire@yahoo.com">anncarltonmcguire@yahoo.com</a>	336-462-4873
DURHAM	Steve McDaniel	<a href="mailto:skmddm@frontier.com">skmddm@frontier.com</a>	919-489-0926
EDGECOMBE	David Hindsley	<a href="mailto:recordingchair@ncbluebird.org">recordingchair@ncbluebird.org</a>	252-823-0737
FORSYTH	Bill Abbey		336-766-5857
GASTON	Dana Glenn	<a href="mailto:bluebirdsinsc@yahoo.com">bluebirdsinsc@yahoo.com</a>	704-616-1742
GRANVILLE	Phil Walters	<a href="mailto:walte011011@aol.com">walte011011@aol.com</a>	919-482-5582
GUILFORD	Jim Jochum	<a href="mailto:jpjochum@aol.com">jpjochum@aol.com</a>	336-288-7975
HENDERSON	Joe Sanders	<a href="mailto:joesanders0522@gmail.com">joesanders0522@gmail.com</a>	828-243-6732
IREDELL	B.J. Taylor	<a href="mailto:cwwoodcrafters@bellsouth.net">cwwoodcrafters@bellsouth.net</a>	704-872-7682
JOHNSTON	Ethelene Allen		919-963-3831
LINCOLN	Pat Probst	<a href="mailto:ilovebluebirds@bellsouth.net">ilovebluebirds@bellsouth.net</a>	704-735-5780
MITCHELL	Linda Greasamar	<a href="mailto:earth737@copper.net">earth737@copper.net</a>	828-688-1689
MOORE	Jim and Jean Walker	<a href="mailto:jean134@mindspring.com">jean134@mindspring.com</a>	910-695-0838
NASH	Bill Highsmith	<a href="mailto:billhighsmith@gmail.com">billhighsmith@gmail.com</a>	252-399-9602
ORANGE	Beverly Frassinelli	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@ncbluebird.org">vicepresident@ncbluebird.org</a>	919-943-8039
PITT	Dr. Edward Davis	<a href="mailto:gedward.davis@gmail.com">gedward.davis@gmail.com</a>	252-756-4165
RICHMOND	Matthew Grant	<a href="mailto:matt_grant@bellsouth.net">matt_grant@bellsouth.net</a>	910-331-6533
ROCKINGHAM	Lewis Compton	<a href="mailto:compton1931@traid.rr.com">compton1931@traid.rr.com</a>	336-644-1799
RUTHERFORD	Christine Ammons	<a href="mailto:cbammons@gmail.com">cbammons@gmail.com</a>	828-287-3502
SAMPSON	Darenne Honeycutt	<a href="mailto:honeycuttdarene@gmail.com">honeycuttdarene@gmail.com</a>	919-567-6283
STANLY	Dana Glenn	<a href="mailto:bluebirdsinsc@yahoo.com">bluebirdsinsc@yahoo.com</a>	704-616-1742
WAKE	Bill Satterwhite	<a href="mailto:director-bs@ncbluebird.org">director-bs@ncbluebird.org</a>	919-787-5248
	Joye Stephenson	<a href="mailto:jazinnias@yahoo.com">jazinnias@yahoo.com</a>	919-632-0736
WARREN	Stella Rideout	<a href="mailto:director-sr@ncbluebird.org">director-sr@ncbluebird.org</a>	252-257-3137
WATAUGA	Dr. Lynn Siefferman	<a href="mailto:director-ls@bluebird.org">director-ls@bluebird.org</a>	828-355-9149
WAYNE	Virginia Pickles	<a href="mailto:pic658@nc.rr.com">pic658@nc.rr.com</a>	919-658-3062
WILKES	Juanna Wooten	<a href="mailto:bobbyjuanna@gmail.com">bobbyjuanna@gmail.com</a>	336-462-2110

## Annual Conference Highlights

Continued from Page 9

We were fortunate to have so many great items donated for door prizes and the silent auction. Thanks to everyone who contributed and a special shout out to Betsy Welch, Beverly Frassinelli, Anne Montgomery, and Peggy Kernodle for setting up and managing the raffle and auction process. Beverly, the new NCBS Vice-President, concluded the conference with the fun task of announcing the winners! I was very pleased to win *The Garden Club of North Carolina 2017* calendar/note book. It has so many beautiful flower and butterfly pictures, as well as helpful gardening tips. And lots of room for writing notes. I love it.

I enjoyed serving as the photographer and captured some great snapshots that highlight a fun and educational day in a scenic wonderland! Some are included in this newsletter, but more can be seen online at [nbluebird.org](http://nbluebird.org), [nbluebirdannualconference.org](http://nbluebirdannualconference.org), and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/nbluebird.org).

Glenda Ryan  
Web Administrator

## Note from the Editor



Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Editor for the past two years. I've treasured organizing all these wonderful articles and photographs into the *Bluebird Notes* quarterly publication. Many talented people from the NCBS have

filled these pages with valuable advice plus humor about our beloved Eastern Bluebird. North Carolina has much to be proud of with the determination of NCBS members who love to see a nestbox full of eggs and chicks leave that nest each year. As I walk my dog each morning, I hear the bluebirds singing their beautiful tune saying, "thank you for that nestbox and thanks for scaring that cat away." Continue the good work and keep those articles plus photos coming for future publications.

Cheryl Gay, Garner

## 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:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

A member's email address can be used only for NCBS official business and considered private and confidential.

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

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

North Carolina Bluebird Society  
135 Lakeview Drive  
Tarboro, NC 27886

Additional tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership

Renewal

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)

**BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY  
NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY  
135 Lakeview Dr.  
Tarboro, NC 27886**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANI-  
ZATION**

**U.S. Postage  
P.A.I.D.**

**Welcome, NC  
Permit # 15**

**Address Service Requested**



## **MEMBER PHOTO GALLERY**

### **The Last Gift**

**Alanda Buckner, Monroe**

My Dad and I love bluebirds and all the "happiness" they bring. The yellow water holder was the last gift my Dad gave to me before he passed away in 2011. I would always hope that a bluebird would land on it just long enough for me to take a picture and it did on that day. I knew that again that was a gift from my dad from heaven to send that beautiful bluebird to land on the last gift that he gave me.



**Dale Daniel, Clayton**



I had my camera on a tripod and firing the camera with remote while sitting on my deck watching mama and daddy go in and out feeding then watching me. I'm sure they were wondering what that clicking noise was on my camera. Photo was taken with a Nikon D300 at F/8 and 1/50 sec, ISO 400, 300mm lens.