



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

Bluebird Notes

PUBLISHED BY
The North Carolina Bluebird Society
www.ncbluebird.org



NCBS is an affiliate of NABS.

Fall 2013

Volume 28 Issue 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.

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Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe New Partner for Bluebirds



In July of 2013 the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc., (EBRG) made an offer to the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe to donate 100 bluebird houses with the stipulation that they be put up throughout the tribal lands comprising a large area in Warren and Halifax Counties. Tribal leaders readily accepted the offer and soon the bird houses and two gallons of clear preservative were delivered by volunteers of the EBRG to the tribe's administrative office.

A few days later the EBRG received a call from the tribe saying that the members were very enthusiastic in receiving and putting up the bluebird houses and asking if EBRG would donate more.

On September 16, 2013, the EBRG delivered another 100 hous-

es and presented a program on bluebirds and the houses. Present for the donation and program were Stella Rideout, Director, North Carolina Bluebird Society and member of the EBRG, Kristye Steed, Branch Manager, North Carolina State Employees Credit Union, which is a partner of the EBRG in distributing many thousands of bluebird houses all over North Carolina, Frank Newell, President and CEO of the EBRG, Michele Shearin, Lead Rehabilitator for Newell Farms Wildlife Center and Secretary of the EBRG, Anthony Steed, General Manager EBRG and members of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council.

It was agreed that this will be an annual event with the EBRG furnishing 200 more bluebird houses and the Haliwa-Saponi putting up and monitoring them. The EBRG is pleased to have gained another partner in the mission to save bluebirds.

By Frank Newell

Bluebird Notes

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Bluebird Tales



Frank Newell Donates 200 boxes to Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe



From left to right, Al Richardson, Michele Sharin, Karen Harley, Frank Newell, Kristye Steed, and Stella Rideout

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

**The Annual Meeting is Planned at
DuPont Fayetteville Works
Saturday April 26, 2014
Mark your calendars for this exciting event
at the beautiful Wildlife Habitat at
DuPont Fayetteville Works**



Bluebird Tales



Toby Newton: New Bluebird Supporter!



On August 19, 2013, I received an email from Toby Newton saying that she was interested in setting up a bluebird feeder in her yard. She emailed: *“I have the feeder, but am not sure where to place it. I am also disabled, so digging post holes is a little difficult for me. Is there any help with that? I would like to learn more about their habitats, but from reading online, I’m not sure my place will be suitable. I live in the woods,*

though there is some clearing of underbrush in some areas. Any leads you can provide will be much appreciated.”

I responded via email to Toby on August 20th, saying that I would contact some other Board Members to see if we could help, and also emailed her several websites to visit to learn more about the bluebirds. Toby then emailed me to say she had said “bird feeder” in error, but in fact it was a bird house that she needed help installing. Toby further explained that she had purchased the house from the State Employees Credit Union – we’re all very familiar with those houses that Frank Newell and his Volunteers make! – and that a friend of hers had painted it. Well, you can clearly see from the picture how beautiful the house is – it’s really a piece of art.

I immediately contacted other Board members, who were very much interested in helping Toby. North Carolina Bluebird Society Vice President, Ken Kernodle, Toby and I soon agreed on a date and time that fit into all of our busy schedules.

On Tuesday, September 3rd, Ken and I arrived at Toby’s house with all the paraphernalia at hand. Ken is a retired engineer, so you can only imagine how “prepared” he was to get the job done correctly. Toby welcomed us to her beautiful homestead, which sits on about three acres of

lovely wooded land. Toby’s home is located in an Environmental Land Group, and the roads just go on and on, with each driveway leading to a private and secluded residence.

Soon after arriving, and the proper introductions, we all began to search for the perfect place to put the house. Toby sits at a window to pay bills, etc., and we wanted it to be within view of that window so that she can enjoy watching the bluebird activity, nest building, feeding, and hopefully fledging of the nestlings next year.

After considering a few spots, the perfect location was agreed upon. However, there was just one small problem. Very nearby was a bird feeder. We were all a little concerned that the close proximity of the feeder may be a deterrent for the bluebirds to build their nest there. After all the options were talked about, we all three still agreed that the spot that was chosen was just too perfect not to give it a try.

Ken assembled all his tools, and within a short time the bluebird pole and house were installed – installed to perfection I might add – the leveler took away any doubts that the pole and house were anything less than in perfect alignment – the job was completed, and what a beauty it was!

Toby, Ken and I all decided that if the house location is not successful in attracting bluebirds next year, that we will come back and relocate the feeder to another spot.

Toby, all of us from the North Carolina Bluebird Society wish you many years of “happy bluebirding,” and we’ll all be excited to hear from you regarding your first sighting of the bluebirds finding your house next spring.

Beverly Frassinelli, North Carolina Bluebird Society, Board of Directors Member and Orange County Coordinator



Another New Bluebird Enthusiast! VERONICA CARTER



Ray Welch busy putting up a bluebird house

Ray Welch and Veronica Carter with her newly installed bluebird house



Veronica Carter, a dear friend of mine in Winston-Salem, is now a bluebird enthusiast after Ray Welch installed a bluebird house near her back fence this past Spring. It was pretty late in the Spring so we weren't sure if she would get any bluebirds or not. She called me a couple of times to tell me some "unsavory type" birds had been trying to rent, but I told her how to gently discourage the scoundrels from invading her new house. She emptied out the furnishings of the unsavory a few times and scolded them and then the right pair of bluebirds finally found their way to her backyard and into her brand new perfect little bluebird house. She enjoyed a Spring with Mama and Papa Bluebird hunting around the yard and woods to find the right nest-making materials and spending much time and energy building a soft comfy bed for the new babies they were anticipating. After it was all constructed and soft and ready, each morning a new little egg was laid in the cozy nest until five pretty blue eggs were touching side by side. Then Mama bluebird began sitting on them anxiously, awaiting the arrival of her fuzzy headed, yellow billed, big mouth hatchlings. Veronica enjoyed watching the parents caring for their babies and flying in and out of the box to bring delicious juicy grasshoppers and other insects to help the youngsters grow. She only had one set of babies this Spring, but she did better than your editor! Sometimes you just don't get any bluebirds. Especially if you give a nice bluebird house to your neighbor that lives a little too close! This is the second time that has happened to me. I'll watch my "giving radius" next time. No bluebird house gifts to any neighbors within a 100 feet! Now not Veronica, Veronica lives a good distance away, but I, myself had to endure a spring with my bluebirds at my neighbors! It was rough and I missed them greatly! Knowing I helped Veronica get a new family going and.....my close neighbors, the Fosters, I can hope for a full box of bluebirds next year. The more we fledge, the more chance's for all our nest boxes to be filled! Veronica had to go to back to Georgia, her home to do her gardening and canning. She is the best cook ever! So she didn't get to see the babies fledge, but she is a bluebird fan forever now. She even purchased some of those "mealy worms" and put those out daily for her little bluebirds. She is looking forward to them coming back again next Spring!

Risa Jarman

Ray and Risa at Veronica's



ATTENTION MEMBERS

If you have an interest in getting more involved, NC Bluebird Society has counties without Coordinators. If your county is not represented, please consider volunteering. The application and responsibilities are on-line http://www.ncbluebird.org/html/ncbs_volunteer.html. If your county is already represented and a nearby county is not, please consider applying for that county's coordinator. Getting in touch with a NC Bluebird Society Coordinator is important when you have a question or need information. The County Coordinator position is not difficult or time consuming; just a desire to help our feathered friends and enjoy talking to people. If you feel you don't know enough, remember you can call one of our more experienced members -- the officers or board members, etc. I've been Wake County Coordinator for several years and I get questions that I don't have an answer to and I call someone -- it's a way for me to learn. Please consider; it's fun too.

Joye Stephenson
919-632-0736
director-js@ncbluebird.org

ATTENTION COUNTY COORDINATORS:

Please check your contact information and notify Joye Stephenson director-js@ncbluebird.org or 919-632-0736 if you have corrections. Your information is listed in the newsletter and on the <http://www.ncbluebird.org/> website. It's important that the information be correct.



Jim Kunkle captured this shot of hatchlings singing in five part **HARMONY!**

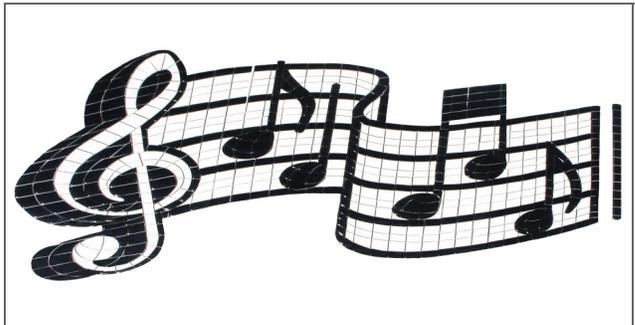


Photo by Jim Kunkle



Go away!! We don't want any!

Some great photos from Jim Kunkle



This feeder is getting a little empty!
How about a refill?



I told you not to follow me over here!



These owls were sent in by Mary Ann Rogers of Shelby. We think these are "barred owls" living in her backyard. See videos of them "branching," (their journey from a shrub to a tree branch,) after leaving the nest. They don't fly very well at all. Go to You Tube and type in "Al Rogers Owls" to see them.



A possum with babies on her back running through Jim Kunkle's backyard. One fell off right after he snapped this shot and it grabbed her tail and hung on for dear life!

Pictures from Susie and Russ



Biltmore
Lake NC



Everyone's hungry! Nine bluebirds
were on our feeder last night!

AHHHH!! After a rough day at work nothing
relaxes me better than a dip in the pool!



Stopped off at the bar to have a few



Just "Chillin"



Out bound-Mom
looking for food



Sharing Sunday Dinner!



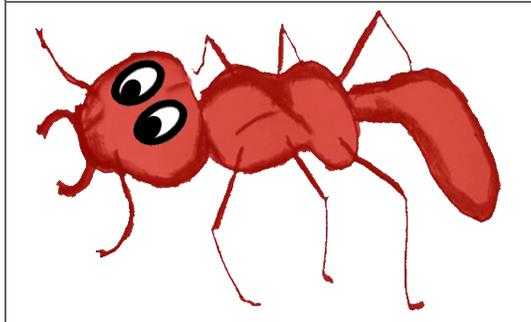
Mom in flight showing her
beautiful wing spread

TROUBLE WITH ANTS

Hello Mr. Harris,

Thanks for contacting the North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) concerning your ant problem. With the wet weather that we all have had this year, ants have been a bigger problem this year. Everything and everybody has been seeking higher ground! Two things that I would recommend for next year: More frequent monitoring of the box will help so that you can see what the activity is in the nest box and eliminate or reduce problems before they reach a critical

pair can handle a "mild" you have found, the in-the nest if not can be extremely careful with around a nest box. There that I have good luck with out harming the birds. A a product that I have had



point. Normally, a nesting infestation of insects but, as sect can and will overwhelm trolled. Secondly, one has to using insecticides in or is a product on the market that eliminates the ants with-company named Amdro has good results with this

year. There are four bait stations per box that can be used indoors or outdoors. This product can be purchased at most home stores (Lowe's) or farm and yard stores. The station is small enough that they can be attached to the underside of the nest box and works very well in controlling the ants without disturbing the birds. With this, you might consider a ring of vaseline at the top and mid-point of your support pole. With this said, a major key is the monitoring of the nest box and taking action with what you find.

Again, thanks for contacting NCBS! If you have further questions or need help in the future, I hope you will contact us!

Ray Welch, Pres. NCBS

US POSTAL INCREASE?

Have you heard the rumor?

The Postal Service has proposed a 3 cents rate increase on first class postage, which may or may not affect our non-profit bulk mailing cost. If

you have Internet service, now is a good opportunity to consider receiving your *Bluebird Notes* newsletter on-line if you don't already do so. You can contact David Hindsley, our Membership Chair, at jhindley@embarqmail.com to request this change.



Pictures from M.E. Dossenbach,
Durham NC



Meet Stella Rideout-New Member of the NCBS Board of Directors



In August of 2012, I retired after 39 years of service with the state and local government. In January 2013, I became semi-retired when I started working part time for Leonard's Tile, Inc., in Norlina, NC, where I enjoy learning about home remodeling and new construction products relating to kitchens and baths. This has been a rewarding adventure and it didn't take me away from enjoying family, friends and hobbies. I am married to Robert Rideout and we have a son, Clint Rideout and his wife, Jennifer, a daughter, Ashleigh Stroot and her husband, Jacob. We are blessed with five grandchildren, ages nine years to seven months.

They bring such joy to our lives.

It has been rewarding to serve on the local level by doing bluebird programs for civic organizations, street festivals, schools and local library. The most fun is making house calls and helping people put up their nest boxes and help monitor them. It didn't take long to be tagged "*the bluebird lady.*" The Warren Record newspaper allows me to write articles relating to the Eastern Bluebird. It is a privilege to be a part of the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group and to witness the hard work and dedication of the volunteers. If you have not had the privilege of meeting Frank Newell or read about this group, you have missed a real treat.

Being a breast cancer survivor has **definitely broadened my territory of people that I can connect with in a personal way.** Frank Newell had asked me to think about being the Warren County Coordinator for the NCBS months before my cancer diagnosis and I had procrastinated making a commitment. During my recuperation period, I was walking around the Warren County Recreation Complex track and three different sets of bluebirds seemed to accompany me by flying from one tree to another in front of me. It seemed that God was using his little bluebirds to give me the confirmation to make that commitment to serve the NCBS at the local level. When I told Frank, he was as "proud as peas." He did not hesitate to let those that were in attendance at the May 2013 NCBS Annual Meeting know that he helped raise me. I am proud to say that I have been the Warren County NCBS Coordinator since late 2006 and have expanded my family again with the addition of all the leaders and member of this organization. You all have been so encouraging and patient with me as you have tried to guide me. I am truly blessed.

By Stella Rideout, Warren County Coordinator

North Carolina Bluebird Society



Pictures from Stewart Paris from Texas



Picture from M.E. Dossebach

Durham, NC
"Baby Sitting Pretty"

One of Russ Bauman's juveniles from their second brood, helping feed a new clutch of babies



WHAT ARE SNAGS?

In the past few years, I have become interested in "snags" being left for the cavity building birds. I discovered an article about these from an email a while back.

Several years ago my neighbor had a tree that died and he was about to remove the tree. I pleaded with him to not cut that tree down. After I showed him several excavated holes in the trunk of the tree, and with my agreement that I would remove the tree if it became a hazard to the surrounding area, the tree was left standing. Unfortunately, this Spring the top of this snag fell harmlessly to the ground, but the portion that remains still had a large number of woodpecker cavities in it.



A couple of years ago, I had to have several trees that had died or were dying taken down to avoid the utility lines nearby. I had a professional to do the tree work for me with the following directions that the height of the tree was to be left to the point that if and when the snag fell, it would not do any damage to the surrounding area. This fellow and his crew had the hardest time understanding my request to leave the snags. So I took an "educational moment" with him and his crew and walked to the previously mentioned dead tree, which was full of wood-peckers! These professional tree workers were amazed at the number of holes in the snag and very quickly recognized the reason for leaving them.

I found this email to be interesting and intend to go back to this web site and do some additional reading. Part of our "mission statement" includes the support of not only the bluebirds, but also other "cavity dwelling birds." Snags are a great opportunity to enhance the cavity dwellers that Bob Wolk has previously written about in *Bluebird Notes*. Snags are a source of nest cavities as well as a food source.

If you aren't into snags, a chain saw or the delete button will take care of them.

Ray Welch



MEET THE CAVITY NESTERS

5. Brown-headed Nuthatch

When I was birding regularly in southern New York State, my birding mentors taught me that if I saw a bird creeping downward head first on a tree, it almost certainly was a White-breasted Nuthatch. After relocating to northern New York, I learned that the Red-breasted Nuthatch, denizen of fir and spruce forests, was the likely nuthatch, and it too traveled head down along tree trunks. Both species were so common there that I eventually could distinguish them by call notes alone, a skill I no longer possess.

In order to see the more exotic and less common Brown-headed Nuthatches, we had to travel to Maryland or Virginia, which we did in those bygone days of carefree fuel use. Now that I am located in North Carolina, Brown-headed Nuthatches appear at my feeders and, while certainly not abundant, it is delightful to see these smaller, but equally charming, relatives of the white- and red-breasted species.

Brown-headed Nuthatches are found in open pine forests of the southeastern United States. They are insect eaters primarily and will feed upon pine seeds when available. The typical clutch size is 4 to 6 white eggs covered with many reddish-brown spots. Hatching occurs after about two weeks. The nest may be lined with pieces of bark, wood chips, feathers, grass, and pine seed husks.

The call notes of the Brown-headed Nuthatch are easily distinguished from those of the other eastern nuthatches. They are somewhat nasal, quality and are repeated frequently when the bird is foraging.

Brown-headed Nuthatches are cavity nesters like bluebirds and the other nuthatches. Unlike bluebirds however, nuthatches can excavate cavities when a tree is decayed enough so that the interior is relatively soft. Unfortunately, when trees reach that stage of decay, we readily cut them down thereby removing a potential habitat for nuthatches, woodpeckers, and ultimately even bluebirds. [In this connection, see Ray Welch's snags article on page 10 of this issue.] Also, according to Partners in Flight in North Carolina, this species deserves high conservation concern because the lack of natural fire further reduces suitable habitat.

Brown-headed Nuthatches need our help to provide artificial nesting sites in much the same way that bluebirds do.

Fortunately, like bluebirds but unlike other nuthatches, Brown-headed Nuthatches often accept nest boxes for breeding and roosting. A bluebird box can entice Brown-headed Nuthatches to nest but it is desirable to make the entrance hole no larger than one inch in diameter. If necessary, a bluebird box can be modified easily for this purpose. Such a box can be placed near a box set up for bluebirds but it is best to separate them by five to ten yards.

I plan to try this next spring and urge you to think about doing so too.



Robert G. Wolk

Name Ten Things That Are Wrong with this "Bluebird" Nest box



See how many you can find before checking the answer below!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

<http://www.sialis.org> / Helen Munro

Answers

1	The entrance hole is too big. A hole larger than 1 1/2" diameter will allow starlings and other predators to reach into the box.
2	There are House Sparrows in the neighborhood. House Sparrows may destroy bluebird eggs and nestlings, and kill adults.
3	The box has a perch. A perch invites House Sparrows.
4	There is no overhang on the roof. Water could get through the entrance hole, wetting and chilling nestlings.
5	The roof is not slanted to shed water.
6	The box and roof are painted a dark color. This may cause the box to overheat, killing eggs or nestlings.
7	The box does not have a predator guard on the pole to prevent raccoons, snakes and other predators from climbing it.
8	The box is located on a fence, which acts as a predator highway.
9	The box is too close to a brushy area that is House Wren habitat. House Wrens may puncture eggs of other birds, kill young nestlings, and fill up boxes with "dummy" stick nests.
10	The box has no ventilation holes in the sides. This may cause the inside to get too hot.
11	The box is too deep. Nestlings may be unable to get out of the box when they are ready to fledge.
12	The box is made of very thin material. Wood used to make nest boxes should be at least 3/4 - 1" thick.

North Carolina Bluebird Society - Survey 2013

Name: _____

Email/Contact Information _____

Nest Box/Trail Location (county, city, state): _____

Field Record Observation Notes Summary

_____ Date of first egg laid (start of season)
 _____ Total number of nest boxes monitored this season
 _____ Total number of Bluebird eggs laid
 _____ Total number of other species cavity nesting eggs laid
 _____ Total number of Bluebird eggs hatched
 _____ Total number of other species cavity nesting eggs hatched
 _____ Total number of Bluebird fledglings
 _____ Total number of other species cavity nesting fledglings
 _____ Date of end of season last fledglings

Comments: _____

Use an additional sheet(s) of paper if necessary. Please include your name, address, and contact information for reference in the future. Thanks for your concern for Bluebirds.

Please fill out this form and return by December 15, 2013 to:

Stella Rideout, NCBS Board of Directors

480 US Highway 158 Bypass

Warrenton, NC 27589

Email: director-sr@ncbluebird.org

Telephone: (252) 257-3137

SPOTLIGHT ON COUNTY COORDINATORS WORKING TOGETHER



TIM CARROLL, CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Tim Carroll has been a resident of Bladen County all his life but spends most of his time in Cumberland County at work with DuPont's Fayetteville Works. He is very involved with DuPont's Wildlife Enhancement Program, his favorite project being Bluebird Management. They have over 100 boxes at the plant site and eight at his home.

Tim is also on the Control Burn Committee which is part of DuPont's Safe Harbor Certification Program as well as looking after 600 acres of long leaf pines. Other committees that he is involved with are Deer Management, Food Plots, Hummingbirds, Turkey Management. (They have won the National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Habitat Council award three times in the past seven years.)

In his free time, Tim competes in pig cooking contests across the state and placed 5th out of 30 cooks at the NC State Whole Hog Barbecue State Championship cooking contest in Raleigh in September!!! Way to go "Ziggy's Piggy" cooking team.

Tim volunteered to become the Cumberland County Coordinator several years ago and was instrumental in getting our 2014 Annual Meeting hosted by DuPont. He is a leader on the planning committee.

Tim can be contacted at
timothy.k.carroll@usa.dupont.com
or 910-678-1650.



MIKE JACKSON, BLADEN COUNTY

Mike Jackson, a lifelong Bladen County resident, has filled the role of NCBS County Coordinator since 2001. Mike maintains a favorable habitat for many bluebird boxes on his family farm.

Mike has had the opportunity to work with DuPont's Fayetteville Works Wildlife Enhancement Team since 1985. Working the Corporate Lands for Learning Program (a certified program sanctioned by the Wildlife Habitat Council), students from two area middle schools (Elizabethtown Middle School in Bladen County and Maria Pierce Ford Middle School in Cumberland County) attended DuPont's 2013 Earth Day event where they were able to remotely view recently hatched bluebirds using fiber optic technology. Students also planted a wildflower garden to celebrate our pollinators and made seed balls from compost and clay to take home with them.

Mike is also assisting Tim Carroll, Cumberland County NCBS Coordinator, and Captain Gilmer Long in conjunction with the Wildlife Enhancement Team to prepare for the NCBS 2014 Annual Meeting to be held on the grounds of DuPont's Fayetteville Works' 1600 acre plant site.

Mike can be contacted at
mike.jackson-1@usa.dupont.com
or 910-874-2894.

North Carolina Bluebird Society

NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY (NCBS) MEMBERSHIP FORM

NC Bluebird Dues:

1 Year (\$10.00) 3 Years (\$25.00)

ADDITIONAL TAX DEDUCTABLE DONATION

\$ _____

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FROM _____

GIVEN TO:

Name _____

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City, State & Zip _____

County _____

Telephone number _____

E-mail address _____

Member email addresses will be used for NCBS official business only and will be considered confidential information.

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

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) _____

**NCBS is an affiliate of the
North American Bluebird Society**

GIVE A FRIEND THE GIFT OF THE NC BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP!

Just fill out the form to the left and indicate it is a gift membership and we will put a note in their membership packet that they are the recipient of your wonderful gift of bluebird events, stories and pictures!!

BLUEBIRD ONLINE STORE

Visit www.ncbluebird.org click on line store link or go directly to www.myfortune3cart.com/ncbs



STORIES, PICTURES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER ALWAYS WANTED!!!

Please keep sending your great stories and pictures. This newsletter could not happen without them!

Please submit to:
Editor@ncbluebird.org
or Risa Jarman

Risatj2@triad.rr.com
336-775-4083

or write to

Risa Jarman
141 Williams Meadow Lane
Winston-Salem, NC 27127

Let me know if I miss anything you sent or get anything wrong. I will try to correct it!

North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

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Sharon, Dave,
& Katie Edwards

(336-372-5292) Susie_mrsmliller@gmail.com

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Wendy Herrmann-Tross
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BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY
THE NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

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