BLUEBIRD NOTES BLUEB





Elke Hoffmann, from Bahama in Northern Durham County, provided some fantastic snapshots of her favorite bird. It was difficult to choose one to put on this cover, so we included three. See more of her photos in many past newsletters, such as the Summer 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2021, or Winter 2019. The Spring 2021 edition (page 6) has a story named *Bahama Lady Finds Joy in Seeing & Photographing Bluebirds*. Check out this article that tells of her first time seeing a bluebird and how she became hooked (as many of us can relate).

We are thrilled to announce that Elke is one of our two new Lifetime Members, along with Catherine Betts of Pittsboro in Chatham County. Ms. Betts is newer to Bluebirding than Elke, but has quickly caught the Bluebird Spirit that is common among us Bluebirders. Catherine informed "I became interested in bluebirds about two years ago, when a pair came to our nestbox. I learned so much from the NC Bluebird Society website, decided to join, and attended the conference at Sylvan Heights. After that, I was hooked! I'm pleased to be a lifetime member of the NC Bluebird Society and encourage others to join at this level."

Thank you, Lady Bluebirders, for your enthusiastic support of our precious bluebirds and their conservation.

Happy Bluebirding, Everyone! We hope this newsletter brings you knowledge, inspiration, and cheer!

North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) Mission Statement

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds in our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS).

www.ncbluebird.org

President's Report ... Nest Box Survey Data is due October 15. Planning for Annual Meeting & other NCBS/bluebird needs. Happy to be honoring 2 new NCBS Lifetime Members. Page 3. Bluebirds Helping Bluebirds ... Reports & pictures of juvenile bluebirds feeding fledglings. Page 4. Immediate Past President ... Dr. Bill Zitek reports of new

County Coordinator & gives results from Bird Nest Quiz. Page 5.

Tribute to Bluebird Lady from Garner ... Honoring

Diane Woerner Mitchell & her dedication to bluebirds. Page 6. **Wake County is Strong Bluebird Area** ... Pages 7-8.

NCBS booths at area events helps spread the word about Blues.

Nest Box Data Form ... Due by 10/15/2023. Page 9. **Healing: Crafting Bluebird Nest Boxes ...** Working on

bluebird nest boxes helps man deal with grief. Pages 10-11.

Towhees ... Interesting Birds of Autumn Color. Page 12. **Hello from Oscar ...** Knightdale Songbird Report. Photos & Tips, such as check out website **nabluebirdsociety.org.** Page 13.

Nest Box Success in Polk County ... Heartwarming bluebird story shared from Vange LaMore. Page 14.

Nest Boxes for Sale ... Key to Bluebird Survival. Offered by NCBS Members in various locations. Page 14.

Catawba County Bluebird Greetings ... Joel Miller of Hickory shares wonderful photo of Bluebird Couple. Page 16.



County Coordinator Area Coordinators ...

If you are unable to reach a County Coordinator (page 15 or **ncbluebird.org**) near you, additional resources are now available to help answer questions.

 Western Region:
 Patty Cook
 828-321-5019

 Piedmont Region:
 Bill Zitek
 828-699-7717

 Eastern Region:
 Bill Highsmith
 252-399-9602

Bluebird Notes

Vol. 38 Issue III

North Carolina Bluebird Society, Inc. publishes *Bluebird Notes* quarterly: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter

Your bluebird stories and photos are welcome for newsletter/online content.

Please submit to: Glenda Ryan, Editor/Webmaster/Marketing

E-mail: editor@ncbluebird.org

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Lloyd Young
nestdata@ncbluebird.org

nestdata@ncbluebird.org 925-628-9205

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FALL 2023

IMPORTANT: NEST BOX DATA REPORT IS DUE BY OCTOBER 15, 2023

Our Vice-President, Lloyd Young, has graciously agreed to assist in our nest box data management. The Nest Box Data Report Form can be found on page 9, or you can download from **ncbluebird.org**. Submit completed survey form to **nestdata@ncbluebird.org**. Can also be mailed to: 420 Cypress Ridge Drive SE, Bolivia, NC 28422. **OUESTIONS:** Call 925-628-9205

Happy to Announce two new Lifetime Members

- 1. Catherine Betts, Pittsboro, NC
- 2. Elke Hoffmann, Bahama, NC

You too can join for \$400. All Lifetime Members will receive a special pin in their welcome packet.



Planning for the 2024 Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATES — April 12 - 14, 2024 — Haw River State Park, Browns Summit, NC

For each new member you bring in (not pay for) between now and January 1, you will receive 1 extra ticket for door prizes at 2024 Annual Conference.

We are seeking other non-profit partners to help sponsor our 2024 Annual Conference. Such a partner as this must have a mission compatible with that of NCBS – success will be determined by your Board of Directors. I'll keep you posted.

Opportunity to help with NCBS Facebook

Some of us in NCBS are in need of training to improve our use of Facebook. I'd love for our members to be able to post photos and stories there for all to enjoy. We just need to vet each requestor to ensure we only allow active members. We have a new volunteer, Madison Eastburn, who is a friend of Jeanne Sprague, to help with this project.

Bluebirds of Mecklenburg Need Help

Calling all members in Mecklenburg County – we need a County Coordinator to help our members there, to notify all of us of your interesting works, etc. Currently, Jeane Sprague in Gaston County has been covering Mecklenburg, but you are growing. Let's get Jeane some help. If you want to help, please contact me at ncbspresidentijs@outlook.com or Dana Glenn, newsletterdana@gmail.com.

Are your bluebirds suffering badly from the recent HEAT?

Members are reporting loss of life in their birds and are asking for help. If you know of ways to help our birds avoid or survive this, please speak up. Let us know. I don't think the heat is going to slip away quietly or quickly.

Reminder to keep up with your membership dues. If you are unsure when your membership expires, please contact Recording Chair Alexia Maneschi, recordingchair@ncbluebird.org or 919-387-9500.

Keep in touch with us and each other. You have knowledge or "Happy Accidents" that others need to know.

continued 3

DO JUVENILES FEED NESTLINGS? WHO KNEW??!!!

What an exciting Saturday I've had. A most unusual thing happened. I received this very interesting email from our member Susan Mayo in Burnsville, NC – and off I go down a new rabbit hole---

On August 12, 2023 Susan wrote: "Hi, I have a pair of Eastern Bluebirds in Burnsville NC... and they went to nest approximately 6-7 weeks ago and had three babies. The babies stayed with the parents in our yard (we feed them) and the parents went back to nest and had three more. These new babies fledged yesterday.

The interesting thing is that the three previous babies all helped feed the new babies and they also remove

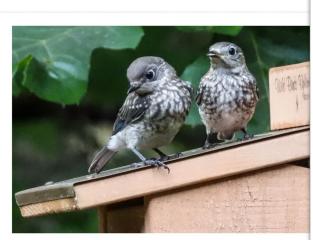
fecal sacs that were in the nest. Does that happen often or is that unusual? Here is a picture of the three newbies...:) "



I have been a member of NCBS since 1993 but I certainly did not know - but I just had to share it with all of you. I went to the highest bluebird authority I knew - Past President Bill Zitek. He said: "Hi Iris, yes, bluebirds are known to have the nestlings of a previous brood of that same year, come back to the active nest and help feed the nestlings. Doesn't always happen. These helpful fledglings probably gain extra knowledge in learning about where to find good food and maybe get an extra meal themselves. The male will have his hands full chasing them all away when his male progeny returns and wants his nest site in the next season!"

Our Editor, Glenda Ryan, received photos and a similar message from our super bluebird photographer, Russ Bauman (Buncombe County Coordinator of Biltmore Lake). On July 24 Russ sent the images below and informed "First time for me. Our two juvies started feeding the nestlings last night. The male just stood by with his food and let them learn. They went into the nest as well as at the door."







This has been a very interesting day for me. I finished two paintings, my grocery order was late, my friend came for coffee and then these stories arrived. Wouldn't I love to see my juveniles doing this – wouldn't you too?! Maybe you have. Send us your stories to share.

Happy Fall, All! Hope yours is fabulous.

Iris Senzig, President

County Coordinator Corner

Sharing a question and answer puzzle presented at a meeting of County Representatives. Thought this would be a fun way to provide helpful knowledge to our members as well.

The Bird Nest Quiz: To the brave souls who submitted their thoughts about the questions I asked concerning the picture at the right: You all deserve a star--unfortunately, not a gold star. But, all of you came close.

The Answers: This is an EABL (Eastern Bluebird) nest--with two nestlings--one much larger than the other. The smaller is an Eastern Bluebird nestling (yellow mouth) and the larger is a Brown-Headed Cowbird (red mouth) which as some noted, hatches earlier and is the larger of the two nestlings.





There are 3 Eastern Bluebird eggs in the nest--one of which (under critical examination) is capped by the partial shell of the light colored, brown-speckled, cowbird egg-making for some confusion about the type and number of eggs! The colors of the lining of each bird's mouth are the give-away as noted above.

The artist I refer to is Charlie Harper. He is an artist who paints all his subjects in geometric forms. His painting, (which shows 2 yellow warblers feeding the cowbird nestling), is attached below. Our own Kay Cameron took the great photo.

Thank you all for taking the challenge!! We should have a little fun now and again. I will be glad to answer any questions--or challenges. And, by the way, this gives me another chance to

thank you all for your good work on behalf of the NCBS.

This is a tee sign that I sponsor each year at the Cary Rotary Club charity golf outing. I am a member of that Rotary Club and worked the outing recently!



A Birdie for the NCBS!

New Representative in Rockingham County

The North Carolina Bluebird Society is very happy to add Tim Wall of Stokesdale, NC to our list of County Coordinators throughout the State who provide information and guidance to the membership.

Tim will represent Rockingham County which lies just below the southern Virginia border in the piedmont section of North Carolina, where Tim operates his Magnalia Homestead.

Welcome, Tim!

Cheers,

Dr. Bill Zitek Immediate Past President

Tribute to Long Time NCBS Member and Monitor Leader

The Bluebirds at Garner's Lake Benson and White Deer Parks lost a devoted friend and advocate recently.



Diane Woerner Mitchell had served as leader of the group monitoring the Garner trail for many years. And we, her Bluebirder friends, lost a diligent leader who set a good example in taking care of the trail. She was on top of the monitoring schedule, repairing and replacing the nest boxes, giving knowledgeable advice, and keeping the records to submit to the NC Bluebird Society.

Our trail has a great support system with the Garner Parks staff: Katie Lockhart, Colleen Bockhahn, and Calvin Williams. Also, a shout out to all our monitors: Ellen Cook, Karen Williams, Annie Runyon, Rick Peifer, Donna Whitaker, Carol Reid, Terry Meredith, Theresa McLaughlin, Annie Kochersberger, and Cherry Gay (who was instrumental in setting up the trail). This dedicated

group works together to care for our Bluebirds and make Garner, N.C. the Eastern Bluebird Capital!

We honored Diane in April by dedicating a new Bailey nesting box in her memory at Lake Benson Park. We gathered with her son, Andy Woerner, his wife, and their son, and other members of her family to share our "Diane and Bluebird" stories.

There is already a Bluebird family occupying the new box!!

Submitted by Joye Stephenson, Garner











Saturday Bluebird Fun @ Benson Park

Gary and I set up 2 tables at Benson Park in Garner, NC on Saturday, 5/6/23. The event ran from 1-4 pm. They estimated over 1000 people attended! It was a wild and crazy few hours.

We had on hand: NCBS handouts, Bill's display, coloring pages and colors, bluebird stickers, blue feathers (dyed goose feathers, kids loved them!) and 200 blue easter eggs with candy inside. Unfortunately, we ran out of just about everything by 2:30, having only planned for about 300-400 kids to attend. Next year, if we participate, we will need to take many more items.

The attendees had many questions, Gary handled the adult questions on boxes (we had the one Bill gave us on hand), predator control, box placement, and life cycle, while I fielded questions on monitoring. We did not sit down the entire 3 hours. Fortunately we had a wonderful volunteer, Norah Bridges from the Southern Wake Conservationists (SWC), who hosted the event. We were grateful that Monty Moree, President of the SWC, was very easy to work with and they did a great job in overall organization.

I sent email links to provide additional bluebird resources from our website, **ncbluebird.org**, and the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) site, **ncbluebirdsociety.org**, to a number of adults who requested more information.

Terri McLaughlin, Wake County Co-Coordinator



Songbird Greetings from Southern Wake County

These beautiful bluebird & chickadee images are courtesy of Tammi Smith of Apex. Tammi has always loved birds, but became more aware of bluebirds after NCBS Webmaster/ Editor Glenda Ryan shared information from **ncbluebird.org**, *Bluebird Tips*, & *Bluebird Notes*. Tammi's interest in helping bluebirds and other songbirds continues to increase.

The songbirds from Tammi's backyard were featured in the Winter 2021 news edition, in an article co-authored by Ms. Smith and Ms. Ryan. Check out this

story, *Songbirds of Apex*, discussing turning to our feathered friends to help counteract life's stressful times. Newsletter archives can be found @ ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters.

A visit by Glenda to Tammi's on 8/27/2023 included the welcome sights of many bluebirds, particularly after Tammi put out mealworms. Look for photos in an upcoming issue.





Bluebird Education Booths @ Nature Events in Wake County

A Spring Plant Sale called *Raulston Bloom* held on April 29 was a fantastic opportunity to present a bluebird booth to an audience who cares for nature. This event, sponsored by JC Raulston for their members, home gardeners, families, and children, provided a day packed with garden and nature activities, shopping, and outdoor fun.

Highlights/Activities included:

21st Annual Birdhouse Competition
Access to exceptional / unusual plants
Educational displays and demonstrations
Food trucks and NC State Howling Cow ice cream cups
Gardening talks – knowledge from the experts
Hands-on fun for children and families
Invited artists and crafters
Used gardening book sale

Our own Bill Zitek and Joye Stephenson helped judge the birdhouse contest! We signed up four new members and educated the public about bluebirds and other cavity nesting feathered friends. We also gave away a new bluebird house to a lucky new member from Raulston Blooms and Cary Herbfest!

Cary Herbfest is a perennial favorite, held on the beautiful grounds of the Page-Walker Arts & History Center. Visitors have the opportunity to find out how to start their own herb garden while touring the Anne B. Kratzer Educational Garden.

In addition to touring the garden, festival-goers can stroll through booths selling a wide variety of garden-related items, including home care products, soaps and lotions, edible treats, garden products, and crafts. Plant vendors offer herbs, perennials, native plants, and vegetables. Demonstrators and informational booths included the chance to learn more about gardening, healing with herbs, cooking with herbs, nature and wildlife, and other interesting topics.



Herbfest is fun for the whole family, with crafts, a bake sale, and the exciting butterfly release. Joye Stephenson and I represented NCBS at this fun festival. We signed up 15 new members and got lots of questions about bluebirds and setting up a habitat in the backyard!

Alexia Maneschi, Raleigh

Kid's Corner: Beautiful Bluebird Drawing

What an inspiraton to receive this marvelous picture from six-yearold Owen Peters, who is the Grandson of Ed and Carol Reid of Garner. Excellent job, Owen! We thank him very much.

NCBS has been striving to make young people aware of the beauty of bluebirds and how they can help with conservation. Randy Senzig, Education Director, has been leading a program named "Bluebirds in the Schoolyard". See page 5 of the Winter 2022 Bluebirds Notes for more details about this fantastic effort. See the Spring 2023 newsletter for an article about a Bluebird Presentation by Randy & Iris Senzig at the Knightdale library.

Newsletters can be found @ ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters.





2023 Nest Box Annual Data Form

Return completed form by October 15 by email to nestdata@ncbluebird.org

Name(s):	Phone:			
Email:	Total number of nest boxes monitored at this site:			
Nest Box/Trail Location (county, city, state)				
Field Record Observation Notes Summary				
Date of first egg laid (start of season); also indicate	species			
Total number of nest boxes used by bluebirds				
Total number of bluebird clutches	Date of first egg laid in the last clutch			
Total number of bluebird eggs laid				
Total number of bluebird eggs hatched				
Total number of bluebird Fledglings	·			
	cies. Example for eggs laid: Carolina Chickadee (CC) – 5; Brown-headed a Wren(CW) – 4; Unknown(UKN) – 2; Eastern Bluebird (EBL)			
Total number of nest boxes used by other species	Species/date of first egg in first clutch			
Total number of other cavity nester eggs laid				
Total number of other cavity nester eggs hatched_				
Total number of other cavity nester fledglings				
Date of last fledglings at season's end	; also indicate species			
Comments:				
Continue on the back if necessary. Please use a sep	arate data form for each site you monitor.			
Or Mail Your completed form to: Lloyd Young, 420	D Cypress Ridge Drive SE, Bolivia, NC 28422			

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact your county coordinator or Lloyd Young at 925-628-9205.

My Lovely Bexie

Spring is a time of re-birth that fills our hearts with hope.

- It's a time when I find myself constantly thinking of my many blessings and the memories of days gone by.
- A time to remember the joy given to me by all those I have loved here on the earth and God's promise that someday we will be together again if we love one another.

• Who can look upon a rose and not see the face of God or hold a hand in yours and not feel love as God's greatest gift.

A little girl would come to visit next door when I was 3 to spend time with her cousins at her Uncle Jack's. He was a barber and a meat cutter, a friend to my father. He gave me my first haircut. Her name was Bexie. I found her in the pictures taken there with her curly hair, one with my sister and I in a stroller. She was 3 ½ years older than me so I'm sure she didn't notice me much. She was so beautiful. Our lives crossed many times as we as we both went our separate ways, she the popular one, the best dancer. She was always my girl from Ipanema.

Twenty years and a million miles later we were married on a beautiful spring day at the church down the street from where I now live. We were married for



47 years. One promise made that day that we never broke, to never argue about anything. Our life together was not always perfect. I like to say there was much more singing to the radio happy than not. She was always better than I deserved.

We had 2 daughters, Melissa Joy and Andrea Gail and have 3 grandchildren. I am writing stories to my grandchildren about their family so they will know more about our life together and their ancestor's lives.

Bexie left me with her gift of kindness and her gift to have strangers tell her stories about themselves, some that they may have never told others. I ask the question now to people my age "How did it turnout". Kind people say "How did what turnout? To which I reply "Your life."

I love stories about other people's lives as told in their own perspective, most are much more interesting than my own. Stories about love and loss, kindness and courage, we all have stories to tell that take us back to that place and time.

Bexie loved all animals and they seemed to love her too. She always has and it brought us such happiness. She would go out in the early morning hours and whistle for the blue jays to come and have their peanuts in the shell on the back patio. One Spring when me lived in South Carolina we had a titmouse that would come and peck on our sliding glass door to let us know that the birdfeeder was out of seeds. Now if a chickadee family gets there first she would just say "Gattis they have a right to raise a family too".

She put out seeds and the following Spring she heard that tap, tap, taps again, which made her so happy. When I put a bluebird nesting box in a yard of a friend old or new, I believe she will send them a pair of bluebirds to raise a family.

I am now a recovering garage rat introvert. I spent the first-year grieving and building bluebird nesting boxes to give to friends and family. Unable to listen to the radio, watch tv or enter the church where we were married without breaking down. I got to admit I wasn't much fun to be around.

I was fortunate to have some true friends who took me under their wing and showed they cared. And the bluebird nest box work gave me a purpose to get out of bed each day.



I have included some pictures of the 76 boxes I have built or purchased from the rescue group. If you like to build things as I love to do, then study the drawings offered free on the Web. Just Google Eastern Bluebirds.





This might be my last Spring so I wanted you to know you should put up a box because that someone you will always love will send you some peace, happiness and bluebirds too.

By Gattis Williams, New Bern, NC

A special thanks to the Eastern Blue Bird Rescue Group for building the world's best bluebird house and making it affordable to all.

Thank you, Iris Senzig, for allowing me share this story in the *Bluebird Notes* newsletter. The moment I heard your voice I knew you were a wonderful person.

To my friend Clay Hodge (NCBS Craven County Coordinator) who taught me so much about bluebirds, you are a good man and a true friend.

Joining NABS is a Win/Win

A membership with North American Bluebird Society NABS is a win/win for your efforts in bird conservation.

- You will be inspired with four issues of their outstanding journal, be connected with bluebirders across North America, find scientific methods to try on your trail, and best of all ... expand your friendships.
- The *Bluebirds Everywhere* section each issue lets you share photos of places with bluebird names, like the Bluebird Bistro in Chapel Hill.
- Best of all you get all this great information for **only \$15** for your first year as an A+ Affiliate.



Just say you are a member of NCBS and JOIN. You will be a part of a most successful conservation project across North America.

NABS logo provided by Jim Burke, NABS Representative on NCBS Board. See their website: **nabluebirdsociety.org**

Carol Reid, Garner, Director / Wake County Co-Coordinator

Black Oil Sunflower Seeds Attract Bluebirds & Many Bird Species

I have been putting black oil sunflower seeds out, with the intent of attracting bluebirds, for some time now. Many other feathered friend species have also been enjoying the buffet ... and that's certainly okay by me. My interest in feeding & watching birds, as well as photography, has been strengthened by my role as the Bluebird Society Webmaster/Newsletter Editor.

While looking for bluebirds, I have become aware of many different types of birds. Other cavity-nesting songbirds supported by NCBS, chickadees, titmice, wrens, and nuthatches, have become regulars at my place due to my efforts to attract bluebirds. And I am glad.



Some new visitors at the backyard feeders have taken an interest in the front yard as well. I like to read in my car, while enjoying coffee and nature/keeping an eye out for songbirds. I noticed some very colorful black/rust/white and brown/rust/white birds spending time in the shrubbery along the front of my home this past Spring.

I was able to snap photos of these beautiful birds in April. Their songs sound like "dureet" or "teeweet" to me. After googling the bird, it was commonly reported they are Eastern Towhees (male with black head/back, and female of mostly brown).

These interesting feathered friends have been constant sights in recent months. Hearing their distinct singing is cheerful & refreshing. Their habits include hopping around & kicking up the dirt & pine straw, which I have seen quite often.







After seeing young Towhees hopping around the yard (example below left) — it has been cuteness overload. I plan to keep looking for bluebirds, but if I find other feathered friends along the way, that is fine by me.



Offering chopped Black Oil sunflower seeds, instead of those with hulls, is one way to make my yard more appealing to the bluebirds.

Per Dr. Bill Zitek, Immediate Past NCBS President, "Bluebirds may come to the feeders with Black Oil sunflower seeds, but they cannot crack open the hulls to get at the seeds (like chickadees and titmice can) as the bluebird beaks are too soft. But they do like the seeds which have been removed from the hulls, i.e., 'hulled'."

The Towhees remind me of the colors of autumn, so I thought this story would fit in this news edition. Hope your fall includes a Fun Halloween & Thankful Thanksgiving!

Glenda Ryan, Knightdale, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

Oscar's Window Views: Songbird Report & Photos from a Bird-Friendly Kitty

FELINE GREETINGS from Oscar, a Tabby who stays indoors & watches bird activity from the windows. Can you believe it is Septemer 2023? I have been enjoying seeing many birds in recent months. The Black Oil sunflower seeds and bluebird nuggets Glenda puts out do entice many feathered friends to stop by for snacks. Bluebirds have been spotted this summer, as well as a wide range of winged creatures. I am pleased to report sightings of the following: Brown-Headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and White-Breasted nuthatches.

Bluebirds and the list mentioned above are supported by the NCBS mission, as they are songbirds native to North Carolina that build nests in cavities. See **ncbluebird.org** for more information.



Tip from Oscar: Check out the website of the NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY (NABS)



— nabluebirdsociety.org is a great place to learn more details about the nesting habits of bluebirds and other cavity-nesters. This online resource from NABS provides information regarding all things bluebirds, including nest boxes, which are crucial to the survival for Blues and other songbirds. A PDF document located on this site, titled *Get to Know Bluebirds: A Guide for Young Nature Lovers*, offers a wealth of knowledge. It is geared toward educating youth, but is helpful for guiding Bluebirders of all ages. The paragraph below includes summarized information retrieved from this publication, found on nabluebirdsociety.org or via the following direct link: https://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/publications

Discussion about bird nest types informs the nests of most bird species are open on the top, but bluebirds nest in cavities (holes), which makes their eggs less vulnerable to weather and predators. NABS informs that cavity nesting birds are categorized as primary (create their own nest site) and secondary (need a cavity nest, but cannot excavate their own). NABS advises that nuthatches and chickadees are the most common primary cavity nesters that nest in trees. Bluebirds, wrens, and titmice are listed by this resource as secondary cavity nesters; they either need to find a natural cavity (such as a crevice or hole) or seek out a cavity left behind by a primary cavity nester. Key Take-Away: Nest Boxes are critical for bluebirds & other cavity-nesting songbirds.







Hope your Autumn 2023 is fabulous! Talk to you in the Winter 2023 edition.

Please send any of your news & photos to editor@ncbluebird.org

Oscar, Knightdale ... Photography & writing assistance from Glenda S. Ryan (Oscar's Caretaker / NCBS Webmaster / Newsletter Editor)

Glenda's website: websitebloom.com / Oscar's website: felinegreetings.com



Brown-Headed Nuthatch

Nest Boxes are Key for Bluebirds

NCBS Membership Form

Good Nest Box News from Polk County

Sunday July 16th, 2023 — A woman called me looking for a songbird rehabilitator because she thought she had a dying baby bird that was in a Pet Station! I didn't know what she meant, and she didn't know what kind of bird it was, so I decided to drive to her house and see what was going on.

We'll, to my surprise it was a bluebird nest with 3 nestlings! They were perfectly healthy — about 7 or 8 days old. The babies' parents were visible too.

She put up a bluebird box that she bought from me and I gave her directions for installation. I also monitored this box to make sure they stayed on track. July 26 — Happy to report that all ended well ... Three bluebirds fledged.

Evangeline LaMore Polk County Representative

NCBS Members who have nest boxes for sale

Alamance County

Simply Fab by Heidi 2257 S Church Street, Burlington, NC 27215 (336) 437-4765

simplyfabbyheidi@gmail.com

Owner: Heidi Solomon

Forsyth County

David Brown 216 Carter Circle, Winston Salem, NC 27106 (336) 918-0362

davidjbrown321@gmail.com

Wake County

Field to Cottage Nursery 12405 Norwood Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 fieldtocottage@gmail.com

asmaneschi@gmail.com

NCBS membership options:

1 year (\$15) ... 3 years (\$40) ... Lifetime (\$400)

Memberships are effective when started until June 30 after a full year. Thereafter, memberships will run July 1— June 30. Questions: Alexia Maneschi at 919-387-9500

Gift membership fromto
Name_
Address
City, State & Zip
County
Phone
E-mail
A member's email address will be used only for NCBS official business and considered private and confidential.
[] Yes, I'd like to help NCBS save costs by receiving the quarterly newsletter <i>Bluebird Notes</i> electronically (Email needed for this option)
Please complete this form and send it with your check payable to "NCBS" to:
North Carolina Bluebird Society 4600 Chandler Grove Court Raleigh, NC 27612
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 Monitoring a nestbox trail Other (please explain)

County Coordinators 2023				
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BLUEBIRD GREETINGS FROM CATAWBA COUNTY

Joel Miller of Hickory sent in this great snapshot of a bluebird pair sharing a snack. Some more photos by Mr. Miller can be seen in the Spring 2023 newsletter (page 11). Thanks, Joel, for your continued interest in bluebirds and for submitting your pictures for us to share. Happy Fall & Happy Bluebirding!

