



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

# Bluebird Notes

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The North Carolina Bluebird Society  
www.ncbluebird.org



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Volume 23 Issue 3

## 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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## Bluebirds & Global Warming

The headlines, “Bluebirds contribute to ‘Global Warming,’”<sup>1</sup> certainly got my attention. Dr. Patricia Gowaty proposes that “we can make bluebirds ‘the ecological canaries’ that can foretell the effects of ,,,changes in the ecology of life in North America.”<sup>2</sup> The “Global Warming” reference was actually a request for the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society members to become active and volunteer their talents to the organization. The reference to “ecological canaries” is part of the ongoing research of Dr. Gowaty, her students and data from bluebird societies to document changes, for example, in bluebirds’ winter locations, that might contribute to the global warming data and its verification one way or another. As we plan for next year’s annual meeting, we search for ways to attract more members and non-members.

Date: May 9, 2009

Speaker: Dr. T. David Pitts, University of Tennessee at Martin  
Talk: “Winter Survival: Flight, Food, Feathers, Fat, and Flocks.”

Dr. Pitts was one of the speakers in Athens, GA at NABS 2007, and, as I listened, I kept thinking things like “That makes so much sense” and “This is a talk I really want NCBS to hear.” The exact location has not been determined, but NCBS 2009 will be somewhere in the Winston-Salem area.

On Saturday, July 19, the NCBS Board met at the home of Kay and David Hindsley. We discussed and evaluated *Bluebird Notes*, reviewed newsletters

from other bluebird societies, reported on the website, considered a nest box approval system, county coordinator concerns and life time membership. The Board Members then went to Scotland Neck to tour Sylvan Heights, part of the NC Zoo. (See page 7 for a report of their oil spill.)

The Fall Board Meeting will be at the home of John & Virginia Pickles (108 Chris Street, Mount Olive, NC) at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Anyone interested in attending should call or e-mail Virginia at (919) 658-3062 or pic658@nc.rr.com.

NCBS also needs members to volunteer for the Board and to be County Coordinators. We need help with the annual meeting and the newsletter. However, it has nothing to do with Global Warming, just Bluebirds, Conservation and Education.

*Helen Munro, Editor & Acting President*

<sup>1</sup> “Bluebird Trails & Tales, Vol. 11 #2

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty, NABS 2007, *Ecological Canaries: Bluebirds and the Future of Life on Earth*.



After one failed nesting in this box, this new fellow showed up with his mate. His behavior is different so we know he is NEW.  
**Email from Catherine Traylor, Fayetteville, NC**

## Bluebird Notes

### Issue 22 Vol. 4

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

Jimmy Miller—2010 Vice-President  
(919) 772-9457  
millerjimmy@bellsouth.net

Ray Welch– 2010 Secretary  
Co Chair County Coordinator Program  
(336) 764-0226  
rwelch5@bellsouth.net

David Hindsley – 2010 Recording Chair

Kay Hindsley – 2010 Corres. Sec.  
(252) 823-0737 jdhind@earthlink.net

Diane Scales – 2010 Treasurer  
(910) 673-2004  
dianelynn@nc.rr.com

Hank Moss – 2010 Ed. Dir.-Historian  
(910) 692-2328 hmjr@nc.rr.com

Virginia Pickles—2012  
Co-Chair County Coordinator Program  
(919) 658-3062 pic658@nc.rr.com

Chuck Bliss—2010 Director  
(336) 625-5423 cbliss@triad.rr.com

Jim Jochum – 2010 Director  
(336) 288-7975 jpjochum@aol.com

Glenda Ryan - Director, Web Mistress  
(919) 266-0500 glenda@nc.rr.com

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

### Open Board Position

Robin Eisenbeis had to resign because of family conflicts. We thank her for volunteering and we are looking for a total of four new board members .



## Bluebird Tales



## White Eggs

**From:** Ruthann

**Sent:** Monday, May 19, 2008 5:05 PM

**To:** [president@ncbluebird.org](mailto:president@ncbluebird.org)

**Subject:** E-mail from North Carolina Bluebird Society website

I need some advise regarding my bluebird nest box. I have a mated pair and their first clutch has hatched. I removed the old nest and replaced the nest cup. They have put pine needles in the nest cup and have continued to remain nearby. I just checked and there is one "white" egg in the nest. I believe that bluebird eggs are blue. Under the circumstances what should I do? Have you any idea what might be using the nest box if not the bluebirds. Should I remove the white egg and dispose of it? Thank you for any help you can provide.

Ruthann Payne

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Ruthann,

There is a percentage of bluebirds that lay white eggs. Over the past thirteen years I have had at least three nests of white eggs. My guess is that you have one of these rare instances. The pine straw indicates a bluebird nest.

Let me know if more eggs are laid and what they are when they hatch.

Sincerely, Helen

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Helen,

I checked this morning, when the female was off the nest, and there are now 4 lovely white eggs. We feel very special to have this rare occurrence in our back yard.

Again, thanks for all your information and advice.

Ruthann

Note on June 26: Just wanted to let you know that the clutch has fledged. As was expected, the parents were very good. I have cleaned out the nest cup just in case a pair might decide on one more clutch this season.

Ruthann



# Bluebird Tales



## Bluebird Rescue

Background—Susan, a neighbor, had been excited about bluebirds taking up residence in her nest box, but she called one day to say that something was terribly wrong. There was an odor coming from the nest box. Together we sorted through three decomposing bluebird babies to find one at the bottom of the heap that was barely alive. I had written about Wildlife Rehabilitators in Volume 17 Number 3 of the *Bluebird Notes*. Using the website <http://www.newwildlife.org/>, choosing **Co-Existing with Wildlife** and then clicking on **Contracting a Wildlife Rehabilitator**, I found Kathy Hasty, a Moore County Rehabilitator who takes songbirds so Susan and I were on our way to place this young life in capable hands. Now, fast forward to this spring and this is the email that tells the end of the tale begun several years ago.

*Helen Munro, Editor*

### Now to the e-mail:

Hi,  
Helen I received a bluebird from you a few years ago and one from a friend of yours whose name was Susan. Both were beautiful males but the left wing on Susan's never healed (cat wound) so could not be released but I enjoyed him for 2 years in my den. He would make a special sound in the morning and evening when I brought him his worms. I miss him.  
Yours and other bluebirds I have raised are out there and I just put up a blue bird house which has 4 blue eggs in it. I saw the male on top so I knew that he was trying to lure the female. My uncle (Dr. Joe B. Ray) in Alabama might have already contacted you but he is having

problems with snakes. I suggested moth balls or sulfur. Do baffles work? I have pictures of the blue birds as babies and at release.

I haven't gotten any blues this season but have two robins and released one Saturday. I had to go to Pinewild and show a lady how to feed a baby crow that fell from its nest. (a hawk was after them). He is doing fine despite falling 60 ft. landing on pinestraw.

Hope all is well.

*Kathy Hasty (Pinehurst NC)*

Dear Kathy,

I passed your news onto Susan. She was delighted that he had two years of living and kept you company. I did a little research on snake baffles. The one recommended is called the Kingston Stovepipe Baffle. Directions can be found at <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/predatorcontrol.htm>.

Another set of directions are found at <http://purplemartin.org/update/PredBaff.html>.

This baffle is also on page 115 of *The Bluebird Monitor's Guide* by Cynthia Berger, Keith Kridler and Jack Griggs. This is a great book and can be purchased from Amazon.com, the North American Bluebird Society or could be ordered by local book stores.

Other choices are to plant cactus at the base, grease the pole, carpet stripes with tacks, etc. However, everyone comes back to the baffle mentioned above.

Thanks for all you do for the wildlife. I am always glad to know that you are there when I have a bluebird crisis.

Sincerely, *Helen*



# Greetings from Union County



This nest box is on the porch of the home of Christine Ammons, County Coordinator for Union County and NCBS Store manager. It has been the home of Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds.

The nest box is one from the North Carolina Employee's Credit Union produced by Frank Newell and the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Inc. These nest boxes can be purchased at the NC Credit Unions for \$10.

This nest box was decorated by Claire Bryant and sold to Christine at NABS 2005.

The expected number of eggs in a bluebird nest ranges from three to five. Three seems to be the number in the summer when it is hot and five for an experienced mother and four for a first year mother in the spring and early summer.

Is this what you find? Include comments in the Nest Box Survey, pg. 9.



Bill Satterwhite of Raleigh shared this picture of ten bluebird eggs in one nest.

No report on how many hatched.

These eight bluebirds were in a nest box belonging to Christine Ammons of Union Mills, NC. See if you can count them.

Two females were seen in the box. Questions to ask:

- ◆ Did two mothers incubate eight eggs?
- ◆ Was there only one father?

Seven of the eight chicks fledged.



Christine took this picture of Brooklyn Breedlove at May Faire. May Faire was held in Forest City NC, by the Thomas Jefferson Classical Grammar School-CFA, a charter school. The purpose was to raise money for the Art Department.

Brooklyn gave out 52 Bluebird Tips, Box plans and the recipe for Miracle Meal (lard, peanut butter, cornmeal, flour combination that bluebirds love).

Brooklyn lives in Union Mills, NC, and monitors 12 boxes as part of a 4-H project. This is her third year with the project.

Photos submitted by

*Christine Ammons, Union Mills, NC*

# Bluebird Pictures

Hi,  
As of last week momma and papa bluebirds had 4 eggs in our box. (Ron won't let me peek in any more until they hatch) These are the proud parents- to -be.

Dolores  
April 22, 2008

Photos contributed by  
*Dolores Muller, Pinehurst, NC*



“Well, the children have left the nest.  
Now what do we do?”



Junior's asking, “Again, how do I do this?”

Hi,  
Our four bluebird babies have fledged. Here are photos of mom, dad and one of the little ones. They are now building another nest.



Enjoy, Dolores  
May 31, 2008

## Captions for Pictures

I know that there are hundreds of captions that might be attributed to the birds in these pictures.

The picture to the left was sent via Ray Welch from Pat Prospts. If you have a caption that you would like to share for this picture, please:

- ◆ E-mail ([hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net))
- ◆ or call (919-673-6936)
- ◆ Or write (22 Bobolink Rd., Jackson Springs, NC 27281)

Then I can include it in the next newsletter.  
Thanks.

*Helen Munro, Editor*



## Bluebird Education



Laura Skrobola is a fourth grade teacher at Bethany Elementary School in Reidsville, NC. She and her class did a “bluebird book” this year as part of their science curriculum.

Their goal was to build and put up twenty-four bird houses on the fifty-five acre school campus. They have studied the suggestions for placing the bluebird houses so that they are favorable to bluebird occupation. They used a book, *Bluebird Rescue*, A Harrowsmith Country Life Nature Guide, by Joan Rattner Heilman, as their guide.



NCBS shared copies of *Bluebird Tips* and the DVD *Inside the Nest Box* with the class and they shared the pictures of the students sanding the nest box pieces very carefully and putting them together with screws and screwdrivers.

Laura reported that “the students went wild over the nest cam.” She is working on a grant from the NC Electric Cooperatives to create an ideal habitat... bushes, trees and vines that would provide adequate food.” It may be possible to add a pond setting for additional water supply and acquire digital cameras and a nest cam.



Because this project finished up in May, the students will wait until next fall to put up the houses with the help of their fifth grade science teacher. They would like to make contact with another school that has put up a bluebird trail. E-mail address???

Laura’s son is a third grader and has told her that she “absolutely had to do ‘the bluebird book’ again next year so that he and his classmates could add to the trail.”



“A wonderful Dad cut out 26 houses (two extra)... pre-drilling holes to match so the kids each had their own house perfectly aligned and ready to assemble. It helped that he is an engineer. Everything is measured and fits the ‘bluebird house’ specifications down to 1/32nd of an inch.” This Dad went on to make 6 to 8 houses to put up around his property. After his daughter read about which direction they had to face and how far apart they needed to be, she made him take them all down and realign them!!

*Compiled from e-mails between Laura Skrobola and Helen Munro, Editor*

## Oil Spill Threatens Eastern North Carolina Wetland Habitat

### SCOTLAND NECK, N.C. – May 12, 2008

Staff at Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park in Scotland Neck today found themselves cleaning thick, black oil from turtles and birds living in a creek that runs through the Park. The creek, which also runs into an adjacent wetland, was seriously contaminated some time during the night by waste oil.

"This is a potential tragedy we're working very hard to mitigate," Sylvan Heights Executive Director, Mike Lubbock said. "As we do, it's important that we show people how easily and quickly a resource that benefits all of us can be severely damaged for generations.".....Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park opened to the public in October 2006. The facility is dedicated to educating people about the importance of conservation and research focusing on waterfowl and wetland habitats. The Waterfowl Park is home to the largest collection of captive waterfowl in the world, many of them rare and endangered.....[www.sylvan-heights.org/](http://www.sylvan-heights.org/).



*Editor's Note: Mike Lubbock and son Brent were speakers for NCBS 2006. Ali Lubbock's reply to an email asking for permission to reprint this article from their website included this update:*

The oil is still lying in a thin film across our wetland stream also the banks are caked in thick oil but the EPA has removed 6000 gallons so far and are not sure what else they can do, we are still working with them to find out if they can improve the condition of our water and banks. At least none of the Breeding Center or Park birds were hurt. It was all mainly wildlife, terribly sad.



## Harnett County Coordinators

Patrick and Michelle McKinney live in Harnett County, NC, with their three children. Michelle is an elementary public school teacher and Patrick works as a civilian employee on Fort Bragg. They are both active in community programs and various church ministries. Patrick and Michelle were raised to both appreciate and be good stewards of the blessings of nature. Gardening and watching wildlife has long been a source of relaxation and time spent together for this couple of 20 years. "We have found that tending to habitat enriching plants, placing nesting boxes and feeders, providing fresh water, and guarding from predators are all simple ways we can interact with the miracle that awaits just past the screen door." As the Harnett County Coordinators for the NC Bluebird Society, Patrick and Michelle commit to educating children and adults alike to ensure a thriving bluebird population. "It is my hope that education will lead to involvement and involvement will lead to a greater appreciation of how easily we can impact, for better or worse, our smallest of friends."

The McKinney's can be reached with questions, comments, requests, or concerns by e-mailing them



at [harnettbluebirds@yahoo.com](mailto:harnettbluebirds@yahoo.com), or by calling 910-893-6006. Patrick and Michelle have expressed willingness to speak about Bluebirds at various events and are comfortable giving presentations to any size audience.



## *Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box*

Recorded by the Cornell Birdhouse Network

Summer 1999

Produced by the North Carolina Bluebird Society

VHS available for \$15.00 including shipping and handling.

DVD available for \$13.00 including shipping and handling.

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
Magnets with Bluebird & Dogwood	\$ 4.00	X _____	= _____
Magnets with State Outline/Bluebird	\$ 4.00	X _____	= _____
Bluebird Earrings (clipped or pierced)	\$ 7.00	X _____	= _____
Caps with NCBS Logo	\$ 13.00	X _____	= _____
Bluebird Note Cards (12)	\$ 12.00	X _____	= _____
<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 _____	= _____
Cloisonné Bluebird Pins (1inch, 4 colors)	\$ 5.00	X _____	= _____
<b><i>On the Wings of a Song—CD</i></b>	<b>\$ 8.00</b>	<b>X _____</b>	<b>= _____</b>
<b><i>Bluebirds, Inside the Nestbox</i> DVD</b> ( DVD special 2 for \$20; 3 for \$30; 6 for \$60)	<b>\$ 13.00</b>	<b>X _____</b>	<b>= _____</b>
<i>Roberta Lee</i> Bluebird Poster 18" x 24"	\$12.50	X _____	= _____
Total			= _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NCBS.**

SEND ORDER & CHECK TO:

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

Prices good through 12/08

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

## North Carolina Bluebird Society Survey 2008

Total Number of Boxes Monitored:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town & State: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to compare the nest box data for bluebirds that raise young in the early spring (First Nesting), the late spring-early summer (Second Nesting) and the summer (Third Nesting), the survey form has been changed. If you are unable to break your data down this way, just use the "Total of First Three Columns." Thanks.

### Nest Box Data:

Species	Bluebirds First Nesting March-June	Bluebirds Second Nesting May-July	Bluebirds Third Nesting June-August	Total of First Three Columns	Other Species Name and Total Numbers Fledged
All Nest Attempts: # of nests in which at least one egg was laid.					
Egg Count: Total # of eggs laid for all nests, including those that don't hatch					
Hatchlings: Total # of eggs hatched for all nests.					
Fledglings: # of young birds that fledged from all nests					

### Predators of Boxes:

People	Snakes	Squirrels	English House Sparrows	Starlings	Other Predators



# Top Ten Ways to Help Nesting Birds

Bill Thompson, III, is the editor of *Bird Watcher's Digest*, the popular bimonthly magazine that has been published by his family since 1978. An avid bird watcher from the age of eight, Bill knew that birds would someday become the focus of his career, in addition to being his main hobby.



Subscriptions to *Bird Watcher's Digest* are \$19.95 per year. Check out their website <http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com> for details.

**10. Keep your cat inside (and ask your neighbors to do the same).** Cats take an incredible toll on songbirds, but low-nesting species and their young are especially vulnerable to cat predation. Do the birds a favor and keep this unnatural predator away from places where birds nest.

**9. Provide nest boxes.** It may seem obvious, but a well-placed nest box can mean the difference between nesting success and failure for a cavity-nesting bird. It's hard for many species to compete with starlings and house sparrows, which can take all the best cavities. For great advice on being a landlord to the birds, read *A Guide to Bird Homes*, published by BWD Press (1-800-879-2473).

**8. Hold off trimming hedges and shrubs.** Lots of species use small hedges and shrubs for nesting. If you see a bird building a nest in such a place on your property, you've got a great excuse to avoid this bit of yard work for the next month or two.

**7. Put out short pieces of fiber, string, and yarn.** For birds that build woven nests (orioles, some sparrows, robins, and others), a few short pieces of yarn can come in mighty handy during building time. Offer the pieces in an onion bag or in a small basket. Keep the pieces shorter than two inches to reduce the risk of birds getting tangled in them.

**6. Offer pet or human hair in onion bags or put in obvious places.** If you looked at a hundred bird nests,

chances are that most of them would have some animal hair in them. It's soft, insulating, and easy to gather. When you groom your pet (or when you yourself are groomed), save the hair to spread around your backyard for the birds to use.

**5. Put out eggshells for birds.** Eggshells help female birds replace calcium lost during egg production and laying. Save your eggshells, dry them out in the oven (10-30 minutes at 250 degrees), crumble them into small pieces, and spread the pieces on an open spot on the ground.

**4. Continue to feed high-protein foods such as mealworms, peanuts, and suet.** Don't stop feeding your birds, unless you want to miss out on some fabulous behavior watching. Energy-packed foods such as those listed above will lure your backyard birds (and their young) to your feeders. These young birds will learn at an early age where your feeders are.

**3. Don't mow meadows or brushy areas between late April and mid-August.** We keep our farm fields long and grassy all summer long, mowing only a few paths that we keep short all year. This means that field sparrows, prairie warblers, meadowlarks, and other birds can nest in peace. And our box turtles, butterflies, rabbits, deer, foxes, and other creatures appreciate our "farming" style, too.

**2. If you find a nest -- stay away.** If you happen upon a bird's nest, don't linger, and don't make a return visit. We human beings leave scent trails wherever we go, and these scent trails can mean an easy meal to a hungry raccoon, opossum, fox, or other predator (We leave the same trails leading to our outdoor pet-food dishes, garbage cans, and compost piles). These predators are smart enough to follow these trails to see if they might lead to a snack. For the birds' sake, don't help to blow a nest's cover by visiting it repeatedly.

**1. Provide water for bathing and drinking on hot days.** Actually, provide water all year long, if you can -- but make sure to keep it clean. Your birdbath may be the first place in your backyard a parent bird takes its offspring. Lots of family-style bathing takes place at summer birdbaths, and young birds can be dependent upon the only water source they know. So keep your bath filled and clean. Make sure the average water depth is less than three inches. Birds appreciate shallow water.

## Bluebird Talk by Jim Jochum



Jim Jochum, NCBS Director, was on the talk circuit again presenting a program on bluebird conservation to the Cedarwood Garden Club in Jamestown, NC, on March 13, 2008.

The garden club members were delighted with Jim's bluebird talk and made a donation to NCBS.

NCBS Corresponding Secretary Kay Hindsley acknowledged this donation with a thank you note from NCBS. Donations are tax deductible because NCBS is a non-profit organization.

Jim Jochum of Greensboro, NC,

and members of the Cedarwood Garden Club from Jamestown, NC.

## Betsy & Ray Welch—Pottery & Soap

Ray Welch, the potter, demonstrated his skill at the potter's wheel. The insert shows his design of a coffee mug. The colors and shape are reminiscent of a bluebird.

Ray's wife Betsy creates cold process soaps and uses essential oils of rosemary, lemon-grass, lavender and patchouli. She makes these all natural soaps for friends and for a few Christmas ba-



## Birdfest, Fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity

Forsyth Habitat for Humanity hosts an event called Birdfest on the first weekend of May every year in their 8,000 square foot warehouse on Witt Street in Winston-Salem. This free event relies on the artists of all ages and talents to donate their artwork to the largest single fundraiser of the year by selling the art in either a live auction, a silent auction or a shopping event titled 'buy and fly'.

All manner of art is sold, from birdhouses to garden art, from household furniture to fine art. Live artists demonstrations and related lectures accompany this event which culminates in a ticketed auction and party on Saturday night.

This year the North Carolina Bluebird Society par-

ticipated in educating the public about the birdhouses that were being sold at Birdfest. Ray Welch and Bill Abbey entertained and answered questions for visitors on Saturday morning, ensuring that more people will be informed about our local feathered friends. Ray also participated as a ceramic artist demonstrator. Money raised during Birdfest funds the construction of a Habitat home for a local family. This year, Birdfest supported the building of five houses during the May 31-June 7 Home Builders Blitz, raising over \$69,000 to fund the cause.

*Benita Van Winkle, Winston-Salem, NC*



Ray Welch, NCBS Secretary and Davidson County Coordinator along with Bill Abbey, Forsyth County Coordinator shared their bluebird expertise with participants in the Birdfest Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser.

Bill Abbey and Ray Welch are already making arrangements for NCBS 2009 in the Winston-Salem area. Depending on availability, next year's annual meeting will be sometime in May.



Photographer Ray writes,

*"Here are a couple pictures that I took sitting on our patio at the picnic table. They were coming to the bowl to get 6 to 8 mealworms from me. They are bringing their first clutch of babies and feeding them. It is the biggest thrill!"*

*Ray Welch, Winston-Salem*



# 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

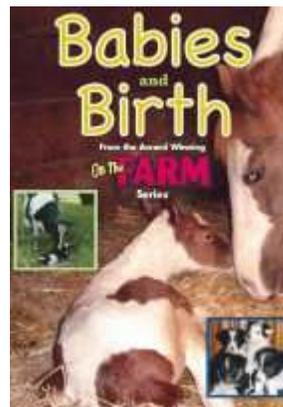
Please submit to: Helen Munro, Co-editor  
 22 Bobolink Rd. Jackson Springs, NC 27281  
 Phone - (910) 673-6936 Fax - (910) 673-7345  
 e-mail - hsmunro@ac.net

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

525 Fairway Drive Southern Pines, NC 28387  
 (910) 692-2328 hmjr@nc.rr.com

Two years ago NCBS received a request from Chris Fesko to use some frames of our "Inside the Nest Box" Video. After careful consideration, the NCBS Board granted permission for use in this educational video called *Babies and Birth on the Farm*. If you go to the website, [www.fesko.com](http://www.fesko.com), you can watch a short segment of this DVD and can see how bluebirds are logical in a DVD which includes mammals and butterflies.

*Helen Munro, Editor*



From [www.fesko.com](http://www.fesko.com):

It has taken Chris 10 years to get just the right footage. "Babies" starts with butterflies, moves to bluebirds, puppies, sheep, and then the rarely seen event of a colt being born.

This DVD is safe enough for a three year old to watch and yet the adult viewer will be captivated by the breath taking footage. 28 minutes.

For more information go to [www.fesko.com](http://www.fesko.com).  
 DVDs are \$19.95

## Bluebird Chick Development—first 14 days

These great pictures are from the newsletter and website produced by the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin. They can be used to estimate the ages of developing bluebird chicks.

By Jack Bartholmai & Pat Ready

This series of images uses “wing development” as an aid in age estimation. Conditions such as food supply, temperature, number of siblings and other factors might alter the development time a +/- of at least one day for each image after day one. When chicks first hatch they are naked, eyes are closed and they barely can raise their head but they are able to open their mouths to be fed. Between the 5th and 10th day the chicks are most vulnerable to cold temperatures when the female stops brooding them. If they get too chilled and listless they won't raise their heads when the adult birds bring them food and may starve. Both adults may stop feeding them and abandon the nest if they don't respond. Monitoring should stop after the 12th day to prevent premature fledging. Normally by the 28th day they are fledged.



Reprinted with Permission from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin.

Visit their website at [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org). They have a gallery of pictures and an extensive Store with bluebird items.

BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY  
THE NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

135 Lakeview Dr.  
Tarboro, NC 27886

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## North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

ALAMANCE	Fran Outhwaite	(336-226-4770)	PITT	Dr. Edward Davis	(252-756-4165)
ANSON	Heyward McKinney	(704-694-3240)	POLK	Barbara Rowe	(828-863-4253)
BLADEN	Mike Jackson	(910-863-3839)	RANDOLPH	Chuck Bliss	(336-625-5423)
BRUNSWICK	Don Adams	(910-454-9856)	ROBESON	Pete Roberts	(910-671-4702)
BURKE	Karen Gilliam	(828-437-6772)	ROCKINGHAM	Houston Pyrtle	(336-349-8311)
CABARRUS	David Silla	(704-788-3778)	ROWAN	Nancy Liggins	(704-636-8127)
CARTERET	Ken Roberson	(252-728-4255)	RUTHERFORD	Christine Ammons	(828-287-3502)
CASWELL	Mary Beth Moore	(919-563-2828)	STANLY	Richard Griffin	(704-474-4666)
CATAWBA	Kristin Dzimitrowicz	(828-324-6956)	SURRY	Bethany Shepherd	(336-352-4455)
CHATHAM	Lloyd Edwards	(919-837-2468)	SWAIN	Karen Jacobs	(828-488-6202)
CLAY	Carol Reid	(828-837-5807)	UNION	Augustus Moore	(704-821-4624)
CUMBERLAND	Tom Cain	(910-630-3970)	WAKE	Bill Satterwhite	(919-787-5248)
DAVIDSON	Ray Welch	(336-764-0226)	WAKE	Joye Stepehenson	(919-773-1927)
DURHAM	Jimmy Dodson	(919-796-7308)	WARREN	Stella Rideout	(252-257-3137)
EDGECOMBE	David Hindsley	(252-823-0737)	WATAUGA	John Whitley	(828-963-1911)
FORSYTH	Bill Abbey	(336-766-5857)	WAYNE	John Pickles	(919-658-3062)
GRANVILLE	Phil Walters	(919-603-0472)	WILKES	Randy L. Mays	(336-957-5337)
GUILFORD	Paul Waldrop	(336-299-5308)	PIEDMONT, SC	David Edgerton	(864-947-5310)
HARNETT	Patrick & Michael McKinney	(910-893-6006)	YORK, SC	Bill Hilton, Jr.	(803-684-5852)
HENDERSON	Joe Sanders	(828-651-0920)	Web-site –	Glenda Ryan	
IREDELL	Joseph R. Taylor	(704-872-7682)		glenda@nc.rr.com or	(919-266-0500)
JOHNSTON	Ethelene Allen	(919-963-3831)	County Coordinator	State Co-Chair -Virginia Pickles	(919-658-3062) or pic658@nc.rr.com
LINCOLN	Pat Probst	(704-735-5780)	County Coordinator	State Co-Chair- Ray Welch	(336-764-0226) or rwelch5@bellsouth.net
MCDOWELL	Carol Gilliam	(828-738-0655)			
MECKLENBURG	Doug Archer	(704-846-1019)			
MONTGOMERY	Don Berrier	(336-461-4457)			
MOORE	Helen Munro	(910-673-6936)			