

BLUEBIRD NOTES

Annual Conference

Haw River State Park

Saturday, April 22

Haw River State Park

**The Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center
339 Conference Drive, Browns Summit, NC**

With the springtime arrival of bluebird nesting season, it will be time to leave your own nest and fly-in to the Annual Conference. NCBS's yearly spring retreat provides educational sessions, helpful vendors, door prizes, silent auction and delicious food at an affordable price. Members and the general public are welcome to attend. More information on the schedule of events and how to register are listed on pages 4 and 5.

Friday, April 21

Optional Overnight Lodging

Arrive Friday night for the Annual Conference and stay at the Haw River State Park motel style cottages. The rooms feature one double and one single bed plus handicapped-accessible rooms are available. All rooms have a private bathroom, but do not have televisions or telephones. Single occupancy rooms are \$100 and double \$160. The room rate includes three meals per person - Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Bed and bath linens are provided. Complete and mail the registration form located on page 4 with payment.



Fly-In Photo
by Susan Williams



2016 Conference County Coordinators' group photo. Photo by Glenda Ryan.



2016 Annual Conference photo features bluebird trail walk led by Park Ranger Allcox and Ken Kernodle. Photo by Glenda Ryan.



**North Carolina Bluebird Society
(NCBS)
Mission Statement**

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and native cavity nesting birds in our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society. www.bluebird.org

Words from NCBS President

Winter. . . the season of action for bluebirders. Yes, it's time for us to:

- 1) Check, repair, clean out your nextboxes
- 2) Relocate the ones that have been inactive the past few years
- 3) Install new nestboxes
- 4) Share your bluebird excitement with others

Thanks to all of you who have completed your 2016 nesting surveys! Check out the results on pages 6-8. Make plans to attend the 2017 Annual Conference on Saturday, April 22. We are returning to Haw River State Park this year. Registration forms and more information can be found on pages 3-5.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ken Kernodle, Durham

Bluebird Notes

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Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall*

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Joye Stephenson

Robert Wolk

Ken Kernodle, Ex-officio

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Annual Meeting Agenda

Each year NCBS conducts an annual business meeting open to all members. This meeting convenes at 9:30 am during the annual conference as outlined on the cover page plus the next two pages. Ken Kernodle, President, provides the upcoming agenda focusing on reports from several board members and the election of the 2017/2018 officers and board members.

Membership Report	David Hindsley
Treasurer's Report	Carrie Helston
Web Administrator Report	Glenda Ryan
Grant Recipient Report and Video	Shalom Park
President's Report	Ken Kernodle
Nomination and Election of Officers and Directors	



Photo by Nancy Newlin

Visit ncbluebirdannualconference.org/ for Annual Conference updates and information.

New Member Uses Bird Cam to Capture Bluebirds Bathing



Flying in for a bath: December 2016

Nancy Newlin, new NCBS member, from Arden writes: What I find particularly interesting about the photos that my bird cam has captured aside from the red fox and rabbits is that, of the six species that have visited the bird bath, only the Eastern Bluebirds bathe in it. Everyone else is only there for a drink, which is its most important purpose, I think. My bird bath is heated, and my sister refers to it as a "bird spa."



One bather, one watcher: January 2017



Splish splash: January 2017

Annual Conference

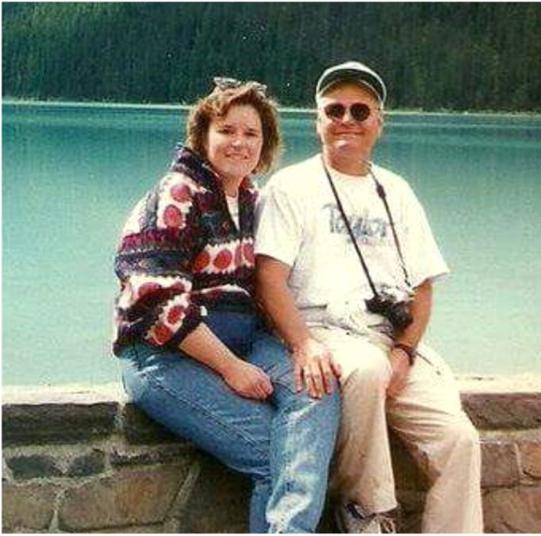


Photo of Dr. Gary Davis and his wife taken at Lake Louise while on a trip to Canada

Avian Reproduction: Dr. Gary Davis

Gary Davis retired from the NC State University Department of Poultry Science. He completed his undergraduate degree in Biology from Guilford College and received a masters degree in Biology from UNC– Greensboro plus both master’s and doctoral degrees in Physiology from NC State. Additionally Gary was employed as an Extension Specialist in the Poultry Department and retired as a Full Professor of Poultry Science and Physiology. Gary adds, “Needless to say I learned a great deal about the physiology of birds, and I cooperated on several studies with Black Ducks and Blue Jays with faculty in the Wildlife Department. I also have learned a great deal about our song birds while working at Wild Birds Unlimited for the past 2 1/2 years.”

Bluebird Showcase: Kay Hindsley

Bring your special bluebird picture, painting, book (i.e. *I Hear Bluebirds*), or short-story to share its meaning and how you have grown to cherish this wonder of our Eastern Bluebird. There will be a table to display your treasures but please bring an easel for framed art. Please call Kay at 252-823-0737 to schedule your item(s) allowing enough time for everyone to share.

REGISTRATION FORM

*****Deadline April 7*****

Phone _____

**Please mail check payable to NCBS with registration form to:
Carrie Helston 7060 Landingham Drive Willow Spring, NC 27592**

Attendee #1 _____

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 \$ _____

Annual Conference



Photo by Glenda Ryan

Located in the northern Piedmont Triad region, picturesque terrain makes Haw River State Park the perfect place to connect with nature. Housed within this natural setting is The Summit Environmental Education and Conference Center, NC State Park’s first residential environmental education center. The Summit Center offers conference facilities for groups with a fully equipped dining room serving buffet style. For directions to the park, set your navigation system to

339 Conference Drive

Browns Summit, NC 27214

or visit www.ncparks.gov/haw-river-state-park/directions

Saturday Schedule	The Summit Conference Center at Haw River State Park
8:00 - 9:00 am	Registration with Coffee & Danish and Meet & Greet Time
9:00 - 9:15 am	Welcome: Ken Kernodle, President and Kelly King, Park Superintendent
9:15 - 9:30 am	Bluebird Medley: Kay Hindsley
9:30 - 10:30 am	Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Bluebird Society
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break with Coffee & Danish Visit vendors / Bid on Silent Auction Items / Check-out Door Prizes
10:45 - 11:45 am	Avian Reproduction: Dr. Gary Davis
11:45 - 12:00 noon	Celebrate the Blue: Video by Russ Bauman
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Buffet Lunch
1:00 - 2:15 pm	Activity Time: Bluebird Trail Walk by Park Ranger Allcox Visit Table of “Bluebird Experts” (answers to your questions) Visit Vendors/ Bid on Silent Auction Items/ Place Tickets for Door Prizes “Nesting Cavity Toss” (cornhole competition) Visit Store (learn about our new online store)
2:15 - 3:00 pm	Bluebird Showcase: Kay Hindsley, Facilitator Members and guests are invited to bring their unique “bluebird” item and share its special meaning or story. Contact Kay by phone to schedule your treasure.
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Results of Silent Auction and Door Prizes. Complete evaluation forms.

Nesting Survey Data

County	Name	Boxes	Bluebird Eggs	Other Species Eggs	Bluebird Hatched	Other Species Hatched	Bluebird Fledglings	Other Species Fledglings
Beaufort	Bob & Doris Elmer	2	8	5	8	5	5	5
Beaufort	Judy Edwards	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buncombe	Diane Hankins	3	13	10	8	10	8	10
Catawba	Bob Warmuth	71	578	65	532	52	507	49
Catawba	Bill Marvin	8	40	10	31	8	31	8
Catawba	Carey Latimer	27	187	0	180	0	180	0
Catawba	Gene Moore	2	6	11	3	11	3	11
Chatham	Deborah Sparma	3	18	0	18	0	18	0
Cherokee	Charlotte Johnson	2	20	0	14	0	14	0
Cherokee	Carmen Moore	13	43	53	43	42	43	42
Cherokee	Kay Cameron	3	9	4	8	4	8	4
Clay	Carol & Ed Reid	50	186	238	164	207	155	199
Craven	Sue Williams	2	11	0	6	0	5	0
Davie	Jo Ann Mintz	34	92	14	90	14	90	14
Durham	Ken Kernodle	23	96	31	82	29	80	29
Durham	Steve McDaniel	32	214	36	188	30	175	28
Forsyth	Bill Abbey	38	244	9	188	9	183	3
Forsyth	Kay Cameron	2	0	6	0	4	0	4
Guilford	Ann Steighner	26	114	16	106	16	105	16
Guilford	Barbara Hughes	14	39	16	37	14	37	14
Guilford	Jim Jochum	30	120	10	105	5	95	4
Guilford	Wendy Dietz	2	10	0	10	0	10	0
Harnett	Linda Spainhour	34	276	4	219	4	211	4
Johnston	Ethelene Allen	64	382	68	316	46	293	44
Lenior	Tommy Crews	1	9	0	7	0	7	0
Lincoln	Pat Propst	1	13	0	13	0	8	0
Moore	Jim & Jean Walker	65	206	50	179	42	154	40
Moore	Nancy Kinny	70	375	78	263	75	241	75
New Hanover	Judy Wesoloski	110	619	0	499	0	479	0
Pitt	Shawn Jarvis	8	54	4	47	0	47	0
Rockingham	Carl Wayne Bray	7	14	17	12	17	12	17
Wake	Carrie & Dave Helston	4	9	4	8	4	8	4
Wake	Diane Woerner	10	91	0	49	0	48	0
Wake	Joye Stephenson	8	32	18	28	14	24	12
Wake	Maggie Goldston	4	10	4	9	4	9	4
Wake	Robert Wolk	2	10	4	2	0	2	0
Wake	Sally Tiller & Jo Denny	23	177	12	139	11	126	5
Warren	Frank Newell	61	491	9	472	28	468	28
Wilkes	Zane Walsh	20	92	34	90	30	81	28
TOTALS		880	4908	840	4173	735	3970	701

On behalf of the Board of Directors, many thanks to the members and friends who submitted data reporting their nesting activity and to Stella Rideout for serving as Coordinator compiling valuable data.

Survey Comments

Carl Wayne Bray - One box occupied by Flying Squirrel forced out by small bumble bees.

Carol and Ed Reid - Cold spell in April caused some eggs not to hatch.

Ethelene Allen - Lost some eggs to House Sparrows (trapped and removed 2 sparrows). Lost some eggs and birds to snakes and some to cats. Cats jump up and catch the female coming out of the nestbox that is mounted lower - then the eggs don't hatch or hatchlings die (too many free roaming cats).

Robert Wolk - Disappointing season.

Carmen Moore - Additional Tree Swallow nests in Purple Martin condo.

Jo Ann Mintz - This is the result (our numbers) of the Bermuda Run Garden Club placing and monitoring 10 nestboxes on the Bermuda Run County Club golf course and an additional 15 club members monitoring their own boxes. All to continue next year. I am the chairperson for the project. We did consult with Ann McGuire, Davie County NCBS coordinator, prior to putting our bluebird trail in place.

Tommy Crews - Two nestings this year.

Charlotte Johnson - Had a predator destroy 4 eggs in one nest.

Judy Wesoloski - Landfall is a large golf community, a very small part of New Hanover County. We have 5 teams monitoring boxes on the periphery of the course. With 20-25 people involved in the Landfall Bluebird Project, this year was very successful and many boxes moved from trees to poles.

Judy Edwards - No nest in my box. I have 4 outside cats - maybe the reason.

Dave and Carrie Helston - Always a treat to see our bird families grow!

Joye Stephenson - At home: Lost 5 bluebird eggs; participated in Sparrow Swap.

Jim Jochum - Mockingbirds are still a problem by attacking the female bluebirds, at the nestbox, and driving them away.

Pat Propst - The second nesting of five were abandoned and died. Kind of "odd" behavior. The female tried to go to the box in backyard and the male kept preventing her, not sure if the same couple, but this time the box in front yard was abandoned.

Jean and Jim Walker - In checking nextbox cups, I noticed brown fur. It was an a-ha moment! I taped up the hole and put the nest box in a garbage bag and drove to the Sandhills Community College gardens. I dumped out the nestbox and counted six baby flying squirrels. They flew and crawled away.

Barbara Hughes - Great Season! Add mealworms one time per week for active nests.

Diane Hankins - Snake got first five eggs. I worked on my nestbox pole (see summer newsletter picture) and no problem with last 2 groups!

Billy Abbey with Rhett Johnson - Odd sort of year- first egg late - early fledging - few five egg nests BUT substantial fledge count. Bird to box ratio this season is 4.82 making this year's production at Tanglewood the third best of the past 10 seasons.

Diane Woerner - 1) No Tree Swallows in Box # 2 after 3 seasons of beautiful successful fledging. 2) five very pale eggs and three eggs in Box #2 again this season. All eight fledged with attentive parents. 3) We had a higher number of unfertilized eggs this year and fewer males observed in the park.

Ann Steighner - We plan to rub the boxes interiors with Ivory Soap before the season begins next year. No predators this year.

Lisa Spainhour & Barbara Taylor - 2016 Buies Creek Garden Club Birdwatch on the Nancy Blair Eliason Bluebird Trail along the Keith Hills Golf Course experienced another successful year.

Gene Moore - I had to fight off House Wrens all season. Titmouse pair had one nest and five hatched which are much nicer birds than wrens.

Maggie Goldston - I became very attached to the first five babies. They fledged on 5/31/16. I got up early to watch. I came into the house for a few minutes and when I returned they had fledged. One of life's learning lessons. I was surprised at how quickly this happened. This brought tears; however, I still see the little guys coming for mealworms. Now, I smile. Could it be possible they were to fledge on 05/30/16? The dominant/alpha fledging appeared ready to depart but a sprinkle of rain sent him back into the nest. What was interesting was the number of other birds and variety who arrived and perched around on trees and bushes - like an encouraging group of supporters. This continued for a long time.

Get Ready For Bluebird Season

News article and photo, *Get Ready For Bluebird Season*, by Jim Kunkle was published in the January 31 issue of *The Star* and ShelbyStar.com. Jim who lives in Shelby serves as the Cleveland County Coordinator and can be reached at 704-480-7600 or james.k27@att.net.



Photo by Jim Kunkle

Many bluebirds can be seen in the county during winter, but in February and March they are all back and start nesting. All do not migrate south for the winter. To attract them to your backyard or deck year round you need a **feeder** especially designed for bluebirds. It needs a 1½ inch hole for the birds to enter on at least one end, and glass/plexiglass sides. Use dried “meal worms” and/or bluebird “nuggets”. Also provide fresh water daily with a birdbath if there is no creek nearby. Also you need a bluebird **birdhouse** for them to build their nest in. It can have a side (or front) opening for monitoring, and mounted on a pole at least 10 feet from any woods. The old tale that if you touch the birds the mother won’t come back is not true. You need to monitor them , and even photograph them if you want

to. Even in the city of Shelby it is easy to attract these delightful birds to your property. Bluebirds cannot eat sunflower or other seeds as their beaks are not designed for that. They rely on berries, insects, meal worms, and man-made food mixes.

Bluebirds are territorial during nesting, and start looking for a nest site in February, and don’t normally build within 200 feet of another bluebird nest. The male will select a site and begin courting activity. If the female accepts the site she will do most of the nest building. She will lay one egg a day until a clutch of 4 to 6 eggs are laid, normally 5. Then incubation begins with her sitting on the eggs keeping them warm. The eggs will hatch in 13 to 14 days, then both adults, mainly the male, search frantically for small soft insects to feed the young. Each nestling is fed about every 20 minutes and that is a lot of insects! As the nestlings grow larger they are fed bigger prey. If you have meal worms in your feeder that would help out.

About 17 to 18 days after hatching, the young are ready to fledge. They climb to the entrance hole and look out and generally settle back in the nest. But instinct beckons, and soon all leave the nest, usually on the same day. This is one of the most enjoyable sights in nature, watching young birds fledge. You have to monitor/observe the box closely in order to catch this event!

As I noted, during the winter many bluebirds do not migrate, but stay around here. Since they eat insects during the summer, they need something to eat during the winter such as dried cranberries, dried mealworms, and there is a special bluebird pellet food available. Some of these foods are available at Shelby Lowes, and Fords feed store in downtown Gastonia. They also eat the berries on dogwood trees, pyracantha bushes, and other berries when available. Also there are commercially prepared “suet” cakes you can buy that you may have luck with.

Additional information on bluebirds may be obtained by phoning Ray Welch, at 336-764-0226, who is Past President of the North Carolina Bluebird Society, or by calling me at 704-480-7600.

HAPPY BLUEBIRDING!

Jim Kunkle

Cats & Windows

A Cuddly Killer

Dr. Peter Marra, ornithologist, has written a book entitled *CAT WARS*. I read his article and learned some interesting facts that I did not know. He felt that the crisis with outdoor cats wasn't getting enough recognition so he wrote the book. The problem continues to get worse. Many folks are not even aware that there's a problem. Some people advocate free-roaming cats. The book is an attempt to reach many people so that the problem can be reversed.

This is a people problem. Cats were domesticated and spread around the world by people. They are either pets or pests depending upon the action of people. Cats are by far the leading cause of mortality, with an estimated 2.4 billion birds killed per year.

Domesticated cats are not a natural part of any ecosystem on the planet. People have caused them to spread from the place where they were initially domesticated (believed to be Cyprus) to every place in the world except the poles. Domestic cats are pets and should be kept indoors or under control at all times. He believes they should not be allowed to roam because of the harm they do to wildlife, people, and themselves. Even well-fed cats still kill birds and other wildlife. Data supports this fact. They kill because it is instinctual.

There are no simple solutions. Dr. Marra says we have worked our way into a bind by allowing such irresponsible behavior with an invasive predator. Whatever the solution, it must be humane. Cat owners can help by keeping their cats indoors. It is time we treat cats like pet dogs requiring licensing and leash laws.

Nature is resilient as long as we take action and we must take action given the declines we are seeing with the birds of the United States.

Some information cited from the American Bird Conservancy.

Birds and Window Collisions

Ray and I receive many calls from birders every year asking about how to prevent birds from flying into windows. Every year between 365 and 988 million birds are killed in collisions with windows. A bird with hollow bones that is flying 30 to 40 miles an hour won't recover when it hits a window.

Many species have eyes on the sides of their heads. The placement of eyes creates a wide vision field that helps them search for food and remain alert for predators but hinders their ability to see straight ahead. They have poor depth perception so birds can fail to see windows in their path.

Birds are an important part of our ecosystem because they pollinate plants, eat insects, and disperse seeds.

There are simple ways to prevent bird collisions. Installing window panes or insect screens will reduce the number of bird collisions. They are able to recognize the pattern and understand the window is not a pass-through. Etched glass or stained glass, in addition to being beautiful, also makes windows more visible.

An inexpensive solution is to wrap reflective ribbons over a dowel and hang the homemade screen in front of the window. Don't bother with decals. They only work if there are many decals on every window. Often simply closing or partially closing the blinds is enough to alert birds to the barrier.

Homeowners are encouraged to turn off their outside lights during spring and fall migration to help keep birds from straying off course and colliding with windows.

Different solutions work for different birds so using several strategies can help reduce collisions and save birds.

Both articles by Betsy Welch

Feeding Bluebirds

During the cold weather when insects are not readily available and scarce, bluebirds feed almost entirely on berries. The fruits eaten in the fall provide the bluebirds with insulating winter fat. They do not eat seeds placed in feeders because they do not have the hard bills needed to remove the hulls from the seeds. They will, however, eat hulled sunflower chips. By planting the following trees and shrubs, it provides bluebirds with an excellent source of food and essential elements of survival.

Plants That Provide Summer and Fall Food

Russian Olive	Autumn Olive
White Mulberry	Red Mulberry
Flowering Crab	Elderberries
Blueberries	Blackberries
Black Cherry	Chokeberry
Serviceberry	Pin Cherry
Wild Grape	
Japanese Barberry	
Common Snowberry	
Tatarian Honeysuckle	
Viburnums, (Mapleleaf, Hobblebush, Arrow Wood, Witherod, Siebold, Nannyberry)	
Dogwoods (Alternate-leaf, Silky, Gray, Red-osier, Roundleaf)	

Plants That Provide Winter Food

Multiflora Rose (large properties only)	
American Holly	Pyracantha
Black Alder	Spicebush
Red Chokeberry	Inkberry
Virginia Creeper	Coralberry
Bayberry	Bittersweet
Mountain Ash	Moon Seed
Flowering Dogwood	
High-bush Cranberry	
Western Red Cedar	
Washington Hawthorne	
Small-leaved Cotoneaster	
Sumac (Smooth, Staghorn, and Small)	

Some birders have been able to attract bluebirds to their bluebird feeders by collecting dogwood berries in the fall and refrigerating them for later use. Chopped raisins, flaked coconut, dried fruits, berries, peanut hearts, chopped unsalted peanuts, suet, sunflower chips, and sometimes cracked corn may be eaten.

One favorite food for the bluebird is mealworms. Mealworms (dried or live) can be purchased from bird feeding specialty stores and by mail. These can be placed in special bluebird feeders or simply put



Photo by Russ Bauman

into a large shallow container in an open area. The bluebirds soon find them and they are a high protein supplement to their diet especially in cold weather. Some people put them out in the

spring to encourage the bluebirds to nest in their boxes. They may even put them on top of the nestbox as long as other birds do not become interested in eating them.

Suet Recipe: Combine 1 cup of flour, 3 cups of cornmeal, 1/2 lb. of lard or peanut butter and 2 cups of peanut hearts or bits. Reduce the amount of lard in warm weather. Other popular feeders include the platform feeder and an enclosed feeder as pictured on page 11.

Winter Pudding Recipe: 2 quarts of water, 1 cup of margarine, 4 cups of grits (not instant), 1 cup of peanut butter, raisins and peanut hearts optional. In a large saucepan bring the water and margarine to boil. Slowly add grits, stirring and cooking until mixture begins to thicken. Remove from heat add peanut butter, peanut hearts, and raisins. Mix all items together then place in log or suet feeders. Freeze the remaining amount in shallow plastic containers or foil pans for future use.

Backyard Feeders & Birdbaths



www.duncraft.com

Feeder and birdbath ideas from Pinterest website recommended for bluebirds.



<http://www.hometalk.com>



www.livingthecountrylife.com/gardening/recycled-birdbaths/



Audubon Dome Feeder



Log Suet Feeder



Do It Yourself Teacup Projects from [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com)



Photo from www.melissaknorris.com/how-to-make-an-evergreen-swag/

If you really want to get creative, make an evergreen swag for your feathered friends. Betsy Welch writes: “my friend, Barbara, made a Christmas Swag for our birds. She is in our Lexington Bird Club. She made it out of cedar greenery with blue cedar berries and holly berries. The bluebirds loved them. She attached peanuts in the shell, orange slices, beauty berries and pine cones rolled in peanut butter and then rolled in bird seed. Attached a red velvet bow All the birds enjoyed and still a little left. Really a novel idea.”

Who May Be Visiting Your Feeder?

It may be interesting for you to watch a squirrel finagle its way to your bird food but if squirrels overrun your feeders, they can discourage birds from visiting. If there is food available, they will destroy the feeder to get to that food.

Unfortunately, it can be very difficult to deter them. Some folks distract them by feeding them peanuts or dried corn in a location away from the feeder. You can also try “squirrel-proof” feeders. We use baffles, or barriers placed between squirrels and feeders. On pole mounted feeders, baffles can be placed beneath the feeder to keep squirrels and other mammals from climbing the pole. However, squirrels can jump to feeders placed less than ten feet from a tree or building. In addition to commercially made baffles, birders have used old vinyl LP records, plastic salad bowls, two-liter soda bottles and stovepipes as barriers between squirrels and bird food.

When you feed your neighboring birds use a quality seed. Box store “bird food” will contain filler seed that most birds will not eat. The quality birds will throw the trash seed onto the ground to pile up and mold. This may cause harm to some of your ground feeding birds. We feed nothing but black oil sunflower seed, thistle seed and safflower seed.

If you live in an area with bears, it is recommended that feeding should not be done except while the bears hibernate. It is unlikely that bears can be discouraged from associating food with homes which is dangerous to homeowners.

Other mammals such as raccoons, deer and opossums can become a nuisance. It is best to make feeders inaccessible with fencing. Another option is to string a section of thin aviation cable or “heavy weight” fishing line between two trees and suspend your feeders above the reach of critters. You may have to remove your feeders temporarily until the animals move on in search of food elsewhere. If the mammals appear only at night, try taking the feeder inside before dark.

By the way, should you need a supply of squirrels, let us know!

Ray and Betsy Welch

Do you have a solution for squirrels or starlings invading your feeders? Share your successful squirrel-proof feeder(s) and other ideas at the Annual Conference or email your story and photographs for publishing in the next issue of *Bluebird Notes*.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine Recipient, Fran Outhwaite



Photo by Donna Redmon

Congratulations to longtime NCBS member and former Alamance County Coordinator Mary Frances Outhwaite for receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award from Governor Pat McCrory on December 7. Nominated by the Burlington Bird Club, Fran established the Cedarrock Park Bluebird Trail and tended to thirty boxes from March to October each year. “If you really want to attract bluebirds, you have to look after them,” Outhwaite said to the *Times-News* of Burlington. She also volunteers with Meals on Wheels riding with other volunteers to deliver the meals. One of the highest and most prestigious awards from the State of North Carolina, Fran received her honor at the young age of 93. Again, congratulations and the bluebirds thank you.

County Coordinator Notes



Emily Wiley, Elementary Science Teacher at the Learning Center receives a book donated by Carol Reid, County Coordinator to help educate students as they monitor their campus bluebird trail.

TLC! Receives WHAT BLUEBIRDS DO

North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinator, Carol Reid, donated an Outstanding Science Book by the National Science Teacher Association *WHAT BLUEBIRDS DO* by Pamela Kirby to Emily Wiley. Ms. Wiley is an Elementary Science Teacher and Outdoor Learning Coordinator at The Learning Center in Murphy.

A bluebird trail has been established on the campus at The Learning Center! Students have been trained to monitor these nestboxes as part of their outdoor learning experience. Bluebirds were considered endangered before 1978. Conservation activities since that time have saved our bluebirds. Erecting a nestbox on a metal post and monitoring the nest box ensures a safe place for nesting and a successful fledging of baby birds. This is a great learning experience for children. Children learn the life cycle of cavity nesting birds and can enjoy a close up view. Connecting with our natural world is a tradition to pass on for generations to come. For more information on cavity nesting birds check out www.ncbluebird.org; or contact Carol Reid at 828-361-1220; carolreid51@yahoo.com.



The Primetimers. Photo by Ken Kernodle

On January 5, the Primetimers of Aldersgate United Methodist Church started 2017 with a “nestbox” of a program. Their viewing of "Bluebirds, Inside the Nestbox" generated many questions and wonderful discussion among those attending! Ken Kernodle was the guest speaker educating members about the beloved Eastern Bluebird.

We had about six inches of snow here in Shelby Friday, January 9. I have a number of bluebirds which are entertaining me this winter. The birds are so beautiful in the snow especially the cardinals. The brilliant red contrasting with the white snow is just amazing. Also, I was able to photograph the pair of bluebirds sitting on the handrail of my deck (featured on back cover).

James Kunkle



Photo by Jim Kunkle

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Volunteer Positions Needed:

- **Local County Coordinators** to represent your county and provide assistance or information as needed.
Contact Ken Kernodle by phone 919-724-9470 or email president@ncbluebird.org.

More County Coordinator News

Wake County Report

We have had great attendance at the last couple of meetings. Bill Satterwhite, County Coordinator, always provides a thorough presentation of the various types of nestboxes. In December, Mr. Bill managed the entire meeting by himself with a focus on helping bluebirds survive the winter. It was an informative and fun meeting. We had a contest and gave away two NCBS tote bags and a nestbox built & autographed by Bill. Carrie Helston, NCBS Treasurer, was the winner of the nestbox. Wake County continues to be a popular county for members and we're always looking for new program speakers. The group meets four times each year on the second Sunday at Mordecai Park Visitor Center. Join us.

Photos and Summary by Glenda Ryan

Check out Wake County Website @ www.bluebirdersofwake.org



Above, Bill Satterwhite Wake County Coordinator and left, Carrie Helston wins the nestbox.

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 is 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:

North Carolina Bluebird Society
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)

Remember your family or special friend with a gift membership.

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Photo by Russ Bauman

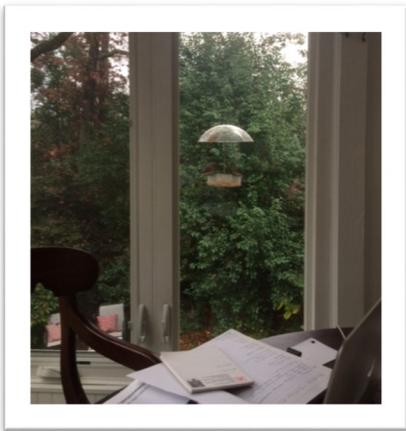


Photo by Frank Grove III



Photo by Jim Kunkle



Photo by Nancy Newlin

