



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue  
by Dempsey Essick

# Bluebird Notes

PUBLISHED BY  
The North Carolina Bluebird Society  
ncbluebird.com



NCBS is an  
affiliate of NABS.

September through November 2006

Volume 21 Number 4

## North Carolina Bluebird Society Mission Statement

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in our home areas.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Bluebird Tales</i>	2-3
<i>Cowbirds tries to out-smart bluebirds</i>	4
<i>Bluebirds &amp; Pictures</i>	5
<i>2005 Nesting Survey</i>	6-8
<i>Lake Crabtree County Park</i>	9
<i>Cary's Weatherstone Elementary School</i>	10
<i>Mounting Pole Stabilizer Heated Roost Box</i>	11
<i>Penny Road Elementary</i>	13
<i>Meet Your County Coordinator</i>	15

# NC State Fair



Fred Benson, wife Myra, and grandson Alex in the NCBS booth.

NCBS had its first ever exhibit at the N. C. State Fair Oct. 13-22, 2006. The exhibit occupied a 10' by 10' space in the Commercial Building. The exhibit was featured in the Raleigh News and Observer newspaper in the Saturday Top Drawer section and on the State Fair website. Educating fairgoers about bluebirds and bluebird conservation was the major purpose for participating in the fair. About 100 visitors a day stopped by the booth to ask questions about bluebirds. The total number of visitors topped the 1,000 mark by the last day of the fair. The exhibit was staffed by a number of NCBS members who answered bluebird questions and provided information to visitors. A video system was used to display bluebird photos and several short education programs about bluebirds. The "Inside the Nestbox" DVD was shown a number of times. An unedited nest cam videotape of a house wren building a nest in a bluebird house fascinated a number of

visitors. Kids who visited the booth were treated to a hand stamp of a bluebird inside an outline map of North Carolina. A large helium filled bluebird balloon nicknamed "bluie" flew proudly over the booth and served to draw visitors. By selling items from the NCBS store and donated bluebird houses, we were able to defray a significant portion of the exhibit cost. Many thanks to all those who helped make the exhibit a success.



Long-time member Chuck Bliss manning the NCBS booth.



NCBS Volunteer Jimmy Dodson answering questions at the NCBS booth.

# Bluebird Notes

## Issue 19 Vol. 4

Fred Benson –President  
Co-Chair, County Coordinator Program  
(919) 469-0410 fbenson@ipass.net

Helen S. Munro – Past President, Co-  
Editor (910)-673-6936  
hsmunro@ac.net

Randy Senzig—Vice-President  
(919) 779-4079 rsenzig@nc.rr.com

Bruce Fensley – Rec. Sec.  
(910) 692-6054 bfensley@earthlink.net

David Hindsley – Recording Chair  
Kay Hindsley – Corresponding Sec.  
(252) 523-0737 jdhind@earthlink.net

Diane Scales – Treasurer  
(919) 673-2004  
dianelynn@carolina.net

Hank Moss – Ed. Dir.-Historian  
(910) 692-2328 hmjr@pinehurst.net

Ray Welch  
(336) 764-0226  
rwelch5@bellsouth.net

Virginia Pickles  
Co-Chair County Coordinator Program  
(919) 658-3062  
pic658@nc.rr.com

Jim Jochum – Director  
(336) 288-7975 jjjochum@aol.com

Bill Satterwhite - Director  
(919) 787-5248 billsatt@intrex.net

Liz Schmid - Director, Web Mistress  
(336) 595-6379  
liz.schmid@earthlink.net

Christine Ammons – Store Manager  
(828)287-3502 towhee@blueridge.net

Bill Abbey—Sponsorship Chair  
(336) 766-5857



## Bluebird Tales



## Bluebird Winter Feeding

**From:** [william miles](mailto:william.miles)  
**To:** [hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 01, 2006 9:05 AM  
**Subject:** bluebirds

I read your article in NBCS with interest.

One thing I wanted to know was how do you make the homemade pudding? I have tried several recipes but have never had the bluebirds eat any of them. Only thing they ever came to was meal worms.

We have put up bluebird houses in the last three houses we have lived in. Aren't they exciting to watch.

Love to hear from you.

*Sarah Miles*

Dear Sarah,

I have also found that bluebirds that have been fed mealworms turn their little beaks up at anything else. The exception to this was a year with a lot of snow and I hung a pinecone covered in peanut butter, lard and birdseed. They ate the peanut butter and lard. I could not tell if they ate the small birdseed that might have been softened by the peanut butter and lard.

I found a website with 23 pages of peanut butter suet recipes. The address is [www.sialis.org/suet.htm](http://www.sialis.org/suet.htm). This has lots of recipes and great information on ways to get the bluebirds to move from mealworms to a homemade batch of bluebird food. Try a couple of recipes and let me know which ones "work".

Some people think that when you say you are interested in bluebirds that that is an organization for young girls or even the bus company. They are amazed that there are societies that actually deal with just bluebirds. Those of us lucky enough to have bluebirds can't wait to introduce other people to them, but I am not sure that these people believed me!!

Thanks for writing.

Sincerely,  
*Helen*

See Page 4 for a No Melt Suet recipe.



# Bluebird Tales



## Bluebirds on the Appalachian Trail

*Diane Hankins, Asheville, NC*

On Sat. May 13 I had the happy experience (2nd time ever) of seeing 4 baby bluebirds take their maiden flights from the nest box in my backyard. Each one came out the same way - to the right out of the box and up to a branch. It took about 30 minutes for all of them to leave the box. Life is good!

I wanted you to know that your article in Bluebird Notes (The Joys of Monitoring Bluebirds) is one I value very much because your explanation of the sequence of events is better than the one in the commercial book I bought some years ago. (I have been a bluebird nut since I put up my first boxes in 1994 or 1995 after seeing the birds along the Mountains to Sea trail near east Asheville.)

I've just received some snapshots from an April 20, 2006, hike on the Appalachian Trail from Max Patch to Lemon Gap. Max Patch (as you probably know) is the grassy bald in Madison County known as the

Crown Jewel of the Southern Appalachians. The Appalachian Trail crosses its summit (4,629' elevation) and hikers enjoy splendid views into North Carolina and Tennessee. The mostly downhill 6

mile hike to Lemon Gap is a wildflower lovers delight in mid-to late April. This year we saw the large white trillium, an abundance of Dutchman's britches, and the always sought after painted trillium.

Someone (I have no idea who) has installed a bluebird box just off the trail about a quarter mile downhill from the summit. The neat thing about this particular box is that you can open one of the side panels and see the nest through a glass panel that was

installed for viewing purposes. (And not disturb the birds in the process.) The outer panel is held in place by a nail that is connected to the top of the box by a short length of chain.



## Bluebirds nest successfully

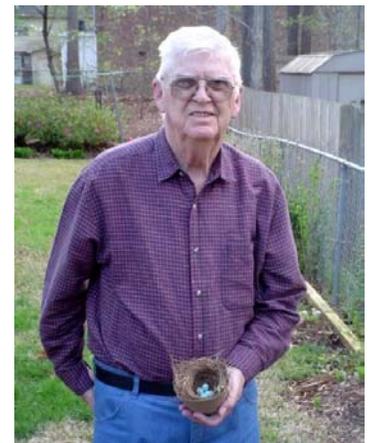
Photo to the right is Mr. Charles Dayberry, a neighbor and friend. He is showing off a nest cup from one of his occupied bluebird houses before putting the eggs back.

Mr. Dayberry is a veteran of WWII. He and his wife love bluebirds and hadn't been able to attract them to their yard.

I put up a couple of donated bluebird nestboxes (replacing the previous nest boxes) late last year and both are now occupied by bluebirds with five blue eggs in each nest.

The Dayberrys are thrilled with their bluebirds.

*Fred Benson, Cary, NC*



## Cowbird try to outsmart the Bluebird

The benefits of regular monitoring is to help the Eastern Bluebird from the tricks of other birds, like the Cowbird! We live in Cary and had the recent pleasure of watching a pair of Bluebirds raise five nestlings.

We were thrilled when the pair choose yet another one of our boxes to raise their second brood! We marveled at the nest building process as the parents trained the fledglings to help with the nest! We checked the nest daily after the first egg was laid. On the fourth day, we were surprised to find the three Bluebird Eggs, but also two Cowbird eggs! The Cowbird pair had been busy at our feeders and sneakily they got into the Bluebird's Nest Box!

I removed the two Cowbird eggs and happily on the 5th day there was one more Bluebird egg. Fortunately the Cowbirds have left the Bluebirds alone. On May 25<sup>th</sup>, we were delighted to see 4 Bluebird nestlings- all very healthy!

*Robin Eisenbeis, Cary, NC*

*Editor's Note: There is a Depredation Order 50 CFR 21.43 which states "A Federal permit shall not be required to control...cowbirds...committing or about to commit depredations upon ... wildlife ..."* Proof that cowbirds are about to depredate rarely exists. Further, take of females during the winter or males and juveniles is not authorized, nor is removing cowbird eggs from nests. The language of Depredation Order 50 CFR 21.43 is quite vague, subject to different interpretations, and contains significant restrictions. The Migratory Bird Treaty (MBTA) protects cowbirds, but the Depredation Order (DO) provides potential authorization of taking cowbirds without a permit.

*The best approach to cowbird control including removing cowbird eggs from host species nests is to obtain a Special Purpose - Miscellaneous permit from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stating the purpose of the permit is to protect bluebirds and other wild song birds from cowbirds and listing the actions to be taken.*

## More Bluebird Pictures !

This male Bluebird saw his reflection at our kitchen window where one of our many feeders are. It lasted about 2 days. I just pulled up a chair, and waited for about an hour to see what great poses I was able to capture (unfortunately through a double glass window). I was fortunate to get a few nice ones. Check out the single "toenail" holding on the window frame. The spread view speaks for itself. We got our new Bluebird house put up on a "pole". We only had 2 Bluebird nestings in 17 years, but we see them all the time.

*Frank Ripp, Southern Pines, NC*

### No Melt Suet Recipe by Susan Campbell, Whispering Pines, NC

1 cup creamy peanut butter                      1 cup lard  
Melt together and add 2 cups oatmeal, 2 to 3 cups cornmeal, 1 cup flour and a couple tablespoons. Cayenne pepper if you need to keep the squirrels away.



Variation: Add 1/2 cup white millet or Sunflower hearts.

*Mrs. Frank Ripp*

Pictures printed with permission by *Frank Ripp, Whispering Pines, NC*



## Bluebirds & Pictures

*Submitted by Ruth Ann McDonald*

My name is Ruth Ann McDonald and I have worked as a teacher assistant for twenty-three years in the public school system. Several years ago, in 1997 a new elementary school was built here in Cabarrus County (Rocky River Elementary) and I thought it would be nice for a change of venue.

It is here that my love for the eastern bluebird began. Mrs. Herrin, a fifth grade teacher was teaching a bird unit. One of the books on birds was about a bluebird rescue program. This class placed bluebird boxes on campus at three different locations and the box in the school's interior court yard was the first to become occupied. The court yard has proven to be the perfect place for the birds to thrive in a safe environment, and the children are able to watch the bluebirds build the nest and see the babies fledge, right from their own classroom. How wonderful it has been.

This year I have seen two sets of bluebirds, (a

May 8, 2005

Waiting for the new babies to hatch. Five eggs total in this box located in my front yard right outside my window, can you believe it?! One hundred and fifty feet away in my back yard a second pair of bluebirds are nesting with five eggs of their own.

*Ruth Ann McDonald, Concord, NC*

The North American Bluebird Society is hosting its 2007 Annual Meeting September 19 to 23, 2007 at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. NCBS Past President & newsletter editor, Helen Munro, is one of the co-chairs. Anyone wishing more information or who would like to volunteer help or silent auction items should contact Helen (See page 14).

The theme is *Bluebird Partnership* and the speakers will be drawn from the investigative science community adding knowledge to the bluebird monitors of the citizen science community.



total of ten in all) at our school. My husband and I have built bluebird houses and placed them on our property. We have a total of six houses. We even built two for our daughter. I am the one who feeds

the little darlings because my husband doesn't have the stomach for the mealworms. Feeding these beautiful birds in our own back yard year round is a joy. They even come when I whistle and sometimes if the worm feeder is empty they come to my window and sing me a reminder to fill the feeder up. It is truly delightful to experience this.

As you can tell I love taking pictures, but not as much as I love these beautiful bluebirds. I give you permission to use the attached photo for your newsletter. It was taken by me at my home in Concord, North Carolina. I would like to see a copy of the newsletter when it comes out. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Ruth Ann McDonald, Concord, NC*



# North Carolina Nesting Survey 2006

Compiled by Reah Kittelberger

<u>Name</u>	<u>state</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>	<u>1st date</u>
Carvin A. Lambert	fl	3	2	9	9	5	5	0	0 21-Mar-06
Cheryl Blethen	sc	2	2	5	4	4	4	2	1 2-Mar-06
Jessie Norris	nc	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Terry Brinegar	nc	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheila Hicks	nc	1	1	4	4	9	9	1	13-Apr-06
Sand Thach	nc	3	2	9	9	9	9	1	9-Mar-06
Diane Hankins	nc	2	2	12	9	9	9	1	7-Apr-06
Bryant Trail c/o Helen Munro	nc	5	5	32	27	27	27	1	13-Apr-06
Jean & Jim Walker	nc	70	53	264	177	168	168	15	0 26-Mar-06
David & Karen Grant	nc	2	2	4	4	4	3	1	1 21-Mar-06
Chuck Bliss	nc	41	38	223	95	81	81	8	3
Glenna Hill	nc	7	1	5	5	5	5	5	4 12-Mar-06
Lois Herring	nc	10	3	14	13	12	12	0	0 28-Mar-06
Jeannette Barringer	nc	2	1	5	4	4	4	1	1 16-Mar-06
Iris Carter	nc	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0 0-Jan-00
Bob & Ruth Stoltling	nc	15	13	68	52	36	36	5	1 6-Apr-06
Betsy Ross 4-H Club c/o Ginger Rupp	nc	12	7	59	41	38	38	0	0 5-Apr-06
Mary Beth Moore/Fran Outhwaite	nc	26	23	83	76	71	71	13	0 15-Apr-06
Henry T. Peszko	nc	1	1	5	5	4	4	4	0 8-Apr-06
Zane Walsh	nc	20	14	109	105	96	96	10	2 19-Mar-06
Marjane Hailey	nc	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bill Abbey	nc	68	61	397	273	249	249	15	0 10-Mar-06
Robert Rothrock	nc	36	35	315	280	270	270	35	5 8-Apr-06
Carol Radford	nc	1	1	8	8	7	7	2	0 5-Apr-06
Iris & Richard Johnson	nc	12	8	65	58	57	57	5	5
Bruce Stafford	nc	4	3	14	14	14	14	2	0
Joy Williams	nc	1	1	5	4	4	3	3	0 21-Apr-06
Susan R. Wyatt	nc	28	17	114	97	93	93	6	2 14-Mar-06
Christine B. Ammons	nc	55	47	459	350	306	306	40	24 13-Mar-06
Bob Southard	nc	61	55	522	449	424	424	24	18 12-Mar-06
Linda Numemaker	nc	29	11	46	35	28	28	1	0 19-Apr-06
Lina Sukoski	nc	4	3	14	13	13	13	1	1 14-Apr-06
Sue Ligon	nc	5	3	38	34	30	30	1	1 1-Apr-06
Trinity Academy of Raleigh	nc	11	5	43	35	34	34	5	0 24-Mar-06
The Fatheree Family	nc	1	1	15	10	10	10	1	1 23-Mar-06
The Currin Family	nc	4	2	17	11	11	11	1	1 4-Apr-06
Denise Milton	nc	4	2	19	16	16	16	1	1 21-Mar-06
Brian H. Greene, jr	nc	3	2	17	9	9	9	2	0
John & Virginia Pickles	nc	4	1	5	5	5	5	1	1 4-Mar-06
Waynesborough Garden Club	nc	9	3	5	5	5	5	1	1 18-Apr-06
Rick and Karen Mitchell	nc	1	1	5	5	5	5	1	0 4-Apr-06

# North Carolina Nesting Survey 2006

Compiled by Reah Kittelberger

<u>Name</u>	<u>city</u>	<u>state</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/lbb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>	<u>1st date</u>
McGee's Crossroads School	Benson	nc	15	7	61	26	21	3	2	
Ethelene M. Allen	Four Oaks	nc	50	37	327	279	249	16	6	16-Mar-06
Louise Dail	Raleigh	nc	2	2	12	12	12	2	1	21-Mar-06
Doug & Luke Edwards	Wadesboro	nc	64	47	441	372	369	23	17	25-Mar-06
The Grand c/o Jim Jochum	Greensboro	nc	8	7	57	52	52	2	1	2-Apr-06
David Frye c/o LHCC	Hickory	nc	68	55	318	238	233	21	3	1-Apr-06
Jim Felts	Wilkesboro	nc	39	26	220	203	193	8	8	6-Mar-06
Lea W. Barnes	N.Wilkesboro	nc	1	1	5	5	5	1	1	4-Apr-06
Richard & Brenda Wilkens	Goldsboro	nc	4	1	9	9	9	1	0	5-Apr-06
Phyllis B. Smith	Tobaccoville	nc	1	1	4	4	4	0	0	3-Jul-06
Patrice Cooke	Raleigh	nc	3	2	10	10	10	0	0	15-Mar-06
Carol Woods Retirement Com. c/o Sue Fletcher	Chapel Hill	nc	28	20	154	136	130	9	2	11-Mar-06
Len & Joyce Tufts	Pinehurst	nc	20	15	80	59	52	5	0	28-Mar-06
Joseph H & Anne J Critchley	Union Grove	nc	4	2	5	5	5	2	0	1-Apr-06
Will & Catherine Traylor	Fayetteville	nc	6	3	20	10	10	2	2	15-Apr-06
H. Moss, Jr	Southern Pines	nc	93		493	423	423	36	0	
Marisa Back	West End	nc	2	1	7	6	6	1	0	11-Apr-06
Debbie Crawford	Ellenboro	nc	6	4	27	27	27	0	0	16-Apr-06
Linda Julien c/o Mimosa Garden Club	Morganton	nc	20	15	131	107	106	10	3	8-Mar-06
Jim & Ellen Kelly	Raleigh	nc	1	1	9	4	4	0	0	
Kathryn Carroll	Burlington	nc	8	5	22	18	0	1	0	23-Apr-06
Sandhills Christian All.c/o Helen Munro	Jackson Springs	nc	1	1	9	9	9	1	0	25-Apr-06
Sandhills Comm.College c/o Helen Munro	Jackson Springs	nc	4	1	4	0	0	0	0	
FoxFire Garden Club c/o Helen Munro	Jackson Springs	nc	78	65	477	427	425	22	7	8-Apr-06
TaylorTown Head Start c/o Helen Munro	Jackson Springs	nc	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	29-Mar-06
NC State Dept. of Forestry c/o J. Dodson	Raleigh	nc	40	23	123	100	96	0	0	18-Mar-06
Ravenscroft School	Raleigh	nc	4	3	23	21	21	2	1	7-Apr-06
Reah Kittelberger	Raleigh	nc	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
L Mopsik & A Bujaculius c/o R. Kittelberger	Raleigh	nc	1	1	8	8	8	1	0	1-Apr-06
Championship Course @ Bryan Park c/o Trina Smith	Greensboro	nc	50	45	340	329	322	27	8	13-Apr-06

	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/lbb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>
FL	3	2	9	5	5	0	0
SC	2	2	5	4	4	2	1
NC	1188	822	6416	5232	4953	409	133
<b>totals</b>	<b>1193</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>6430</b>	<b>5241</b>	<b>4962</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>134</b>

Totals:

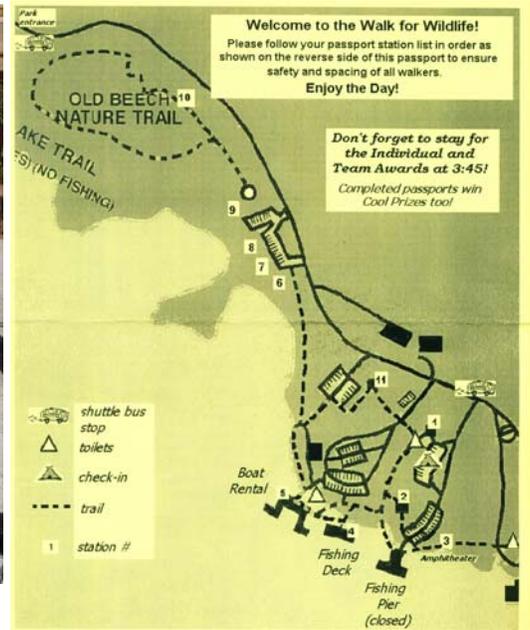
Reah Kittelberger points out that "we should be very careful thinking that we are comparing from one year to the other the "same" numbers. We are not. There are a few who dropped out of the survey from last year and two big additions which in my opinion skewed the numbers. Really there were significant drops but these two big additions make it seem there is a rebound. Reading the papers, it is evident that the bluebird eggs were in trouble this year."

# NC Bluebird Survey 2006

Sorted by Bluebirds Fledged

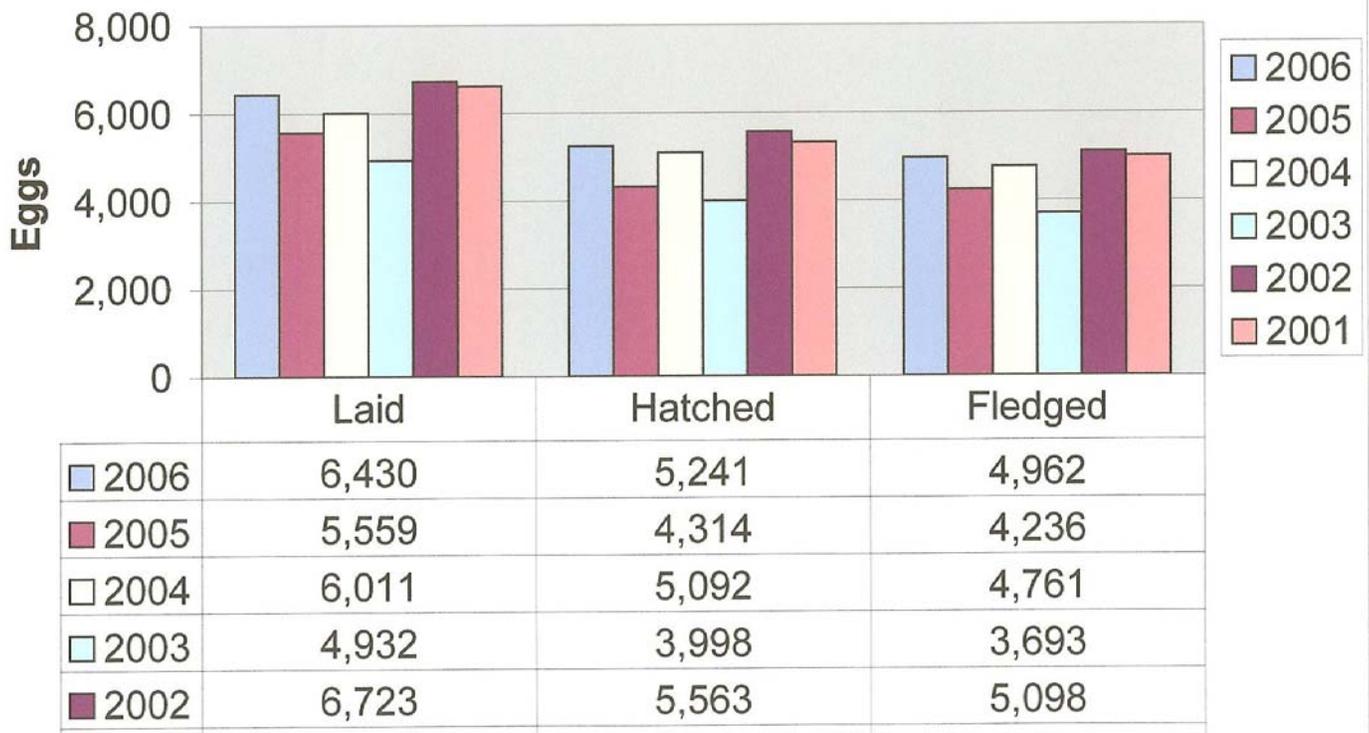
	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb # BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>	<u>2 sets</u>	<u>3 sets</u>
Lewisville	1	1	4	0	0	0
Pikeville	1	0	0	0	0	0
Summerfield	1	1	0	0	0	0
New Bern	1	1	5	4	3	0
Apex	2	1	5	4	4	1
Greenville	1	1	5	5	4	0
Tobaccoville	1	1	4	4	4	0
Arcadia	7	1	5	5	5	4
Charlotte	1	1	5	5	5	1
Mt. Olive	4	1	5	5	5	1
North Wilkesboro	1	1	5	5	5	1
Union Grove	4	2	5	5	5	2
Moorestown	1	1	8	8	7	2
SC & Florida	5	4	14	9	9	2
Asheville	2	2	12	9	9	1
Fayetteville	7	3	20	10	10	2
Liberty	5	4	21	13	12	3
Goldsboro	13	4	14	14	14	2
Wake Forest	4	2	19	16	16	1
Benson	15	7	61	26	21	3
Ellenboro	6	4	27	27	27	0
Mebane	29	11	46	35	28	1
Statesville	5	3	38	34	30	1
West End	14	9	72	64	63	6
Burlington	34	28	105	94	71	14
Asheboro	41	38	223	95	81	8
Pinehurst	35	28	148	111	88	10
Purlear	20	14	109	105	96	10
Morganton	20	15	131	107	106	10
Chapel Hill	38	23	168	149	142	9
Wilkesboro	39	26	220	203	193	8
Hickory	68	55	318	238	233	21
Clemmons	68	61	397	273	249	15
Four Oaks	50	37	327	279	249	16
Raleigh	107	63	397	330	321	20
Union Mills	67	54	518	391	344	40
Wadesboro	64	47	441	372	369	23
Yadkinville	61	55	522	449	424	24
Jackson Springs	89	73	523	463	461	24
Southern Pines	163	53	757	600	591	51
Greensboro	98	90	726	675	658	66
Totals	1,193	826	6,430	5,241	4,962	411
						134

# Lake Crabtree County Park Walk for Wildlife



**Bill Satterwhite explaining bluebird nest boxes to visitors at Lake Crabtree County Park Walk For Wildlife event.**  
*Photos by Fred Benson, Cary, NC*

## North Carolina Bluebird Society's Annual Survey—2001-2006



## *Cary's Weatherstone Elementary School Bluebird Story*

by Robin Eisenbeis, June 4, 2006

We moved to Cary, North Carolina from Columbus, Ohio in November, 2005. Being a former Bluebird Monitor in Ohio, I was delighted when I noticed two nestboxes at our children's school- Weatherstone Elementary. Late April, I was asked to give a series of Backyard Birding lectures to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. I thought I would incorporate the nestboxes located on the school's campus in my talk. Unfortunately when I monitored the boxes, I noticed how wet they were. (Box 1) had a nest with four infertile eggs. (Box 2) had an interesting find.... There were three eggs (probably infertile) and one nestling, approximately 10-12 days old. While I was checking, Papa, Momma and a fledgling all took a few dive bombs at me! Strange that there was a much younger nestling still in the nest! I was very concerned as the nest was quite wet. I called Fred Benson, President of the NC Bluebird Society, to see if he could examine the situation and determine what steps to take. Fred came immediately and we decided to leave the nestling in the nest for at least another week and a half as he was being fed and attended to. I checked on the nestling about every other day and the family was keeping him healthy. So after about two weeks and still no departure, we made the decision to open the box to encourage him to fly. Fred and I thought maybe because he

had no siblings in the nest, the parents couldn't get him to leave. So on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> our family opened the box and discovered why the nestling wouldn't leave. His foot was tangled in a twine-like material- he was stuck!!! We cut the twine and he flew....with Papa right along side of him! Upon un-tangling him, we noticed that his left foot was withered and dead, but we celebrated as he flew away, until he took a quick dive into some shrubs. He was stuck again! Sadly, his foot was like a grappling hook, sticking to everything. We immediately transferred the nestling, our children named "Captain Hook", to the Piedmont Wildlife Center.

We decided to replace the wet and decayed nestboxes with two new Fred Benson "Observatory Boxes". Happily, two days after installation, the Bluebird pair made a new nest. The children at Weatherstone Elementary are anxiously waiting for the five Bluebird eggs to hatch- hopefully before school is finished next week!

We are not certain whether the wet box caused the nestling to develop at a slower pace, but always a good idea to keep your nestboxes well maintained to give the Bluebirds the best shot at life!!

Happy Birding!



NCBS Booth #41, Commercial Building – 2006 N.C. State Fair  
October 13–22, 2006

← NCBS President Fred Benson chaired this exhibit at the NC State Fair. This event ran for thirteen hours a day for ten days. Approximately 1000 visitors stopped at the booth to discuss and learn about bluebirds.

This makes it a successful venture and one to repeat in 2007. A chairman and many volunteers are needed to make this possible. Please contact Fred or any Board member. Contact information is on page 2.

## Mounting Pole Stabilizer

Sometimes it is desirable to use a stabilizer with birdhouse mounting poles to mitigate situations such as excessive moisture caused by rain runoff from golf greens. Without a stabilizer, mounting poles in moisture-prone ground tend to tilt over in windy conditions.

It is fairly easy to construct a very effective long-lasting in-ground stabilizer for use with mounting poles made from 3/4" EMT conduit using some inexpensive parts and a small amount of quick-setting concrete.

I use an 8" length of 4" diameter thin-wall PVC pipe as a form to hold the concrete. A 4" round ceiling electrical box fits snugly inside the pipe and provides a secure point of connection for the short length of 3/4" EMT that will attach to the main mounting pole with a 2-set screw coupler. A threaded/set screw coupler is used to connect one end of the ceiling box to the short length of EMT conduit. Put 2-3 inches of wet concrete in the bottom of the form and insert the connected ceiling box and fill the rest of the form with wet concrete. After the parts are assembled, the time required to make a stabilizer is under five minutes. To use the stabilizer, dig a 2' deep hole with your post hole diggers, attach the main pole to the stabilizer with the set screw connector, insert the stabilizer into the hole, and then thoroughly tamp the dirt back into the hole.

*Fred Benson, Cary, NC*

**Below:** In-ground mounting pole stabilizer for 3/4" diameter EMT mounting poles.



## Thermostatically Controlled Heated B-B Winter Roost Box

This B-B winter roost box is thermostatically controlled and is heated by a "blacked out" 100 watt bulb (lower section). The floor of the roosting chamber is made of thin gauge plate steel and acts as a heat exchanger. The temperature in the roosting chamber (center section) is set and maintained by a thermostatic line controller (upper section) with a range of 50-90 degrees Fahrenheit. The line controller is built to turn on when the roosting chamber temperatures drops two degrees under the setting and turn off when the temperature goes two degrees above the setting. A wire mesh covered hole is provided in the floor of the upper section to equalize the temperatures in the roosting chamber and the control chamber. A wireless digital thermometer located in the roosting chamber transmits readings to a remote central station (up to 100 feet) so the roosting chamber temperature can be accurately set and monitored. The central station can handle up to three wireless thermometers. If a wireless digital thermometer is attached to the outside of the roost box, it is possible to observe the roosting chamber temperature and the outside temperature at the central station. The central station can record the lowest and highest temperatures for each thermometer.

Anyone who wants a copy of the plans can e-mail Fred at [fbenson@ipass.net](mailto:fbenson@ipass.net).

*Fred Benson,  
Cary, NC*





## *Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box*

Recorded by the Cornell Birdhouse Network

Summer 1999

Produced by the North Carolina Bluebird Society

Available for \$13.85 including shipping and handling.

Two tapes for \$25; Three for \$35; Six for \$70

E-mail towhee@blueridge.net to price larger quantities.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NCBS.** SEND ORDER & CHECK TO:  
**Ms. Christine Ammons, 670 Nanneytown Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167-8762**

## North Carolina Bluebird Society Products

Description of Item	Cost Postage Included	No. Wanted	Total
<b>New:</b> Caps with NCBS Logo	\$ 13.00	X_____	=_____
<b>New:</b> Bluebird Note Cards (12)	\$ 12.00	X_____	=_____
<b>New:</b> <i>Carolina Blue</i> Tote Bags	\$ 15.00	X_____	=_____
 <i>Carolina Blue</i> T-Shirts			
by Dempsey Essick (S, M, L, XL)	\$20.00	X_____	=_____
Lands End knit shirt with collar (M, L, XL)	\$35.00	X_____	=_____
Cloisonné Bluebird Pins (1inch, 4 colors)	\$ 5.00	X_____	=_____
“On the Wings of a Song” - CD	\$ 8.00	X_____	=_____
Eastern Bluebird with Flowers Card	\$ 2.50	X_____	=_____
	or 5 for \$10.00	X_____	=_____
<b><i>Bluebirds, Inside the Nestbox</i></b> Video Tape	\$13.85	X_____	=_____
Also available in DVD format, same price (2 for \$25; 3 for \$35; 6 for \$70)	\$13.85	X_____	=_____
			=_____
		Total	=_____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NCBS.**

SEND ORDER & CHECK TO:

**Ms. Christine Ammons, 670 Nanneytown Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167-8762**

Date of your order is \_\_\_\_\_

Video tapes and DVDs are available on the ncbird.com website.

# Penny Road Elementary School

By *Fred Benson, Cary*

NCBS has been asked to assist the PTA Building & Grounds Committee at Penny Road Elementary School & Park establish a bird trail on the school grounds.

Bill Satterwhite donated (2) bluebird houses and a mounting system to the project. Fred Benson donated a Gilbertson bluebird house and is refurbishing a number of the existing bluebird houses.

Fred met with John Sykes, Chairman of the PTA Building & Grounds Committee, the morning of Saturday April 8, 2006 to look at the existing bird houses and survey the property for suitable locations for additional birdhouses. John's wife Ann is also very involved in the building and grounds improvement project.

Penny Road is a unique school in that it has a park including a pond, covered picnic shelter, and walking trail.

The bird trail will include small song bird houses, bluebird houses, woodpecker houses, and owl houses.

The tour of the grounds this morning provided a real treat for the Sykes children, Rachel and Cooper, who got to see some bluebird nestlings up close.

Penny Road Elementary School

Grades: K-5

Type: public

Enrollment: 650

Raleigh, NC 27606



Upper Right—**Rachel Sykes enjoying a view of the bluebird nestlings**  
 Lower Right—**Cooper Sykes taking a good look at the nestlings.**  
 Below—**Bluebird nestlings in nestbox at Penny**



**Bluebird house containing the nestlings will be replaced after this nesting cycle is complete**

**These photos were taken on: 04-08-2006 by Fred Benson, NCBS President of Cary, NC**



# North Carolina Bluebird Society

## NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

North Carolina Bluebird Society Dues:

( ) 1 Year (\$10.00)

( ) 3 Years (\$25.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Yes

No

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

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

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

North Carolina Bluebird Society  
ATTN: David Hindsley  
135 Lakeview Drive  
Tarboro, NC 27886

I am interested in:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with the annual meeting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Serving as a NCBS Board Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ Helping with the newsletter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Conducting a bluebird workshop  
\_\_\_\_\_ Contacting my local paper with news  
\_\_\_\_\_ Volunteering to be a NCBS County Coordinator  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain)

## Contributions to the Newsletter

Sharing Bluebird information and stories make this an unique publication

Please submit to: Helen Munro, Co-editor  
22 Bobolink Rd. Jackson Springs, NC 27281  
Phone - (910) 673-6936 Fax - (910) 673-7345  
e-mail - hsmunro@ac.net

Slide Programs, Videos and books can be borrowed,  
Please Contact: Hank Moss, Jr.

525 Fairway Drive Southern Pines, NC 28387  
(910) 692-2328 hmjr@pinehurst.net



Dempsey Essick, former president of the NC Bluebird Society, has created for his Fall 2006 release, "Daylily Days." He has captured the full range of colorful blooms as well as a weathered old split rail fence and a bluebird box at the end of the field, all just as he found them at the Potts' home in Advance, NC. The bluebird in full flight headed for home was added by the artist. For every print purchased by a NCBS member, Dempsey will contribute \$20 to the NC Bluebird Society. Please denote this on your check when ordering by mail or relay this information when ordering by phone.

"Daylily Days" is a Limited Edition of 999  
Signed & Numbered Prints  
Image size: 12 ¾ x 21 Price: \$120 + \$8.40 tax  
Overall Size: 16 ½ x 24 Shipping \$12  
(shipping offset with a free gift)  
www.dempseyessick.com (336) 731-3499  
PO Box 1149—Welcome, NC 27372  
wetpaint@dempseyessick.com

## Spot Light Meet Your County Coordinator

Sam & Gladys Phillips are the Buncombe County Coordinators and live east of Asheville in Black Mountain, NC. They have had an active interest in bluebirds for about fifteen years both here and in Ohio. Sam's Dad Jim was instrumental in getting them involved with the "Blues." Sam & Gladys will celebrate their forty-ninth wedding anniversary on December 14. They have two children: Melodie who is an internist in West Akron, Ohio and Scott, a sergeant in the Medina County, Ohio Sheriff's department. They enjoy six grandchildren. Gladys is a retired school teacher who used Blues with some of her classes. Sam is contemplating retiring from his plumbing business. Besides bluebirds, Sam is an avid knife collector and Gladys is an amateur artist. Their lives tend to revolve around each other, their hobbies and their church. Gladys writes that "God has made such a creation in the Bluebird. When we see them, let's thank



the Creator for them."

*Submitted by Virginia Pickles  
County Coordinator Co-Chair*

## NCBS Board News

The NCBS Board meets four times a year to discuss activities and the website, balance the budget, approve the newsletter, keep the By-Laws current and plan for the Annual Meeting and participation in such events as the NC State Fair.. Members are welcome to attend these Board meeting or to submit items for discussion. At the October 28, 2006 meeting in Cary, two items of interest were discussed.

1. The Board budgets for four \$100 grants per year. These are earmarked for education and may be in the form of funds toward a new bluebird trail. The form to request a grant will be posted on the [nbluebird.com](http://nbluebird.com) website shortly.
2. The North American Bluebird Society is undergoing a major restructuring. If your membership has been lost in the shuffle, please email ([hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net)), call (910-673-6936) or write Helen Munro, 22 Bobolink Rd., Jackson Springs, NC and she will try to straighten it out.

The next NCBS Board Meeting is Saturday, January 20, 2007 at Bass Lake Park and Retreat Center in Holly Springs, NC. See <http://www.hollyspringsnc.us/dept/park/blhome.htm>.

**Please reserve  
Saturday, March 31, 2007  
for the annual meeting of  
NCBS.  
It will be at the Wake County  
Commons Building on Poole  
Road in Raleigh.  
Volunteers are needed to help  
with registration, member-  
ships, door prizes, silent  
auction, menus, etc.  
Please contact Fred Benson at  
(919) 469-0410 or  
[fbenson@ipass.net](mailto:fbenson@ipass.net)  
to volunteer.**

# North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

ALAMANCE	Fran Outhwaite	(336-226-4770)	MONTGOMERY	Don Berrier	(336-461-4457)
ANSON	Heyward McKinney	(704-694-3240)	MOORE	Helen Munro	(910-673-6936)
BLADEN	Mike Jackson	(910-863-3839)	ORANGE	Sally Freeman	(919-471-2462)
BRUNSWICK	Don Adams	(910-278-3872)	PITT	Dr. Edward Davis	(252-756-4165)
BUNCOMBE	Gladys & Sam Phillips	(828-669-1010)	POLK	Barbara Rowe	(828-863-4253)
BURKE	Karen Gilliam	(828-437-6772)	RANDOLPH	Chuck Bliss	(336-625-5423)
CABARRUS	David Silla	(704-788-3778)	ROBESON	Pete Roberts	(910-671-4702)
CASWELL	Mary Beth Moore	(919-563-2828)	ROCKINGHAM	Fred Benson	(919-469-0410)
CHATHAM	Lloyd Edwards	(919-837-2468)	ROWAN	Nancy Liggins	(704-636-8127)
CHEROKEE	Carolyn Stockton	(828-494-4350)	RUTHERFORD-	Christine Ammons	(828-287-3502)
CLAY	Carol Reid	(828-837-5807)	STANLY	Richard Griffin	(704-474-4666)
CUMBERLAND	Catherine&Will Traylor	(910-488-7792)	SURRY	Bethany Shepherd	(336-352-4455)
CURRITUCK	Heather Robbins	(252-599-7410)	SWAIN	Karen Jacobs	(828-488-6202)
DAVIDSON	Ray Welch	(336-764-0226)	UNION	Augustus Moore	(704-821-4624)
DAVIE	Steve&Lori Collier	(336-712-0720)	WAKE	Elizabeth Kloster	(919-866-0660)
DURHAM	Dee-Gee Gates	(919-479-9142)	WAKE	Bill Satterwhite	(919-787-5248)
EDGECOMBE	Ann Kent	(252-823-7862)	WATAUGA	John Whitley	(828-963-1911)
FORSYTH	Bill Abbey	(336-766-5857)	WAYNE	John Pickles	(919-658-3062)
GASTON	Dana Glenn	(803-684-2300)	YADKIN	Bob Southard	(336-679-8376)
GRANVILLE	Phil Walters	(919-603-0472)	PIEDMONT, SC	David Edgerton	(864-947-5310)
GUILFORD	Paul Waldrop	(336-299-5308)	YORK, SC	Bill Hilton, Jr.	(803-684-5852)
HENDERSON	Joe Sanders	(828-651-0920)	Web-site –	Liz Schmid	(336-595-6379)
HYDE	Sherri Surrat	(252-926-9313)		<a href="mailto:liz.schmid@earthlink.net">liz.schmid@earthlink.net</a>	
JOHNSTON	Ethelene Allen	(919-963-3831)			
LINCOLN	Pat Probst	(704-735-5780)			
MCDOWELL	Carol Gilliam	(828-738-0655)			
MECKLENBURG	Doug Archer	(704-643-3841)			

Virginia Pickles (919-658-3062) or  
Fred Benson County (919-469-0410)  
Coordinator Chairmen

BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY  
THE NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

135 Lakeview Dr.  
Tarboro, NC 27886

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
P.A.I.D.  
Jackson Springs, NC  
Permit # 15

**Address Service Requested**