



Affiliate

BLUEBIRD NOTES



Winter 2016

www.ncbluebird.org

Volume 31 Issue 1

North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) Mission Statement

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



Inside this issue:

Annual Conference information, registration form and agenda. Page 4-5

Finally, all that monitoring pays off with the nesting data and survey results. Pages 6-8

Brrr birdie, it's cold outside. How do the birds survive? Page 10

Meet NCBS Web Administrator, Glenda Ryan. Page 11

Clay County Coordinator has successful survey results. Page 14

ANNUAL CONFERENCE April 23

Where: Haw River State Park
The Summit Conference Center
339 Conference Drive
Browns Summit, NC

When: Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23

Soon it will be time to leave your nest and fly-in to the Annual Conference. The yearly spring retreat provides several educational sessions, helpful vendors, door prizes, silent auction and delicious food at an affordable price. Members and general public are welcome to attend. More information on the schedule and how to register are listed on pages 4 and 5.



Above: The Summit Conference Center; right: Six-acre lake at Haw River State Park



Words from NCBS President



Wow . . . can you believe the 2016 bluebird nesting season is HERE! I encourage everyone to clean out your existing boxes and erect any new ones by March 1st. Thanks to all of you that sent your "Nesting Box Survey" for 2015 to Stella. She has compiled the results which can be found on pages 6 - 8.

I am really getting excited about our Annual Conference to be held at Haw River State Park on April 23. It will be packed with informative and educational programming featuring Dr. Lynn Siefferman, Ap-

palachian State University, identifying and discussing the next major challenge for our bluebirds' survival and Dr. Lynn Moseley, Piedmont Audubon, focusing on bird friendly gardening using native plants. Your registration form is on page 4. Come on up on Friday, have dinner and attend your Board of Director's meeting immediately following the meal. Looking forward to seeing you at the 2016 Annual Conference.

**Ken Kernodle
Durham**



Bluebird Notes

Vol. 31 Issue 1

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Joye Stephenson
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this an unique publication.

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BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

October 2015 & January 2016 Board of Director's Meetings

October 10th meeting was held at the Orange County Library and called to order by President Ken Kernodle to review issues and take actions summarized here from the minutes provided by Recording Secretary Beverly Frassinelli.

Treasurer's Report: Ken reported in the July-Aug-Sept quarter, As of September 30th, 2015, we have \$12,673.84 in the bank.

Membership Chairman David Hindsley reported as of October 1st we have 404 members. Sixteen will expire in the June to September time frame.

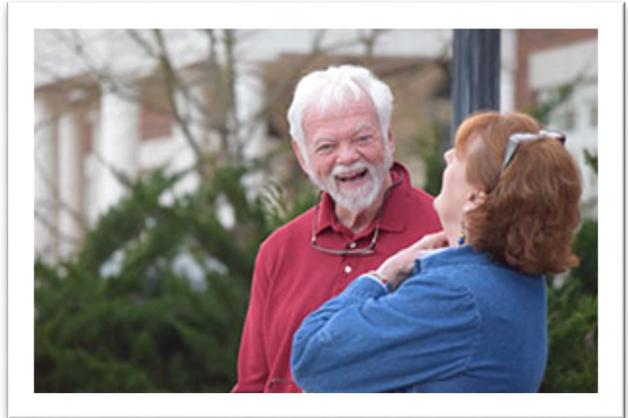
Other reports included County Coordinator and Publications Committee information. This fall one new county coordinator volunteered and a lengthy discussion was held on how to recruit new coordinators. Ray and Betsy Welch have agreed to continue to do the labels on the newsletters for another year, until October of 2016.

Annual Meeting Committee Report: Ken reported that Chris Williamson has volunteered to help with the Annual Meeting and to Chair that Committee.

New business included the unanimous approval of Chris Williamson as Vice President and discussion regarding a new Grant Review Committee, Annual Meeting name change, county coordinator renaming to county contact, as well as "growing our membership" campaign. No motions were presented on the previous discussion items.

Beverly announced the new OWASA bird watching program at Cane Creek is primarily a result of the successful bluebird trail grant.

The January 16th meeting again was held at the Orange County Library with Ken Kernodle presiding. The approved minutes will be available after the Board Meeting on April 22. As a result, the following updates were listed on the meeting agenda: Nesting Survey Results, Nominating Committee, Web Administration /Review of new web site, Logo/ On Line Store/ Pay Pal, Highlights of Strategic Digital Marketing Campaign, Bluebird Nest Box Opportunity (Grant Request from Boy Scouts).



Clockwise: Above David Hindsley and Stella Rideout looking over the *Bluebird Tips*; Ken Kernodle outside laughing with Beverly Frassinelli; Joye Stephenson and Bob Wolk concentrating on business.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

| Saturday Schedule | Location: The Summit Conference Center at Haw River State Park |
|-------------------|--|
| 9:00 - 10:00 am | Registration Open with Meet and Greet |
| 10:00 - 10:15 am | Welcome by Ken Kernodle and Park Superintendent Kelly King |
| 10:15 - 11:00 am | Educational Session by Dr. Lynn Siefferman |
| 11:00 - 11:15 am | Break, browse vendors and prizes |
| 11:15 - 12:00 pm | Educational Session by Dr. Lynn Moseley |
| 12:00 - 1:30 pm | Lunch and free time |
| 1:30 - 2:00 pm | Presentation by Dr. Caren Cooper |
| 2:00 - 2:30 pm | Local Presentation |
| 2:30 - 3:00 pm | Door Prizes and Silent Auction Winners |
| 3:00 pm | Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Officers and Board Members • Reports (President, Treasurer, Membership etc...) • New and Old Business |

REGISTRATION FORM

*****Deadline April 8*****

Please mail registration form and check payable to NCBS to:
 Mrs. Carrie Helston 7060 Landingham Drive Willow Spring, NC 27592

Attendee #1 _____ Phone _____

Attendee #2 _____ Phone _____

Email Address _____ County _____

___ Single: Friday night lodging (registration and 3 meals included) \$100.00 ___

___ Double: Friday night lodging (registration and meals included for two) \$160.00 ___

___ Day registration only (lunch included) \$20.00 ___

Total Enclosed \$ _____

LODGING AND SPEAKERS

Overnight Lodging Information

Rooms feature one double and one single bed. Single occupancy rooms are \$100 and double \$160. Handicapped-accessible rooms are available. All rooms have a private bath. Overnight accommodations do not have televisions or telephones. The room rate includes three meals per person - Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. All linens are provided.

Tree Swallow, A Major Threat: Dr. Lynn Siefferman



In the last 30 - 40 years, swallows have shifted breeding grounds from northeastern North America to the south and west. They now occur in both NC and SC. Dr. Lynn Siefferman is an Assistant Professor of Behavioral Ecology at Appalachian State University. Siefferman and one of her students, Alexandria Albers, will share current information and research on what has become a MAJOR threat to the Eastern Bluebird in NC: the invasion of the Tree Swallow. Dr. Siefferman and Ms. Albers will review reasons for this invasion and ideas on how we can help the Eastern Bluebird overcome this danger!

Bird-Friendly Gardening Using Native Plants: Dr. Lynn Mosely

Lynn Moseley recently retired from Guilford College after 37 years as a professor of Biology and several years as chair of the Division of Natural Sciences and Math. She taught courses in zoology, ornithology, animal behavior, and barrier island ecology. Her research interests in bird behavior, communication, and conservation have led to a number of projects, including regular monitoring of many bird populations and numerous trips abroad with students to East Africa, the Galapagos Islands, and the Southwestern US. In this presentation, you will learn why native plants are so important for supporting birds, which plants provide the greatest benefits to birds, and how you can make your yard a welcoming place.



The Sparrow Swap: Dr. Caren Cooper



Caren Cooper, PhD, is Assistant Head of the Biodiversity Research Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. The goal of Cooper's citizen science research lab is to support the Museum's mission "to illuminate the interdependence of humanity and nature." In a new citizen science project, Cooper is testing the effectiveness of different fake eggs in duping House sparrows into attending failed nests. Hear about the two types of mimic eggs, available upon request to participants: (1) painted wooden eggs and (2) painted plastic eggs. For 14 years, Cooper helped design several citizen science projects at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology including My Yard Counts, YardMap, NestWatch, Celebrate Urban Birds, and the House Sparrow Project. Cooper has over 50 publications, including research papers that relied on data from citizens.

NESTING DATA SUMMARY

When I was appointed to be responsible for compiling the nestbox data a few years ago, it came at a time when the nesting activity for that season was at a close. I was a bit intimidated because Helen Munroe, former President, had been doing this service for many years. There was no way I could come close to filling her shoes but I can attest to the inspiration she was to me as she adopted me into the NCBS as a county coordinator. She will always hold a special place in my heart for her encouragement and the example she set. Thank you for those of you who helped us almost double our number of counties represented in 2015 compared to the participants responding in 2014.

Number crunching can be a little challenging but interesting at the same time thanks to the dedicated people that have faithfully monitored and compiled data from your area. The sampling covers counties from the mountains to the coast of North Carolina. It would be wonderful to get results from all 100 counties but I believe the input received is very useful in painting a picture of our state. The activity in our nestboxes doesn't always coincide with our schedules and life events and the information reported is provided with the best of intentions to be as accurate as humanly possible. The following data represents input that has been shared from across the state. Your participation is extremely important in studying the year to year activities reported in your observation notes.

The earliest date of first egg laid was March 11, 2015, in Warren County. The person reporting said 4 eggs were in this clutch and the eggs all hatched but the babies died at about a week old due to the return of abnormally cold temperatures. There were a total of 1,082 reported nestboxes monitored with a total of 4,729 Eastern Bluebird eggs laid, 1,062 other species eggs laid (and 3 baby flying squirrels). Bluebird eggs hatched were 3,986 and 874 other species. Of the eggs hatched, 3,791 bluebirds fledged, 806 other species fledged and don't forget the 3 flying squirrel babies that also survived the nest. The date reported of the end of season last fledgling was September 3, 2015, in Warren County. Ironically, the person reporting the earliest egg laid is the same person reporting the latest end of season fledgling. In

her comments she also noted that she had four nestings in one of her boxes and yes, she is the one that also had a successful nesting of flying squirrels that produced 3 babies. She lives on Gaston Lake and is known to always maintain an ideal environment that is humanly possible (predator guards included) for successful bird activity.

A total of twenty-three counties were represented in the data reported and comprised a good sampling from the mountains to the coast of North Carolina. On page 8 the counties represented and the number of boxes monitored have been summarized in the table.

Get your notepads out now and be ready to record your 2016 data. Remind friends, neighbors and family to do the same. I am still hoping to get results from all 100 counties in North Carolina. Take time to educate people that may not be members of NCBS of the importance of keeping nesting activity. We can accomplish this if we all encourage a few of our connections of family and friends across the state. Look at the list of counties (on page 8) that did participate in the 2015 reporting and contact someone you may know in some of the missing counties. We are also still looking for coordinators for many of our counties. Take advantage of the opportunities you may have to spread the word and you never know who might just need you to ask them to get involved.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of compiling the survey results. I look forward to hearing from you in the future and welcome your feedback.

Stella S. Rideout
Warrenton
director-sr@ncbluebird.org

SURVEY COMMENTS

“Predators got 5 hatchlings early May. Nest not disturbed – assume it was a snake. In 22 years have never seen a snake in my backyard. This is the first time I have had predators in 20 years. Nest box moved to more open area with PVC pole. New family’s 1st egg on 5/16 – perhaps same parents. All fledged 6/20/15. I used paint brush and greased pole with Murphy’s Oil Soap. I really enjoying seeing comments from around the state in the newsletter. Thanks for all you do.”

Diane Hankins, Asheville

also depressing to see nest problems from other birds/animals! One nest of 5 eggs was totally removed. Luckily, the mother was persistent & produced two more with 4 eggs each. It was my most productive last year – 13 fledged. The eggs were destroyed or removed 3 times, this year. I often saw large brown birds flying around the house. They might have been able to get their heads in.

Linda Julien, Morganton

“Only one box had bluebirds. Tree swallows & house wrens in all the others.”

Judi Brown, Crumpler

“Decreased number of bluebirds and insects in park this year. Increase in chickadees. 5 white BB eggs laid (May), 4 hatched, 4 fledged.”

Diane Woerner, Garner

“Not a good year for most of the boxes on the farm. We do have Cooper Hawks which could be a problem. We do not use pesticides on our crops; but have had less insects this year on our crops than in years past. However, we have had plenty of bees and other pollinators.”

Susan Wyatt, Raleigh

“This year’s production at Tanglewood ranked 5th of the past ten seasons with 164 Bluebirds fledged... Bird to box ratio 4.3... Timing of bluebird nest building and egg lay during our first cycle may have been adversely affected by what appeared to be an overly cool and wet spring in Piedmont.”

Bill Abbey, Clemmons

“Other fledglings were black capped Carolina Chickadees.”

Larry Hines, Raleigh

“Other species: Winston-Salem – chickadee, Carolina Wren, Murphy – chickadee and tree swallow.”

Kay Cameron, Winston-Salem

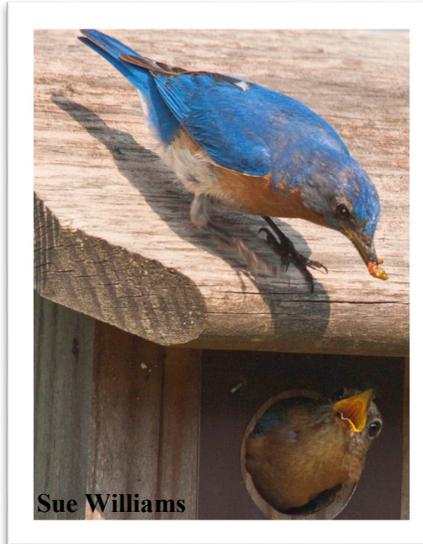
“It is such a thrill to see the BB’s & their babies. It’s

“GREAT YEAR – boxes were full & active. It takes time to successfully place your boxes. New bluebirders need to be patient & persist. It is well worth the work!

Carol and Ed Reid, Brasstown

“We have 5 teams, I am just the recorder, very difficult to get everyone to get the other details. We are moving many boxes from trees to poles with success. Note – Landfall is a large golf community, a very small part of New Hanover County. Nest boxes are set up on the periphery of the courses.”

Judy Wesoloski, Wilmington



“Other species were swallows, chickadee, brown headed nuthatch and one house sparrow nest. (That was a mistake, of course.) Numbers were considerably down this year, possibly due to the loss of almost all the grass in the fairways of the entire golf course. I imagine this had an impact on bug population.”

Barbara Haralson, Summerfield

“One of my boxes had two pairs of bluebirds living in it at the same time and worked together to feed and nurture the babies until they all fledged the nest. A total of 6 babies were raised in that nesting. I believe the second pair was the previous year’s babies.”

Anne Robinson, Macon

NESTING DATA CONTINUED

| REPORTED BY | COUNTY | City | Boxes | BB Eggs | Hatched | Fledged |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Nunemaker, Linda | Alamance | Mebane | 15 | 34 | 30 | 30 |
| Brown, Judi | Ashe | Crumpler | 7 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Hankins, Diane | Buncombe | Asheville | 3 | 9 | 4 | 4 |
| Julian, Linda | Burke | Morganton | 18 | 112 | 99 | 94 |
| VanDeraa, Peggy | Cabarrus | Kannapolis | 1 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Warmuth, Bob | Catawba | Hickory | 71 | 480 | 453 | 438 |
| Olson, Janis | Cherokee | Andrews | 2 | 12 | 9 | 9 |
| Moore, Carmen | Cherokee | Andrews | 14 | 43 | 41 | 41 |
| Reid, Carol & Ed | Clay | Brasstown | 50 | 177 | 153 | 147 |
| Welch, Ray | Davidson | Winston Salem | 14 | 67 | 56 | 54 |
| Kernodle, Ken | Durham | Durham | 22 | 78 | 70 | 61 |
| Chanucey, Peter | Durham | Durham | 9 | 42 | 28 | 28 |
| McDaniel, Steve | Durham | Durham | 31 | 182 | 176 | 172 |
| Abbey, Bill | Forsyth | Clemmoms | 38 | 224 | 172 | 164 |
| Wooten, Juanna | Forsyth/Ashe | Winston-Salem/Jefferson | 15 | 42 | 40 | 40 |
| Cameron, Kay | Forsyth/Ashe | Winston-Salem/Murphy | 5 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Casagrande, Sandra | Franklin | Louisburg | 6 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Bristow, Chip | Granville | Franklinton | 20 | 150 | 135 | 125 |
| Haralson, Barbara | Guilford | Greensboro | 97 | 369 | 322 | 313 |
| Jochum, Jim | Guilford | Greensboro | 15 | 62 | 50 | 42 |
| Hughes, Barbara | Guilford | Greensboro | 14 | 37 | 33 | 33 |
| Spainhour, Lisa | Harnett | Buies Creek | 33 | 225 | 202 | 202 |
| Tufts, Len & Joyce | Moore | Pinehurst | 21 | 58 | 30 | 22 |
| Kinney, Nancy | Moore | Foxfire Village | 71 | 320 | 220 | 213 |
| Stolting, Robert & Ruth | Moore | West End | 17 | 70 | 42 | 30 |
| Walker, Jim & Jean | Moore | Southern Pines | 59 | 210 | 149 | 142 |
| Wesoloski, Judy | New Hanover | Wilmington | 125 | 516 | 390 | 349 |
| Haggerman, Carolyn | Northampton | | 2 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| Newell, Frank/Volunteers | Northampton | | 24 | 72 | 70 | 63 |
| Frassinelli, Beverly | Orange | Hillsborough | 9 | 44 | 40 | 38 |
| Jarvis, Shawn | Pitt | Grifton | 8 | 66 | 60 | 59 |
| Hines, Mary & Larry | Wake | Raleigh | 2 | 12 | 8 | 8 |
| Wyatt, Susan | Wake | Raleigh | 24 | 90 | 61 | 60 |
| Woerner, Diane | Wake | Garner | 10 | 56 | 33 | 29 |
| Crawford, Sue | Wake | Wake Forest | 3 | 14 | 14 | 13 |
| Robinson, Anne | Warren | Macon | 5 | 52 | 52 | 48 |
| Newell, Frank/Volunteers | Warren | | 61 | 181 | 172 | 161 |
| Newell, Frank | Warren | Warrenton | 120 | 480 | 470 | 462 |
| Walsh, Zane | Wilkes | Purlear | 20 | 65 | 24 | 24 |
| Barnes, Lea | Wilkes | North Wilkesboro | 1 | 15 | 15 | 10 |
| TOTALS | | | 1,082 | 4,729 | 3,986 | 3,791 |

NEWS FROM THE NEST



Russ Bauman

Nesting season is just around the corner. Bluebirds soon will be pairing and scouting for nesting sites. Other mature pairs may return to that particular nestbox in your area. As a result, the Publications Committee wants to hear from you. Do you have any literary works or special news for upcoming editions of *Bluebird Notes*? Your contributions are needed and wanted to show off NCBS members and friends. Also, photograph your trails, golf courses, neighborhoods, or anywhere bluebird nestboxes are located within your county. Tell us your stories, send in your photos for upcoming publications that will feature news from your nest.

Additionally, if you would like to respond to any survey comments on page 7 providing advice or suggestions, please submit to:

Cheryl Gay, Editor
1216 Red Brick Road Garner, NC 27529
editor@ncbluebird.org
919-662-3925



Lewis Moore



NCBS GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURE

North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) has established an educational grant program to promote and provide suitable habitat, as well as increasing awareness of the particular needs of the Eastern Bluebird.

Grants may be awarded to individuals and/or groups to:

1. Establish new bluebird trail of nest boxes approved by the North American Bluebird Society.
2. Repair or replacement of nest boxes on existing trails.
3. Educational activities that specifically benefit the Eastern Bluebird. The cost of a bluebird display or promotional materials.

All grant requests must be submitted by application and submitted no less than sixty (60) days prior to the Board meeting scheduled for January, April, July and October.

Any grant request submitted and awarded by the Board of the NCBS will not normally exceed \$200.00 but is not restricted to this amount. Contact Ken Kernodle, President, at either president@ncbluebird.org or 919-724-9470. Also, the grant application can be printed from the web site at www.ncbluebird.org.

HOW BIRDS SURVIVE COLD TEMPERATURES

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology - All About Birds put this question to Bird Cams project leader, Charles Eldermire, who provided a handy 5-step survival guide for birds trying to stay alive in the bitter cold. Article reprinted from <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/how-do-birds-survive-in-very-cold-temperatures/>
© Cornell Lab of Ornithology, used with permission.

1. They hang out with other birds

Especially if the weather is crummy. Ever notice that nearly all of the birds that hang around in the winter do so in flocks? Having other birds around makes it less likely that something will eat you; more eyes = less chance of a predator sneaking up. Plus, if something does sneak up, you only have to be faster than the guy foraging next to you! Other birds also are also good at letting you know where the primo food is.



Russ Bauman

2. They eat as much as possible

Park in front of a feeder, some seedy plants, or anywhere there is food (preferably the heaviest, fattiest foods possible, like black-oil sunflower and suet, yum!) and consume. If anyone gets in your way, chase them off and keep eating—unless, of course, they chase you off first. However, don't eat too much, because it also makes you slower and more likely to get eaten.

3. When they can't eat more, they can get puffy and rest

Fluffy down feathers help complete the food + feathers = warmth equation. With food in your belly, you can use your metabolism to generate heat. Feathers, in addition to keeping cold air away from your skin, do a great job of trapping body heat instead of letting it dissipate. If you get the chance, tuck a foot or a whole leg up in there. But if you're a woodpecker—tough luck, because you don't have any down feathers.



Russ Bauman

4. They stay out of the wind

Here's an important hint: if the wind is blowing, go to the other side of the tree and avoid it. Seems simple, right? But it works—trust me (or trust Dr. Thomas Grubb and his 1977 treatise *Weather-dependent foraging behavior of some birds in a deciduous woodland: horizontal adjustments* (<https://sora.unm.edu/node/102746>)). And for any birders out there—you might be surprised how often you see birds doing this (whether to dodge wind or to avoid rain or hot sun) once you start looking for it.

5. They roost in cavities

Birds will never find a warmer spot to sleep than in their own down feathers, nestled in a nook small enough that they can warm it up with any extra heat that does escape. Old woodpecker cavities, crannies beneath the eaves of houses, even a tunnel in the snow... they're all warmer than spending the night (literally) out on a limb. As an additional trick, some small birds such as kinglets and chickadees can drop their body temperature and go into controlled hypothermia to save energy.

And in addition to this 5-step list, there's one other very common way that birds survive the cold of winter: they migrate.

Charles Eldermire
Ithaca, New York

MEET GLENDA RYAN

Glenda Ryan has been the Web Administrator for the NCBS since June of 2007. Glenda is happy to be able to use her computer skills to help with bluebird conservation. She also manages the web site for Bluebirders of Wake County at bluebirdersofwake.org, which is a bluebird club that meets quarterly in Raleigh. Glenda currently resides in Knightdale. She was born in Seymour, Indiana and grew up in Houston, a small town in the northwest corner of Jackson County in southern Indiana. This remote rural area offers a wealth of natural scenery, surrounded by the Hoosier National Forest. Glenda's love of nature was formed from her childhood in this beautiful part of the Midwest.

Glenda is currently pursuing a master's degree in Marketing and does contract Web Design as well as Web Content Management work. Her business portfolio can be viewed at seapebble.com. She is especially proud of her work to get information online about a preservation effort in her hometown of a schoolhouse more than 100 years old. Glenda was able to combine her web technology skills, love of photography, and enthusiasm for her hometown to create a digital presence of the Houston Indiana Schoolhouse. More details on this project can be found at: <http://houston-school-restoration-committee.org/>.



Glenda's hometown
Houston, Indiana



Additionally, Glenda has been hard at work implementing a new web site design for NCBS. The site was restructured to make it easier for viewers to quickly locate the various bluebird resources we offer online. There are a variety of pages devoted to different aspects of bluebirds' history, behavior, and needs, such as suggestions of food for bluebirds or bluebird-friendly landscaping ideas. Archives of the past issues of *Bluebird Notes* (newsletters) are posted on the web site dating back to November 2004. The look of the site has been enhanced with many new bluebird pictures from our members and others that were donated. Check out the new look at ncbluebird.org. Comments or suggestions are welcomed as NCBS continues to improve the web site, which can be sent to Glenda.

Glenda Ryan
Knightdale
webadministrator@ncbluebird.org

LIFE OF A YOUNG BLUEBIRD

NCSB member and Buncombe County Coordinator Russ Bauman's published photos in the *Bluebird: Journal of the North American Bluebird Society* features the transformation of a male 61 to 82 days old. These photos capture days 62, 65, 66, 69, 70, 71, 72, 74, 77, 78, 81, 82, 83, 86 while in his Biltmore Lake backyard.



Thanks to Russ Bauman for his beautiful photos which give us a close up look at the Eastern Bluebird.

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Coordinators please check your contact information for accuracy and let Joye Stephenson know if anything needs changing. Is your county missing? Contact Joye to volunteer as the coordinator.

Successful Clay County Survey

Great success was evident in the North Carolina Bluebird Society Survey report for this nesting season. The NCBS county coordinators, Ed and Carol Reid, monitored weekly fifty nest boxes for cavity nesting birds in Brasstown and the surrounding areas. This year was a successful year with the help of dedicated volunteers. A new trail was started on the River Walk Trail and at The Learning Center in Murphy and at The Walker Inn in Andrews.

The end of year survey reported a total of 306 new cavity nesting birds fledged from the bluebird trail boxes. There were 147 new bluebirds and 159 other cavity nesting birds with 137 tree swallows, 8 house wrens, and 14 chickadees. It was interesting to note that the first eggs laid on March 23rd were in the nest box at The Learning Center given by NCBS Past President Ray Welch for the school's 9/11 GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY service program. This box also had the last bluebirds to fledge on August 26th. The good spirit of healing from the 9/11 tragedy was evident all through the nesting season.

Erecting and monitoring a box is easy. FREE bluebird tips and lessons are available from the Reid's at 828-361-1220 or you can email carol-reid51@yahoo.com. (Carol wrote this article for her local newspaper in Clay County.)

Carol Reid
Clay County Coordinator



Carol Reid applying Ivory soap to the ceiling of a nest box to prevent wasps.

“Bluebirds Need Our Help” sign installed by Carol and Ed Reid at the John C. Campbell Folk Center in Brasstown. Clay County has a trail of 30 boxes at the Center and 20 more boxes around town that the Reid's monitor.
<https://folkschool.org>

Dear State Coordinator

Dear Joye,

We are starting a new year with the bluebirds. I am pleased to report that various activities are planned. I just heard from the editor of the Brunswick Beacon, a local newspaper. She is also a bird lover and will publish articles in the paper. We had a nice long talk. Please let me know who receives the data at the end of the season. It is important to let them know that the data is critical to determine the status of the bluebird recovery.

I will also be doing a children's program at the local library next month. This appears to be an exciting year. I am really pleased that some of the ground work I did over the past few months is finally paying off. It wasn't an instant success, but perseverance was the solution.

I would also like to have about a dozen of the *Bluebird Tips* to have available for the March 10th meeting. Hopefully, we will pick up some new members. Also, I am planning to attend the annual meeting.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year. If you need additional information about these activities, please let me know.

Nancy Schiffman
Brunswick County Coordinator
nancyschiffman@aol.com



Notes from the Editor

As I walk my dog every morning around the block, I hear bluebirds chirping their song all around me. What a wonderful sound to my ears. About the same time you receive this publication either by email or "snail mail," the same bluebirds will be searching for their nesting place amongst the neighborhood boxes and tree cavities. What an anticipated event for many NCBS members - nesting time.

Soon after nesting begins another anticipated event occurs at Haw River State Park - NCBS Annual Conference or previously known as our Annual Meeting. Yes, the name has been updated mainly because it is more than a typical meeting. Celebrated the past few years as the "Fly-In", the awaited event provides a retreat away from home to network and exchange stories about our beloved Eastern Bluebird. What better time to meet and share our resident bluebird plus its nesting ventures than on that springtime day, April 23.

In Brown Summit, Haw River State Park provides a picturesque setting with walking trails, six-acre lake, environmental education center as well as overnight lodging for the conference. It's kind of like going to "Bluebird Camp" for two days. Additionally, with Haw River State Park centrally located north of Greensboro, many of you can drive to this special event in one hour or less: Winston-Salem about a 55-minute drive, (Greensboro 30-minute, Durham 65-minute, Graham 35-minute, Burlington 35-minute, Asheboro 50-minutes, Lexington 58-minutes, and Hillsborough 50-minutes). I guess you get the point.

Most of all, I'm sure there are many things competing for your time on Saturdays so mark your calendar now to register by April 8. Set aside time this year to attend and you'll be glad you did. What a wonderful time of year to attend the NCBS Annual Conference, spring 2016.

**Cheryl Gay
Garner**
editor@ncbluebird.org

NCBS Membership Form

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

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

Gift membership from _____ to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

County _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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

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

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

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135 Lakeview Drive
Tarboro, NC 27886**

Additional tax deductible donation \$ _____

New Membership []

Renewal []

Check Amount: \$ _____

Please indicate if you also have an interest in:

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

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