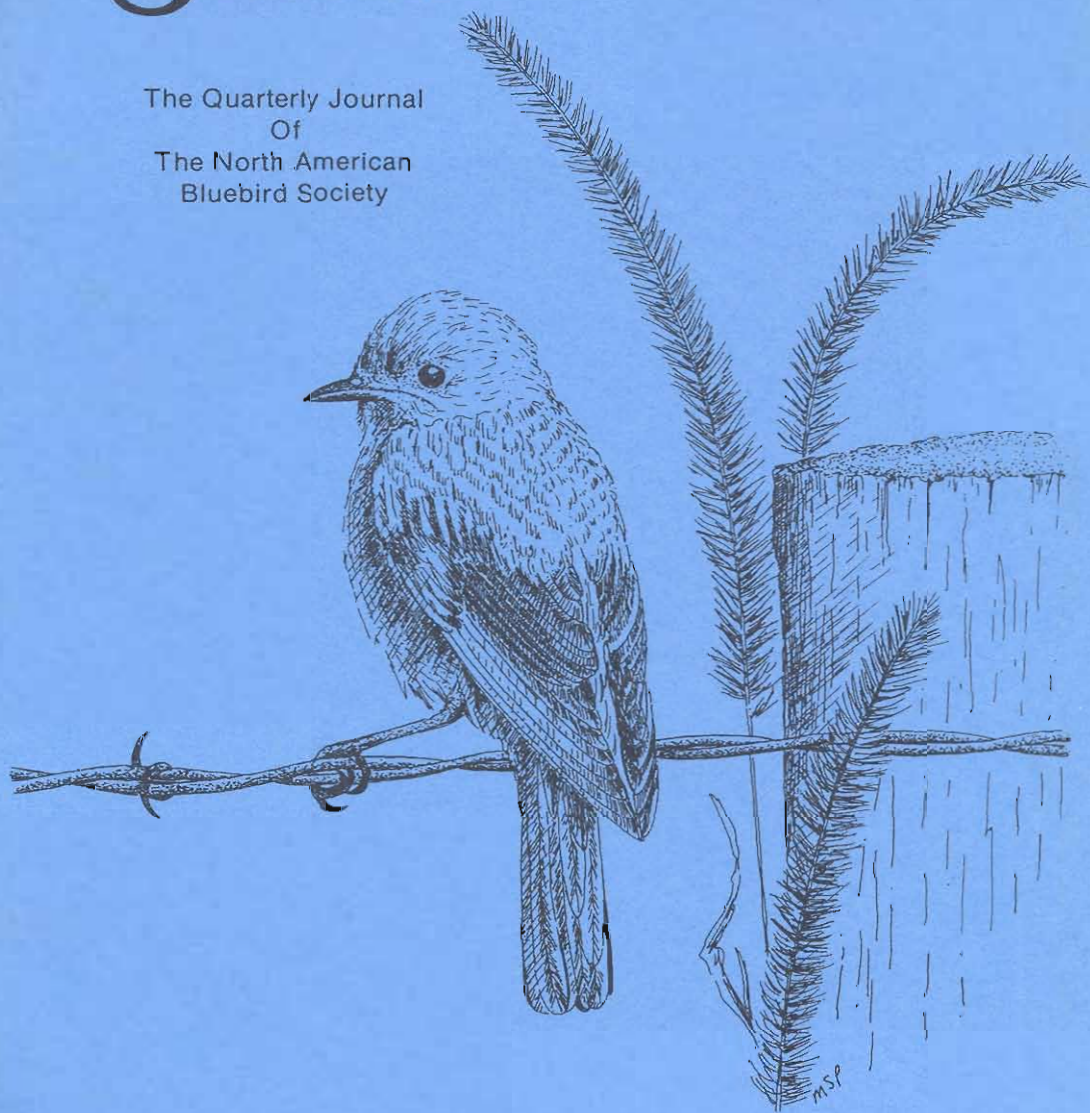


# *Sialia*

Volume 19, Number 1  
Winter 1997  
Pages 1-40

The Quarterly Journal  
Of  
The North American  
Bluebird Society



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*Sialia* means bluebirds. Hence the title of this journal. Technically, *sialia* is the Latinized, neuter plural version of the Greek word *sialia*, a noun meaning a "kind of bird." Since the Eastern Bluebird was the first bluebird classified by Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778), he gave it the species name *sialis*, though he placed it in the genus *Motacilla* which is now reserved for the wagtails. It was William Swainson (1789-1855), who, in 1827, decided that the bluebirds needed a genus of their own within the thrush family (*Turdidae*). He selected the generic name *Sialia* which he simply adapted from the species name *sialis* which Linnaeus had used. Therefore, the scientific name for the Eastern Bluebird is *Sialia sialis* (pronounced see-ahl'-ee-ah see-ahl'-iss). Similarly, the Western Bluebird and Mountain Bluebird, the two other species within the genus, were named *Sialia mexicana* and *Sialia currucoides* (coo-roo-coy-dees) respectively. All three bluebird species are native only to the North American continent, although each inhabits different regions generally separated by the Rocky Mountains and by altitudinal preferences.

While the adult birds all show differing plumages, the young of all three species look remarkably alike, prominently displaying spotted breasts and large white eye rings. This similarity in plumage was the principal reason the Society chose the juvenal bluebird for its logo. Since bluebirds almost always choose to raise their young in small enclosed cavities, a young bluebird sitting near a nesting box seemed to symbolize our mission. The hope of any species resides in its young. Because of bluebird nesting preferences, the survival of their young may depend on the nesting box, especially since natural cavities, for a variety of reasons, are disappearing rapidly. The theme of bluebird young nurtured in man-made structures will be a recurring one in our art and literature. We hope that this theme will remind all about the plight of the bluebird, and will stimulate action which will allow this beautiful creature to prosper.

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# Sialia

The Quarterly Journal  
About Bluebirds

Volume 19, Number 1  
Winter 1997  
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## COVER

An Eastern Bluebird on a barbed wire fence by Art Editor M. Suzanne Probst is based on a photograph by Hubert Brandenburg.

*Sialia* welcomes original articles, art and photographs for publication. Although this journal is named for the bluebird, material relating to all native cavity nesting species will be considered. Manuscripts should be typed neatly and double-spaced. All material submitted is subject to editing or rewriting. Submit the original manuscript plus a duplicate copy if you wish to proof the material before publication. If the article has been submitted elsewhere (or previously published) that fact must be stated at the time of submission. All manuscripts will be acknowledged. Black and white glossy photographs are preferred. Print the subject, names of individuals pictured, photographer and return address on the back of each photograph. Art is welcome and should be in black pen-and-ink. We do not assume responsibility for manuscripts, photographs or art submitted. The editor's address is 10617 Graeoch Road, Laurel, Maryland 20723.

# Presidential Points

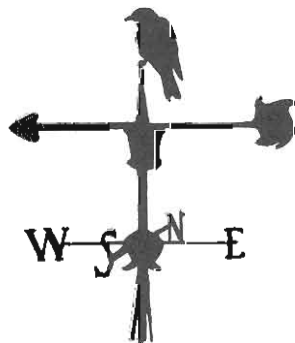
Charlotte Jernigan

One spring weekend in southeastern Oklahoma as I walked with friends on an outing along the causeway of a lake, we noticed a number of birds soaring in the sky and then swooping down toward the water to disappear in a cement structure that was built near the edge of the roadway. They were Chimney Swifts that had returned from South America (mainly Peru) to nest. They flew as though they had been trained for a marathon, and their wings beat so fast that they created an optical illusion. A magnificent sight!

Originally Chimney Swifts nested in hollow trees, especially sycamores, but now they wing their dark, cigar-shaped bodies into such places as silos, cisterns, wells, and (most often) chimneys. They feed, mate, and gather nesting material while in full flight, and drinking and bathing take place the same way. They are colonial nesters. Their nests are made of dead twigs which they break off with their feet while flying. Using saliva, they glue these twigs to a vertical surface to form a half-saucer. Though they feed almost entirely on flying insects such as mayflies, beetles, craneflies, and wasps, they have also been observed taking small caterpillars hanging from tree branches.

Swifts usually lay 4 or 5 pure white eggs; incubation time is about 18 to 21 days. Both parents help build the nest, incubate the eggs, and feed the nestlings. At times there are other adults that help. There is only one brood. The young swifts open their eyes when they are about 14 days old; at about 19 days they may leave the nest and cling to nearby vertical walls with their sharp, strong claws.

Feeders are not a part of their feeding activity, and there are no particular plantings recommended. But don't feel that these facts leave you out. Chimney Swifts are usually observed in the open sky, especially over cities and towns, and they hawk for insects over a variety of



vegetation types and habitats. So keep an eye out for this marvel of foreign travel, and enjoy a cavity nester that may be seen over but not in your backyard. A few of you may even be able to erect nesting towers as described in the Autumn 1996 issue of *Sialia*. ■

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## Technical Advisory Committee Established

Because of the proliferation of experimental styles of boxes, traps, and predator guard designs submitted to the journal, a Technical Advisory Committee has been established. Submissions will be reviewed by the committee which will recommend for or against publication. In some cases modifications may be requested before a plan is accepted.

Initial members of the committee are Carol McDaniel (Wisconsin), Myrna Pearman (Alberta), Dorene Scriven (Minnesota), and Jim Walters (Iowa). We are grateful for their willingness to share their knowledge and serve in this capacity.

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# Tufted Titmice Collect Nesting Material

Janet L. Fleming

Last year I witnessed several raccoon/titmice interactions that I'd like to share.

About the first of May, from my kitchen window I saw a raccoon approach my backyard bird feeding station. Noticing a small moving "lump" on his back, I ran to get my binoculars. With them I could see that the wiggling mass was a titmouse busily plucking hairs from the 'coon's back. Occasionally the 'coon would jerk his head backwards to try to dislodge the bird; the titmouse would flutter up, then settle right back to pluck more hairs. I assumed the bird was gathering nesting materials.

Later I called my mother in Asheville, North Carolina, to relate the experience. While serving as a volunteer at the University Botanical Gardens at Asheville, she mentioned the episode to a visitor, the superintendent of a state park in Florida. He stated that for many years he had noticed that odd patches of hair would be missing from raccoons' backs in the spring and had wondered what had caused it.

In mid-May of 1996 my mother, father, and I watched a titmouse stealing hair from a raccoon who was relaxing in a tree in my backyard. The bird attacked like a tiny fighter plane in one daring swoop after another. The tormented raccoon finally climbed down. We could see no nest in the tree--the bird seemed to be attacking for hair but, as it was dusk, we couldn't see the hair in its beak as I had in the earlier instance.

Shortly thereafter I mentioned the episode to a co-worker from the Raleigh area. The lady recounted how a titmouse perched on her daughter's head and began pulling hair from her head while the girl stood near backyard feeders. The bird continued its attempts long enough for the girl's mother to obtain the enclosed photograph. I believe you can make out the bird atop the child's head.

I would be interested in hearing from any readers who have had similar experiences.

2004 Forest Drive  
Clayton, NC 27520



Puckett photograph

A Tufted Titmouse gathers hair for nesting material from the head of Sara Puckett, Raleigh, North Carolina.

# STALK THE TUBES

## PREVENT BLUEBIRD DEATHS

Way back in 1990 a very conscientious supplier of protective tubes for tree seedlings sought the advice of Jack Finch, a North American Bluebird Society (NABS) member from North Carolina. Dead bluebirds were being reported in Tubex® treeshelters--translucent plastic tubes placed around young tree and plant seedlings. Working with Jack, the company, (now called Treessentials®) devised a flexible, photo-degradable mesh that fitted on the top of the tubes.

Sadie Dorber, then president of NABS, was visited in New York by the president of Tubex®, a St. Paul, Minnesota, company. She was delighted to find a company so caring and so willing to cooperate. She wrote of the collaboration in the "Presidential Points" column of *Sialia* (Spring 1991, 13:42-43).

Carrol Henderson, Minnesota's Nongame Supervisor, alerted to several findings of dead bluebirds on tree farms in southern Minnesota, also contacted the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota at about the same time. We found the Tubex® company was not only going to supply, free of charge, mesh caps with all its orders for tubes 2 feet or more high; it also was offering them gratis to all past customers, along with a set of instructions for proper installation.

End of a great success story? Unfortunately, not quite.

Many tree farmers and especially government Forestry Departments are frequently not using the mesh caps. Perhaps hindered by lack of manpower, they also do not check the tubes regularly as recommended. (Not only do the tubes sometimes get tilted over, dead birds may kill the little sapling). A recent 1996 report from long-time bluebirder Lu Gardner of Algona, Iowa comes on top of several reports we have gotten in the past few years of dead birds in tree shelters:

*"Last year the D.N.R. took over my bluebird area and planted 2,000 trees placing plastic tubes around them (to remain for two years). My first pair of bluebirds disappeared shortly after arrival last year. This year the first pair of bluebirds to arrive also disappeared. Sadly, we found them, along with finches and kingbirds, dead in those tree tubes.*

*"I notified the D.N.R. at once and they admitted the company that produced these tubes know they are a death trap for smaller birds. I hate to think how many other birds have met the same fate in these tubes.*

*"They seemed to think the birds were looking for a nesting place, but I rather think they were looking for insects. The tube provides a good spot to perch and an insect on the small tree inside would be tempting, only to collapse and the bird cannot escape. The tubes are 3 feet tall and 3-4 inches wide."*

What Lu Gardner was not told is that they could easily have used the mesh tops. Treessentials® not only sends out mesh caps with instructions; as of September 25, 1996, they will also include a warning about bird deaths. Ann Auer of the Indiana Bluebird Society contacted TreePro® of Lafayette, Indiana. TreePro® will now regularly include mesh caps and is willing to include a similar warning about uncapped tubes. There may be other products of similar plastic tree shelters.

**PLEASE HELP: WHENEVER YOU SEE UNCAPPED TREE SHELTERS (ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC LAND) - INVESTIGATE. FIND OUT WHO PUT THEM UP. TELL THEM WHY THEY SHOULD USE THE MESH CAPS. TRY TO LOCATE OTHER PRODUCERS AND URGE THEM TO NOTIFY THEIR CUSTOMERS OF THE VERY REAL DANGER FOR BLUEBIRDS AND OTHER INSECT-EATING BIRDS. ALSO, CHECK NEW CONSTRUCTION SITES TO SEE IF CHIMNEY CAPS ARE BEING INSTALLED.**

*---Dorene Scriven, Chair, Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota*

# If You Feed Them...They Will Come!

## (A Bluebirder's Guide to Winter Birdfeeding)

Dean E. Sheldon, Jr.

The backyard feeding of over-wintering and non-migratory songbirds continues to be one of North America's most popular recreational activities. Birdfeeding is second only to gardening as a household hobby. If you feed birds, you are in good company. A 1991 report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that 63 million Americans provide food for wild birds, spending more than \$2.5 billion on birdseed and bird feeding supplies each year.

Well over 12,000 people across the United States and Canada participate in the annual Project FeederWatch which is sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (U.S.) and Long Point Bird Observatory (Can). The information gathered from this large number of trans-continental observers over the past eight years has been developed into an impressive data base for the study of bird populations and their movements during the winter months.

But most of us are not into this somewhat more sophisticated aspect of bird-feeding. We're content merely to buy the commercial birdfood mix at the local feed store, supermarket, discount drug store, retail discount store or other outlet, put it into a suitable feeder and stand by the kitchen sink waiting for the action. And there's usually plenty of that...and much of that action comes from *Passer domesticus*--the House Sparrow whose gluttonous appetite brings him almost instantly to area bird feeders. His omnipresence and aggressive behavior drive other, more desirable, birds away and he "sucks up" more than his share of the food offered.

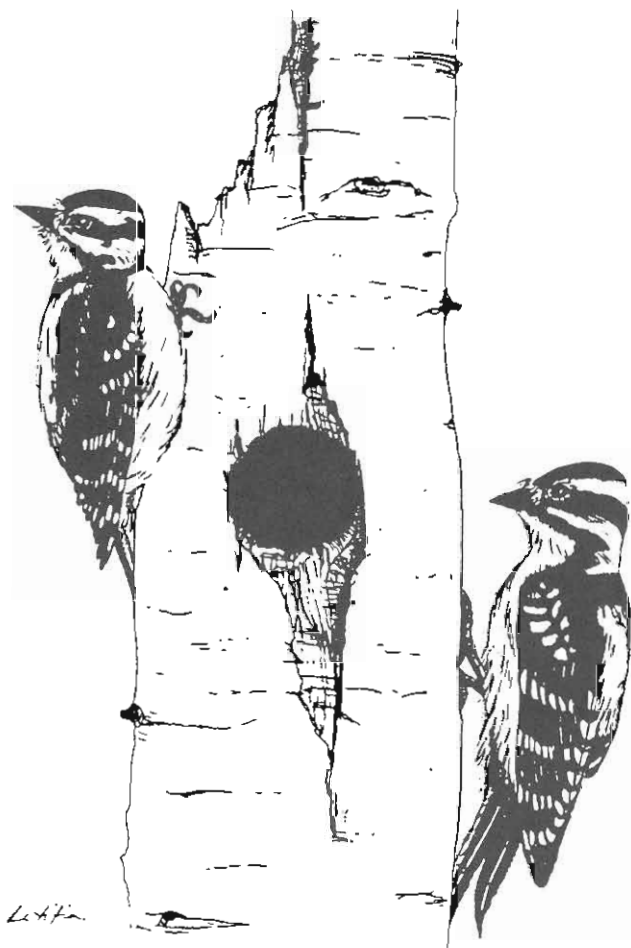
Millions of well-intentioned people feed these voracious pests along with such winter feeder "stars" as the cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, chickadee, nuthatch, Blue Jay, goldfinch, redpoll, Pine Siskin, junco, Evening Grosbeak, American Tree

Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow and a wide variety of woodpecker species. In the process, we are unwittingly helping the House Sparrow to survive the rigors of the northern winter. Even more, we are giving these sparrows the diet they need to enter into the spring breeding season in peak physical condition. This, then, puts them in top form as they begin to compete with bluebirds for available nest boxes...and all of the marauding behavior associated with it.

But this does not need to happen--and here are some time-tested techniques which, if employed, will not eliminate House Sparrows at winter feeding stations but are **GUARANTEED** to reduce, dramatically, their numbers at these locations. All of this...plus increasing the number of desirable species coming to the avian feast:

### FEEDER THUMBS DOWN:

- Avoid feeding the standard commercial birdfood mix containing cracked corn, millet, milo, mixed grains, peanut hearts, proso, safflower, sunflower, sunflower hearts, thistle seed, and wheat;
- Feed no cracked corn or scratch feed;
- Feed no barnyard grains such as wheat, oats or ground feed grains;
- Peanut butter/cornmeal "puddings" (with or without melted suet) packed into knotholes or holes drilled into "feeder logs" will attract woodpeckers, chickadees and others. They are also extremely attractive to European Starlings;
- **NO MATTER WHAT** the conservationist/recyclers say, **DO NOT** stake up "used" Christmas trees as a wind break around your feeding area. The trees will, inevitably, be used by the sparrows as a communal roost site. There's no point in giving them bed and breakfast at your place.



#### FEEDER THUMBS UP:

- Feed ONLY black oil sunflower seed--to which most overwintering bird species are attracted AND
- Niger thistle seed which is especially attractive to the finch species. Neither of these seeds is interesting to House Sparrows;
- Feed fresh suet in mesh bags or specially-designed feeders...this food is very important to woodpeckers, chickadees, and many other species... only occasionally of interest to starlings...and never of any significant attraction to sparrow pests;
- Feed ear corn tied to tree branches and spiked on mounting boards for Blue Jays and cardinals;
- Feed pressed seed bells/cakes which hang from tree or shrub branches for tree sparrows and the finches. House Sparrows seem not inclined to feed directly on the pressed seed forms;
- When the DEEP SNOWS come: feed plain cornmeal on a wooden platform elevated about 4"-6" above the snow. While House Sparrows have no apparent interest in the cornmeal, the other (desirable) sparrows and the juncos LOVE it; try feeding a light sprinkling of soybean screenings (weed seeds) on this same kind of platform. They are relished by all of the non-House sparrows. Screenings are available from all grain elevators during the fall harvest season;



- Use only hanging or pole-mounted feeders and DO NOT throw birdseed directly on the ground. House Sparrows are ground feeders. They will get the gleanings from the elevated feeders anyway, so don't exaggerate your problem by putting the food right where they want it;
- Take the perches off your feeders. The desirable birds (chickadee, nuthatch, titmouse, finches, etc.) can cling to the feeders without a perch. House Sparrows have difficulty with this;
- An ornamental crabapple or hawthorne tree makes an attractive focal point for a bird feeding area. These trees tend to keep their fruit throughout the winter months making them valuable food sources for bluebirds, robins, Cedar Waxwings, Blue Jays and other species visiting your yard;
- Try to add new food or refill your feeders from mid-morning to mid-afternoon so that birds can feed without interruption during the early dawn and until dusk. In extremely cold weather, the ability to gain food early and feed late

may make a "life or death" difference to many species of birds;

- For BEST RESULTS, always choose a feeding station site which is out of the wind on the leeward side of your house or the building where you feed. A sunny, sheltered area with small deciduous trees and shrubs nearby is the preferred location. An overabundance of conifers leads to the same communal sparrow roost problem as discussed in relation to the placement of Christmas trees at feeders.

As in most matters, "experience is the best teacher." And our experience of feeding birds in a variety of locations for over 50 years has taught us lots of lessons. Out of this has come these suggestions which should be useful to all winter bird feeders, but especially to the bluebirders who are so acutely aware of the devastation caused by our common adversary--the House Sparrow.

*This article is reprinted from the Winter 1995 issue of Bluebird Monitor, the newsletter of the Ohio Bluebird Society.* ■

## Bluebird First Encounters and Memorable Moments

We all share a deep love for bluebirds. We enjoy their beauty, gentle manner, and personality. But why have we grown to be so touched by this one bird species? Have you ever thought about the event that motivated you to get involved with bluebirds?

I have heard some wonderful stories over the years from fellow bluebirders about their first encounters and most memorable moments. Bill Wheeler tells me he truly became dedicated to the bluebird when attempting to put up his first nest box. While he was positioning the mounting post, a male bluebird flew down and inspected the nest box he had placed on the ground by his feet. Little did he know that this event would someday lead him to a seat on the board of the North American Bluebird Society!

Do you recall a memorable bluebird

moment? Perhaps, your first encounter, a heartwarming memory, a personal happening, etc.? If so, write it down and send it to me. I hope to put together a booklet of *Bluebird First Encounters and Memorable Moments* for a future NABS annual meeting.

Send your bluebird stories to Carol McDaniel, 14953 Hwy 23, Darlington, WI 53530-9503. ■

## Getting to Know...Bluebirds!

See the enclosed picture catalogue for information concerning the 36 page educator's packet produced by the NABS Education Committee. Designed to be used in grades four through six, the material can be adjusted for use with younger or older students.

# 1995 SPEAKERS' BUREAU REPORT

Ron Kingston

In January 1996, 310 questionnaires were sent to members of the NABS Speakers' Bureau. One of the questions on the form was "Have you bought or rented the new slide program and has it satisfied your requirements?" Those who had purchased it were very, very pleased. I also asked if the Education Packet was mentioned in their program. There were 25 who didn't know about it, but there were also 86 who showed it to the audience or mentioned it.

The Speakers' Bureau was established in 1987 by Jerry Newman of Rising Sun, Maryland. I took over in 1989. I keep all the returned questionnaires for further reference and a master list of speakers is kept by me and NABS headquarters. If you need a speaker in your area, contact NABS for a speaker near you or, better yet, purchase a set of slides and audio tape or a video and hit the road yourself. You definitely will be personally rewarded and will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped the conservation of the bluebirds by getting the information out to those interested in helping the bluebirds in your area.

Comments made by some of the speakers which I thought were of interest are as follows:

Bill and Joan Davis of Dayton, OH, have a selection of greeting cards, books, bookmarks, wooden bluebirds, and other novelties made by a carpenter/artist on display. They also have a quantity of nest boxes, precut kits, and NABS, OBS, and ODNR brochures with a name card enclosed. They are hitting all the county fairs and festivals that they possibly can attend in Ohio. Lorne Scott of Indian Head, Saskatchewan, uses his own slides of bluebirds along with nest boxes and noted that he looks forward to hosting the conference in Saskatchewan in 1998. Steve and Tammy Holliday live in Seneca, SC, and give programs at Mooreville

Middle School and for the Boy Scouts. They have been speaking for two years and love it.

Pixie Senesac of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY, spoke to over 230 people last year using the new slide program and handed out the brochures on a bluebird/Tree Swallow dispersal study--an in-house publication. In Greenwood, CA, at the start of a program, Viola Sampert introduces herself and explains a little about who she represents, then shows the slides, and has an informal question and answer period. She has free handouts and a sign-up sheet for additional information and/or follow up. During the programs in Sac City, IA, Tom Lake says "I strongly recommend to other bluebirders to get people out to actually see the bluebird experience firsthand."

William Ryan each May speaks to over 300 Audubon members at the Campout near Yakima, WA, and then takes those who wish to go, on a bluebird trail. A nice leisurely trip it must be, for a horse-drawn wagon is used. Max Forbes and Tom Hayden work together near Granite City, IL, to give many programs and Max sent along a charming notice about a scheduled "House Sparrow Barbecue." The barbecue would be delicious, cholesterol-free, and help the return of the native songbirds. What a great idea! Also, north of St. Louis, MO, Lloyd Wilson, Tom Hayden, and Shirley Adams (NABS historian) represent NABS each year at the Wetlands Festival on the banks of the Mississippi River and several thousand go by their booth. This is a very good way to let the public know what bluebird conservation is all about.

Ed Tuthill of Westport, NY, uses the NABS slides at 4-H meetings and county fairs and had an exhibit at the Networking Environmental Workshop in October. In Jim Thorpe, PA, Judy Wink presents most of her programs to elementary (K-6th

grade) students; some to garden clubs, church groups, and civic organizations.

Lesa McDonald-Chan bought the new slide program, but would like to see more western birds in it. She says, "Would be super if slides were customized east and west, i.e. Scrub Jay instead of Blue Jay, titmouse instead of chickadee." She has an Earth Day booth at Granite Bay, California.

Eleanor Dunham has been a speaker for seven years and speaks to Boy Scouts, garden clubs, and senior citizens and had the best year ever on her trail using Olson nest boxes. She lives in New Salem, IL, but also does programs in Missouri. In Camino, CA, Susan Yasuda and Jim Fletcher use NABS brochures along with nest boxes, taxidermy mounts, and "Animal Inn" Forest Service program items (for cavity nesters). They work at the Eldorado National Forest and are having great results.

Kevin McCurdy of Fort Sill, OK, gave nine programs last year, three to Eagle Scout troops and three included banding bluebirds. He has been speaking on bluebirds for five years. He says, "I do what I do because I love to show children what nature is all about by giving them hands-on material. The old saying is right, children are our future." Mary Reed of Wildwood, TX, received many speaking requests after an article in the *Texas Highways* was published in February. The article mentioned her name and number, the Willis Point Festival, and NABS' address and phone number. Keith Kridler of Mt. Pleasant, TX, was also affected by the article and ended up giving 16 programs last year.

Carol McDaniel starts out her program by saying, "Next to my family, there is nothing I'd rather talk about than bluebirds." She ended up doing more than 10 programs last year in Darlington, WI, where she displays many styles of nest boxes, predator guards, and a scrapbook of several books, bat boxes, and posters. In Ronan, MT, Art Aylesworth speaks to school classes, garden clubs, and some private schools even though he was busy

moving to another house and setting up a more formal organization in Montana, Washington and Idaho of Mountain Bluebirders.

Scott Butterworth works in Elkins, WV, gives programs there, and is helping to publish a new state brochure on bluebirds. He said that the old one had some errors in it, but the new one should be much improved and be more useful. In Mt. Juliet, TN, Stephen Garr shows houses, bluebird feeders, and sparrow traps to his audience and has a very good response. "The program at the Purple Martin & Bluebird Seminar was very, very well received," he said. An idea that Fred Sahl has in Church Road, VA, is to give programs at schools and have the kids mount a bluebird box nearby. The students must then draw pictures of bluebirds and write stories about them. A reporter from the local newspaper comes and writes a story on the activities. Right away, I sent him information on the NABS information packet. Katie Shaw uses the new slide program, along with a nest box and a bluebird puppet, which she says is very effective. She gives up to six programs per year at the Reston Homeowners Association, where she lives in Reston, VA. Don Yoder of Walnut Creek, CA, uses a modified slide program and gave an informative program at the Central California Audubon Council in October. He thinks most videos are too long for the average audience.

Alberth Goga writes, "There is another gentlemen who works with me when giving a slide show of bluebirds. His name is Emil Klanchar of North Huntingdon, PA. We have given hundreds of talks to men's clubs, women's groups, scouts--boys and girls, senior groups, and have talked on radio and TV stations. We were honored to be recipients of the NABS award for outstanding contribution to the field of bluebird conservation on July 9, 1988. We are proud of this great achievement. Emil owns the projector and slides and he is the operator while I do the talking. We both are seniors--he--86 yrs. young and I

will be 75. We both met each other at a bird walk some 25 years ago and still are the bluebirds' friend. We give boxes as grand prizes at out talks." Mr. Goga lives in Irwin, PA, and says, "Don't spray-put up a bluebird house."

In Cranbrook, BC, Canada, Art Gruenig used the new slide program to speak to 50 young folks in grades 3-5 at Kimberley in May, "plus many more classes in local schools and is always well received." Joan Harmet of Elizabeth, IL, has been speaking for the bluebirds for five years and is a member of the Natural Area Guardians of Jo Daviess County where, in April, she gave programs to 94 students in four different classrooms in an elementary school. Among other presentations in 1995 she conducted a library story hour for 25 very interested youngsters. She says that she only uses her video programs for the nursing home visits.

Speaking for over 15 years in and around Brewerton, NY, John Rogers gave more than nine programs during the year. One was at the Chittenango State Park where 20 people of all ages were given a nest box visitation after the program. Also in New York, in Wynantskill, Barb Treiber gave a program at a birthday party for nine children. She says, "I mostly do a short lecture, then participants make a nest box from pre-cut kits. I bring my many books and offer handouts and brochures." She also sells completed boxes throughout the year as fund raisers. At the Wheeler Middle School in North Stonington, CT, the 6th grade (Team 6) uses the new slide program to teach 98 students about bluebirds. They say it is very effective.

LuAnn Craighton, a speaker for 13 years at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA, uses her slides plus some of NABS' to show visitors about the plight of the bluebirds in western Georgia. Rosemarie Borges lives in Oakton, VA, a suburb of Washington, DC, and has an unusual way of using her 55-minute video. She used it on the bus trip with her garden club to the Philadelphia Flower Show in March. That should make the trip feel

shorter and certainly enjoyable.

Elsie Eltzroth, a speaker for bluebirds for more than 20 years and a member of the Audubon Society of Corvallis (Oregon) for 25, mentions on her questionnaire that she was the recipient of the 1994/95 Conservation Award at the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs in June of 1995. She enclosed a copy of the November 1995 Audubon Society of Corvallis' newsletter, (*The Chat*), which contained an article written by her which stated: "The newsletter of the Hubert Prescott Western Bluebird Recovery Program claims that some of its success is due to increased interest by landowners who are calling us to let us know that they have bluebirds." So by giving programs, the word gets out that you are the bluebird person in your vicinity, and calls should start coming in asking your advice on bluebirds. More and more programs may be forthcoming from such contacts.

Edwina Hahn reported that she belongs to more than seven garden club groups and is a member of the National Council of Garden Clubs Society. Among many things she gives out at her bluebird programs are the Stokes' book on bluebirds, NABS brochures, a sheet about specific plantings for bluebirds, and a recipe created for bluebirds called Peanut Butter Yummy, which has been published in cookbooks in Georgia and Florida. She reported that she had founded a wildlife garden club whose purpose is to take adults and children into the woods at Lynn Haven Sanctuary to plant for wildlife. In April of 1996 she would be forming the Columbus Ecoteens, a children's Wildlife Adventure Club. "They will help us in our areas of Columbus and we'll have bluebird trails as part of their activities." She also stated that she is going to form these Wildlife Garden Clubs for children all over Georgia.

Lorna Beasley of Live Oak, FL, tries to speak to as many 4-H groups as she can. She says, "Am working on getting our cattlemen's association to put on a show so they can see how their pasture fences are a perfect place for bluebirds. The teens who show their steers and heifers

are prime subjects for me to work with. Many of them belong to 4-H and this is always a good project for them." She gets many calls about bluebirds and she has these callers take a trip with her on her trail and shows them a slide show and states "who knows how many more bluebirders we may get from these contacts." This is the way she gets a lot of information spread around. She says, "It works really well."

Marvin Schwilling uses a Kansas Wildlife and Parks slide program for his presentations in Emporia, KS, and has "Increasing Eastern Bluebirds in Kansas" brochures available. He stays busy maintaining four bluebird trails. From Raphine, VA, John Kiser wrote, "We provide as many classes as we can with bluebird box kits, give our program, and help the youngsters assemble the boxes. Then we give them the boxes to further encourage them to participate in our monitoring program. I'm still enjoying it immensely after 16 years."

In Portland, OR, Patricia Johnston has been speaking on bluebirds for more than 10 years and uses slides, mostly by the late Hubert Prescott and some by Connie Toops. She spoke to the Rotary Club and gave four field trips before June was over. Wayne Hughes, an ecology instructor in Dallas, PA, had given talks to both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and stated, "I'd truly like to enjoy the thrill of watching "Bluebird Success" return to our area of

Pennsylvania again. I'd like to do a project for next school year to help the bluebirds since it is now mandatory for all 10th, 11th, and 12th graders to have four yearly public service projects, I could tie this together beautifully."

In Alberta, Canada, Ray Harris uses his own slides and has sample nest boxes with different nests of native birds along with eggs and banding equipment. He showed interest in viewing some of the many videos available now.

Our last comment comes from Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. Larry Rohrbaugh wrote, "This past year I did my daughter's 2nd grade class. I showed the slide show and then took the class outside where I put up two of my bluebird boxes. The kids really seemed to enjoy it, and I got a lot of responses from them and their parents, who put up boxes at home. This school has called me back this spring and already wants me to do it again and put up five more boxes, one for each classroom to monitor."

All the speakers in the Bureau have one thing in common: the will and drive to tell others why they, themselves, are a bluebirder and what it means to be helping the bluebirds in their area. If you, or anyone you know, is interested in helping our bluebirds, please contact the North American Bluebird Society.

A total of 738 programs were presented in 1995 by members of the NABS Speakers' Bureau.

*The following individuals/organizations returned their 1995 Speakers' Questionnaire which helped the society determine how the new slide program is being received and if the Education Packet is being mentioned in their programs. I want to thank all the speakers for taking time to fill out and return the form. A 1996 questionnaire will be sent in January 1997.*

Paul Allen  
Diane Allison  
David Alpert  
Christine Ammons  
Scott Andersen  
Art Aylesworth  
John Baxter  
Lorna Beasley  
Kevin Berner  
Lionel M. Billard  
Bob Bodine  
Rosemarie Borges

Alan Boulton  
Marion Briggan  
Ray Briggs  
Beatrice Broughton  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Roy Browne  
Scott Butterworth  
Marilyn Campbell  
Pat and Rosa Campbell  
Jake Clapperton  
Nancy Cogsdale  
Charles B. Cooper  
LuAnn Craighton

Elaine Crossley  
Mary L. Cutler  
Mary Danboise  
Wayne H. Davis  
William and Joan Davis  
Debbie Delevan  
Eleanor Dunham  
Ruth Dykstra  
Hobart Ellifritt  
Elsie Eltzroth  
Lillian Lund Files  
Jim Fletcher

Max Forbes  
Warren M. Frey  
Stephen Garr  
Dorothy Gerhart  
Alberth Goga  
Edward Gray  
Chris Grondahl  
Art Gruenig  
Donna Hagerman  
Edwina Hahn  
Joan Harmet  
Ray Harris  
Thomas Hayden  
David Heidenreich  
Ora M. Henkes  
Jaclyn Hill  
Richard and Marlys Hjort  
Marcy Hoepfner  
Steve and Tammy Holliday  
John Holm  
P. Hubbard  
Wayne Hughes  
Jerry Hunefeld  
Ken Jankowski  
Charlotte Jernigan  
Terry Johnson  
Patricia Johnston  
Ken Karnas  
Dr. Raymond D. Kiff  
Warren King  
Gord Kingsmill  
John Kiser  
Dr. Gary Knipling  
Harold Koontz  
Keith Kridler  
Tom Lake  
Frank and Alice Laubinger  
Robert Lechner  
Donna Legare  
Doug LeVasseur  
Richard and Karen Light  
Jean Lister  
Tami Locher  
Chuck Martin  
Kevin McCurdy  
Carol McDaniel  
Oscar D. McDaniel  
Lesla McDonald-Chan

Brenda McGowan  
Shirley McKercher  
Thomas H. Meyer  
John Monroe  
Ted Morus  
Jerry Newman  
Elizabeth Nichols  
Wilbur Peachey  
Myrna Pearman  
Harold Rasmussen  
Mary Reed  
Evelyn Ritenburg  
John Rogers  
Larry Rohrbaugh  
Mark Ross  
Dr. Ellen Rudolph  
Derrell Rush  
Jean Rutan  
William Ryan  
Fred Sahl  
Chris Salberg  
Viola Sampert  
Frances Sawyer  
Kenneth Schar  
C.H. Schlauderaff  
Marvin Schwilling  
Lorne Scott  
Dorene Scriven  
Joe Sedlacek  
Pixie Senesac  
Angela Shambousky  
Katie Shaw  
David Shields  
Heather Shockey-Barrett  
Hazel Skuce  
Lorne Smith  
Barbara Stinson  
Gary Susag  
Wayne Svoboda  
Elaine Sweitzer  
Henderson Traylor  
Barbara Treiber  
Ed Tuthill  
William Warne  
Albert Weikert  
Richard Wells  
Ernie and Delores Wendt  
Richard Williams  
Robert D. Williams  
Lloyd Wilson  
Paul Wilson  
Judy Wink  
Susan Yasuda  
Donald Yoder  
Tippacanoe County Park and Recreation Department, IN  
Bluebirds Across Vermont  
NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation - Bureau of Wildlife, NY  
Hubert Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project, OR  
Geauga Park District, OH  
Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, NY  
Robert Moses State Park, NY  
Illinois Audubon Society  
Piney Run Nature Center, MD  
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, VA  
Point au Roche State Park, NY  
Pine River Outdoor Education Center, Ontario  
Ellis Bird Farm, Alberta  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Callaway Gardens, GA  
Reston Association, VA  
Fort Sill Natural Resources Division, OK  
Eldorado National Forest, CA  
USDA Forest Service, CA  
Carbon County Environmental Education Center, PA  
Team Six--Wheeler Middle School, CT

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## TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

The Twentieth Annual Meeting of the North American Bluebird Society will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Newport Beach, California, May 16-17, 1997.

*The sponsor of the meeting will be the Sea and Sage Audubon Society.*

# Exchange

To help our readers form connections with state and regional bluebird/cavity nester organizations, the NABS board has requested that annually the addresses be published of those groups supplying material to this feature. Names and addresses listed below are those groups which were included in 1996. If your bluebird/cavity nester organization publishes a newsletter and it is not included, please make sure this editor or NABS is on the mailing list. For a complete list of all bluebird groups and contacts, consult the *Directory of Bluebird Conservation Programs: North America and Bermuda*, a cooperative project of Ellis Bird Farm, Ltd. and the North American Bluebird Society, published in 1996.

## ALBERTA

Mountain Bluebird Trails Society  
c/o Bob Harrison  
1725 Lakeside Road South  
Lethbridge, Alberta T1K 3G9

Calgary Area Bluebird Trails  
c/o Don Stiles  
20 Lake Wapta Rise SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2J 2M9

Ellis Bird Farm, Ltd.  
Box 5090  
Lacombe, Alberta T4L 1W7

## CALIFORNIA

California Bluebird Recovery Program  
2021 Ptarmigan Drive #1  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

## COLORADO

The Bluebird Project  
c/o Sherry Chapman  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO 80216

## GEORGIA

Bluebirds Over Georgia, Inc.  
P.O. Box 53344  
Atlanta, GA 30355

## INDIANA

Indiana Bluebird Society  
7613 W. 134th Place  
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

## IOWA

Iowa Bluebird Recovery Program  
Jaclyn Hill  
2946 Ubben Ave.  
Ellsworth, IA 50075

Johnson County Songbird Project  
2511 Hwy 1 SW  
Iowa City, IA 52240

## MAINE

Bluebird Association of Maine  
RFD 4, Box 7600  
Gardiner, ME 04345

## MARYLAND

Calvert Bluebird Council  
c/o John Zyla  
49476 Portney's Overlook Rd.  
Ridge, MD 20680

## MASSACHUSETTS, RHODE ISLAND, CONNECTICUT

Tri-State Bluebird Society  
1460 Fall River Ave.  
P.O. Box 32  
Seekonk, MA 02771

## MINNESOTA

Bluebird Recovery Program  
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis  
Box 3801  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

## MONTANA

Mountain Bluebird Trails  
924 Stagecoach Trail  
Ronan, MT 59864

## NEBRASKA

Bluebirds Across Nebraska  
P.O. Box 67157  
Lincoln, NE 68506

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

The (Great) New Hampshire  
Bluebird Conspiracy  
P.O. Box 103  
Sunapee, NH 03782

## NEW YORK

New York State Bluebird Society  
15 Bridle Lane  
Dryden, NY 13053

Broome County Nestbox Network  
28 Farr Ave.  
Johnson City, NY 13790

Schoharie County Bluebird Society  
c/o Kevin Berner  
SUNY  
Cobleskill, NY 12043

## NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Bluebird Society  
834 Shamrock Rd.  
Asheboro, NC 27203

## NORTH DAKOTA

Bluebird Recovery Project  
North Dakota Nongame Wildlife Program  
100 North Bismarck Expressway  
Bismarck, ND 58501

## OHIO

Ohio Bluebird Society  
20680 Twp. Rd. #120  
Senecaville, OH 43780

(List continued on page 19)

#### INDIANA--*Bluebird Flyer*, Oct 1996

Welcome to a newly revived bluebird organization, the Indiana Bluebird Society (IBS)! This group was originally founded in 1981 by Fred and Ethel Bock, but after 1987, when most of the officers moved or retired, the state group became inactive. Several county societies continued bluebirding efforts. IBS is being revived by Chris Salberg and others.

This initial issue of the newsletter includes an article by Ann Auer entitled "Bluebirds Love Mealworms." The author provides a step-by-step description of how to raise mealworms.

Art Jeffries, of the Hamilton County Bluebird Society (HCBS), explains what their display at the county 4-H fair consists of. It includes a banner with their name, books, various bluebird boxes, and handouts. Among the other items are a county map with a red dot showing each box location, a bluebird box with a plastic front labeled "Donations Welcome," and a sign-up sheet. The twist here is that people sign the sheet to have an HCBS member come to their house and check the property for available bluebird habitat. If it's good, they put up one or more boxes. In 1995, of 33 sign-ups, boxes were placed on 22 properties.

Hints for helping bluebirds overwintering in Indiana include providing water and food. A list of attractive fruit-bearing plants suitable for landscaping is provided.

--Indiana Bluebird Society

#### IOWA--*WINGS...*, Summer 1996

Lon Drake follows up a Spring 1992 article in *Wings* about birds dying after window impacts. He kept track of window kills at his home during a summer and found the equivalent of a fatal collision every day or two. Not every house has as much glass as his, but even extrapolating very conservative estimates could mean huge numbers of birds killed nationally.

Reprinted is a column by Eirik A.T. Blum that originally appeared on the op-ed page of the *Baltimore Sun* entitled "Our National Bird." The author points out that the Bald Eagle is a scavenger and is neither bald nor a true eagle. Ben Franklin's suggestion of a Wild Turkey is also dismissed. Blum claims that the European Starling is the perfect choice. Bluebirders will attest to characteristics which are cited as truly American, among which are the following: starlings are immigrants like most of us; this bird conquered the continent in less than 75 years (more rapidly than people); it efficiently displaced numerous indigenous species; starlings are pests and thrive in urban environments; they are adaptable; they change mates often; they are unlikely to ever become endangered; and every household could have a pair. With tongue in cheek, Blum announces "It's time to give the eagle the bird and the starling its due."

The Johnson County Songbird Project's (JCSP) Mother's Day bluebird walk at Kent Park drew a record number of people. More than 140 signed the registration list.

The JCSP has completed the microfilming of the private collections of Althea Sherman materials outlined in the Summer 1995 *Wings*. The State Historical Society of Iowa has also completed the Sherman journals and papers in their collection. Several local businesses are thanked for purchasing copies of the microfilms so they are available for use by scholars and the public.

--Johnson County Songbird Project

#### MINNESOTA--*BLUEBIRD NEWS*, July 1996

Editor Dorene Scriven notes that Breeding Bird Survey data indicate that Eastern Bluebirds have increased in both the short term and long term. That's great news, but monitors can't relax; instead, they should continue to care for their bluebird boxes while at the same time widening their horizons. Numerous other cavity nesters need help!

Trish Quintenz reported a pair of Eurasian Tree Sparrows nesting in a Petersburg, Illinois bluebird box in 1994.



Keith Radel, a landscape designer, lists "Ten Common Sense Suggestions to Increase Wildlife Numbers on Your Property": 1. mow less; 2. trim your trees and shrubs later in the summer; 3. plant trees and shrubs that have fruit; 4. leave dead trees standing; 5. control cats; 6. remove or close old Purple Martin houses; 8. spray less; 9. select good quality seed for feeding birds; and 10. share these ideas with friends and neighbors.

Dick Hjort has assembled "The Kids Page."

--*The Bluebird Recovery Program*

#### **NEBRASKA--*Bluebirds Across Nebraska Newsletter*, Summer 1996**

President Steve Eno devotes his column to an explanation of why House Sparrows and bluebirds don't mix. He also begins a three-part series on the House Sparrow. In this issue he covers its history in the United States; its courtship, nesting, and diet; and methods of dealing with sparrow problems. Passive control can be attempted in three ways: food (feed sunflower, safflower, and niger only); housing (eliminate potential nest sites); and shelter (close buildings and garages).

President Eno summarized activities at Minnesota's annual conference on 20 April. Keith Radel, of Faribault, offered some useful tips based on experiences with his 700-box trail. Among his suggestions were not to alter the design of a box unless you check with the designer. There's a reason the box works. More than likely the designer has tried your variation and found it not to work. The best time to trap House Sparrows is from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Also, don't use duct tape to close box entrances or vent holes because it leaves a residue that a bird's feathers can stick to.

Sandy Seibert relates the privilege she has had in helping the bluebird population grow. Although her introduction to bluebirds could be traced to early childhood, not until she and her husband, Bill, began monitoring a trail at Schramm State Park did they become intimately acquainted with bluebirds.

For the first time Bluebirds Across Nebraska plans to have a booth at the 1996 state fair. Exposure to many people would be a major advantage, but staffing all day for six days might be a problem.

--*Bluebirds Across Nebraska*

#### **NEW YORK--*Bluebird News*, Summer '96**

In conjunction with the spring meeting, the Route 20 Bluebird Research Trail was formally dedicated by New York State DEC Commissioner Michael Zagata and Robert Miller, DEC's Non-Game and Habitat Unit Leader. Guest speaker Zagata mentioned that to date more than 1,100 of the new bluebird license plates had been ordered. Frances Sheehan of the Office of Natural Resources presented Pat Lynch with her own special "PLYNCH" bluebird license plate in recognition of her outstanding efforts in helping to make the bluebird plate a reality. John Rogers was recognized for his outstanding work for bluebirds in central New York. He monitors about 400 boxes in the Oneida Lake Region and, over the past 25 years, has fledged more than 6,000 bluebirds. Genevieve Harrington was also recognized for her faithful and dependable work as recorder of nest record reports. The organization awarded a \$2,000.00 summer internship to Denise Moore, a wildlife management major at SUNY Cobleskill. She will be responsible for continuing the Route 20 Bluebird Research Trail program expansion. An update of the Route 20 Trail is included.

The New York State Bluebird Society has a home page on the Worldwide Web. It can be reached at <http://members.aol.com/jrfk2/nysbs/nysbs.htm>.

Studies by Wayne Davis at the University of Kentucky and Kevin Berner, SUNY Cobleskill, continue in an attempt to determine the factor or factors that make the Peterson nest box so frequently the choice of bluebirds when there are options available. Davis found that the oval entrance might be the key attribute.

--*New York State Bluebird Society*

-----*BROOME COUNTY NESTBOX NETWORK*, Fall 1996

A request is made for Broome County monitors to return their survey forms providing results for 1996. A number of items from the New York State Bluebird Society newsletter are reprinted including "How to Attract Purple Martins" originally published by the Purple Martin Conservation Association. The county bluebird display will be used at Endicott Agway on 21 September and at the Waterman Center in Apalachin on 5 and 6 October

--*Broome County Nestbox Network*

*NORTH CAROLINA--BLUEBIRD NOTES*, June-August 1996

Editor Helen S. Munro summarizes the summer board meeting held at the home of incoming President Jim Jochum in Greensboro. Retiring were President Chuck Bliss and Treasurer Linda Phillips. Membership is around 350. New members currently receive a copy of *Bluebird Notes*, *Bluebirds Forever*, a letter of welcome from the corresponding secretary, a bluebird postcard, and a membership card. In the future, a copy of the current year's survey form will be included. Incoming President Jochum looks forward to initiating a mission statement for the North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS).

Richard and Iris Johnson, Moore County coordinators, organized the first Moore County meeting of the NCBS. It was held in the Carthage Library on 22 June 1996. A newspaper article and postcards to past and present members produced a gathering of 16 people. A slide presentation was made by Education Director Hank Moss. Time for swapping bluebird and squirrel stories was the highlight.

Mike Gilbert, of Foxfire Village, watched 10 bluebirds enter one of his boxes just prior to a sub-freezing spring night. A check a few days later found only a few feathers. Fran Outhwaite, of Burlington, reports a nest with seven eggs on 4 May. All nestlings appeared healthy in late May; both parents were feeding them on 26 May. By 2 June they had fledged. Christine Ammons, of Union Mills, points out that Eastern Phoebe's will build their nests on nesting shelves under eaves of lake houses or cabins. She is successful in attracting them to nest on a shelf on the side of her house even though she is not close to water.

The 1996 nesting survey form is enclosed. It requests data on the Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches, and Carolina and House Wrens, in addition to bluebirds. It notes that if Great Crested Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, or Prothonotary Warblers nested, data should also be listed.

A page describes the role of various NCBS officers. A need for volunteers as county coordinators has developed. This is the first year of the program. Chuck Bliss is working hard to find coordinators for each of North Carolina's counties.

"Building a Better Nesting Box" summarizes some of the box styles which are being tried in various parts of the country. Many of them initially appear to have advantage. Only time and intensive use will determine which have major design benefits.

--*North Carolina Bluebird Society*

*OHIO--Bluebird Monitor*, Autumn 1996

Dean Sheldon, Jr.'s column "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" provides seven clues that trail managers can use to help determine how many birds fledged from a box. This is helpful since few people actually see nestlings exit. [This column will be reprinted in a future *Sialia* so will not be summarized here.]

Wayne Davis in his "Notes from Kentucky" states that House Wren populations were down during the 1996 breeding season. He began investigating whether Eastern Bluebirds prefer a slightly larger than 1½-inch round entrance hole. Unfortunately, fewer nesting bluebirds on the University of Kentucky farms did not yield enough data in 1996. Tree Swallows are now common nesting birds on Davis's trails. Organized bluebirding may well have been a factor in the southward extension of the swallows.

Davis mentions an article that appeared in the *Auk* 112:1062-1064 by Leonard *et al.*

entitled "An experimental test of offspring recognition in western bluebirds." It should not come as a surprise to experienced monitors that nestlings transferred between boxes a few days before fledging were accepted by the parents.

Material from the Vector-borne Disease Program, Ohio Department of Health entitled "Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome: A Possible Bluebird Connection" is reprinted. This serious disease can be transmitted by contact with infected mice, especially *Peromyscus* which includes white-footed and deer mice. Rodents in Ohio have been surveyed since 1994. Although bluebird nest boxes were examined (with a high percentage occupied by *Peromyscus*), no infected mice were found in nest boxes. Only eight of 134 cases of HPS have been found east of the Mississippi River.

In order to reduce the chance of contamination from nest boxes, the Centers for Disease Control and the Ohio Department of Health suggest disinfecting boxes with a 5% Lysol or 10% bleach solution, wearing a dust mask when disinfecting boxes or removing mouse nests, wiping tools with disinfectant after each box is cleaned, and placing a cone-shaped metal predator guard on each mounting post to prevent mice from reaching the nest box.

Bob Orthwein details his "1996 Experience with Experimental House Sparrow and House Wren Resistant Raised Roof Boxes." Fourteen raised-roof boxes were placed in Richland and Ashland counties. (These boxes feature a clear plastic-covered 4 in. x 4 in. opening above the nest compartment and directly under the raised roof.) This box is testing whether this design is unappealing to House Wrens and House Sparrows while acceptable to bluebird and Tree Swallow use. Most of the 14 were placed in locations where the author had had previous sparrow or wren problems. At most of the sites, there was a successful bluebird or swallow nesting in the paired or triple-box sites. Most encouraging was the lack of nests--or even attempts in most cases--by wrens or sparrows. The boxes were deliberately placed in less than optimal bluebird habitat. Raised roof boxes should not be mixed with other box styles at paired or triple-box locations. This small experiment is encouraging enough to expand the trial during the coming breeding season.

William Davis describes a successful tale of transferring orphaned nestlings into another box with young of about the same age. Not only did all of the young fledge successfully, but it was an excellent example of the County Coordinator Program in action. The care, concern, and expertise of half a dozen bluebirders saved the birds.

The newly-adopted short annual nesting report form is enclosed. It has been revised to request only the following information: year, number of boxes, number of eggs laid, numbers of nestlings hatched, and number of bluebirds fledged, along with trail location.

--Ohio Bluebird Society

#### OKLAHOMA--*Watchable Wildlife NEWS*, Summer 1996

More than 100 students from the Frederick eighth grade erected 42 bluebird boxes at the Hackberry Flat Wetland Restoration Project in Tillman County (far southwestern Oklahoma). The 1995 bluebird nest box trail results showed 53 reports received and 1,173 boxes monitored. A total of 3,339 Eastern Bluebirds fledged from 975 clutches. The top four nesting species were Eastern Bluebird, House Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, and Bewick's Wren. Three Brown-headed Cowbird eggs were reported in bluebird nests.

--Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

#### ONTARIO--*Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society 1996 Spring Newsletter*

Most of Canada experienced an unusually long, cold winter in 1995-1996 so it is not surprising that there were few reports of overwintering Eastern Bluebirds.

In mid-March Bill Read helped Glen Barrett of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) clean American Kestrel boxes. Finding both a gray phase and a red phase Eastern Screech-Owl roosting in separate boxes was a pleasant surprise; on a second trip, screech-owls

were found in different boxes. In 1995, the CWS boxes produced eight successful nestings fledging 30 kestrels. The boxes are mounted on hydro support poles (not live poles) and are protected from climbing predators by a sheet of metal. Permission was obtained from Ontario Hydro from this project. Bluebirds are seldom bothered by kestrels and sometimes nest in close proximity, usually without problems.

An information bulletin published by the Ohio Wildlife Rehabilitators Association entitled "Cat Facts" is reprinted to awaken trail monitors to the staggering toll of songbirds imposed by feral and domestic cats. Besides keeping cats you own indoors, the following tips are listed: defend your yard against marauding cats (fencing the yard if necessary), repel intruding cats with water from a hose, and continue to support local laws prohibiting cats (and other domestic animals) from roaming at large.

George Cokes, of Winona, makes and sells bluebird boxes and donates the proceeds to OEBS. This extra money will enable the group to purchase copies of *Enjoying Bluebirds More* by Julie Zickefoose to give one to each current member or new members that joined in 1996.

Good sites for fall hawk-watching in southern Ontario can also produce good numbers of migrating Eastern Bluebirds.

Bill Read continued banding bluebirds in apple orchards. The highlight of the season was the recapture of his oldest breeding female. She was banded 5 June 1989 at the Fisher Apple Orchard as an After Hatch Year bird. She had two successful nestings in 1995, fledging six young from eight eggs. Her mate was banded as a nestling at Braccio on 16 July 1994.

--Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society

#### WISCONSIN--WISCONSIN BLUEBIRD, Summer 1996

Norbert and Vivian Langer, who got hooked on helping bluebirds while living in Texas, in retirement took over a 130-box trail in a portion of the Nicolet National Forest in Oconto County, Wisconsin. They work closely with the resident United States Forest Service biologist, Gary Zimmer. They also encourage other retirees to accompany them to stimulate interest so that the trail will always be well-maintained.

Warren Close writes about "Another Cavity Nester: The Prothonotary Warbler." These strikingly-colored birds are the only wood warbler to use cavities for nesting. They are birds of the floodplain of bottomland forest along slow-moving rivers. Normally, they nest over or close to water in shade. Although a bluebird box can be erected for them, a somewhat smaller box seems to be more successful. The author suggests a 4 in. x 5½ in. x 8½ in. box with a 1-1/8 in. entrance mounted about five feet above the water and protected from raccoon predation. Space boxes at least 100 yards apart.

Joe O'Halloran, who chairs the Data Collection and Analysis Committee, continues to work with year-end summaries to determine reasons for the disparity in Tree Swallow and Eastern Bluebird nestings in various parts of the state, especially in the East and West Zones. In 1996, the 1995 BRAW data was divided into five groups of counties depending upon the degree to which swallows or bluebirds were favored. This separation revealed the following: 1. Bluebirds have an aversion to the most widely used box in Wisconsin, the Hill Lake, and to deep boxes generally. (They are used mainly in the East Zone.); and 2. Every little "up" in the Tree Swallow numbers is accompanied by a corresponding "down" for bluebird numbers. The author concludes by saying that the analysis suggests three things: 1. "That we should avoid or switch away from deep box-types; 2. That we should use, and encourage others to use, box types for which the bluebird has a clear preference, for example, the Peterson box; and 3. That we should look for raccoon protection through means other than the use of deep box-types."

One of the aspects of the zone comparison that has not been factored into the results is the distance between boxes (whether they are paired). In order to examine that variable,

the Annual Bird Nesting Survey Summary has been redesigned to obtain more information. A copy is included with the newsletter.

Carol McDaniel describes the advantages of supplementing bluebirds' diets in "Feeding and Raising Mealworms". She gives directions for raising mealworms, suggestions for offering them to bluebirds, and provides a commercial source if one prefers to buy them. She cites the experiences of several individuals who feed mealworms whose bluebirds have been extremely productive.

The same author notes in her County Coordinator Column that two BRAW board members have donated 39 complimentary one-year subscriptions to *Wisconsin Bluebird*. The subscriptions are intended to be given to libraries around the state to increase the organization's visibility. County Coordinators are encouraged to check to see if their local library has a subscription; if not, contact BRAW to have one sent. Don and Marge Kopff are featured in this column for their work as Dodge County coordinators for the past 11 years. They present an average of three to four programs each year and show the video "Jewels of Blue" whenever possible. Don leads the Beaver Dam Senior Citizen Center's nest box building project.

--Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin

(ORGANIZATIONS--Continued from page 13)

**OKLAHOMA**

Oklahoma Nongame Wildlife Program  
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation  
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**ONTARIO**

Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society  
2-165 Green Valley Drive  
Kitchener, Ontario N2P 1K3

Willow Beach Field Naturalists  
c/o Hazel Bird  
Box 45  
Harwood, Ontario K0K 2H0

**OREGON**

Hubert Prescott Western Bluebird  
Recovery Project  
c/o Patricia Johnson  
7717 S.W. 50th  
Portland, OR 97219

**TEXAS**

North American Chimney Swift  
Nest Site Research Project  
Driftwood Wildlife Association  
1206 West 38th, Suite 1105  
Austin, TX 78705

**VERMONT**

Bluebirds Across Vermont  
c/o National Audubon Society  
Box 9, Fiddlers Green  
Waitsfield, VT 05673

**WISCONSIN**

Bluebird Restoration Association  
of Wisconsin  
Rt. 1, Box 137, Akron Ave.  
Plainfield, WI 54966

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## Profits from Republication of Historic Study to Support Restoration of Chimney Swift Tower

*Birds of an Iowa Dooryard* by Althea Rosina Sherman (1853-1943). Published posthumously in 1952, this important and long-unavailable work is being republished by the University of Iowa Press. Sherman, a self-taught ornithologist, was a pioneer in the field of life studies--she was the first to report on the entire nesting cycle of Eastern Screech-Owls, American Kestrels, Northern Flickers, Chimney Swifts, and other species. She was the third woman to become a fellow in the American Ornithologists' Union and an early mentor to Margaret Morse Nice, Cordelia Stanwood, and others. The new paperback issue, with sixteen of Sherman's detailed illustrations and a new forward by nature writer Marcia Myers Bonta, is available for \$13.95 (plus \$2.00 shipping and handling) from: Johnson County Songbird Project, 2511 Hwy 1 SW, Iowa City, IA 52240. (The Songbird Project is currently restoring Sherman's Chimney Swifts' tower--which was constructed in 1915 for the direct observation of nesting swifts. All proceeds from the Songbird Project's sales of this book will go to the tower restoration.) For more information call Barbara Boyle at 319-628-4824.

## Pine Straw Drape from Box Entrance

I am hoping that someone can enlighten us as to just what our bluebirds are up to!

I have enclosed some photos I recently took of two of the three boxes we have mounted around our yards. They show a "drape" of pinestraw hanging from the entrance holes of both boxes. These boxes are mounted in a big, open side yard, the third box is in my backyard which is small and very near a large oak tree. My box has never had a "drape," but this is the second year that the birds have hung pinestraw from the boxes in my mother's side yard.

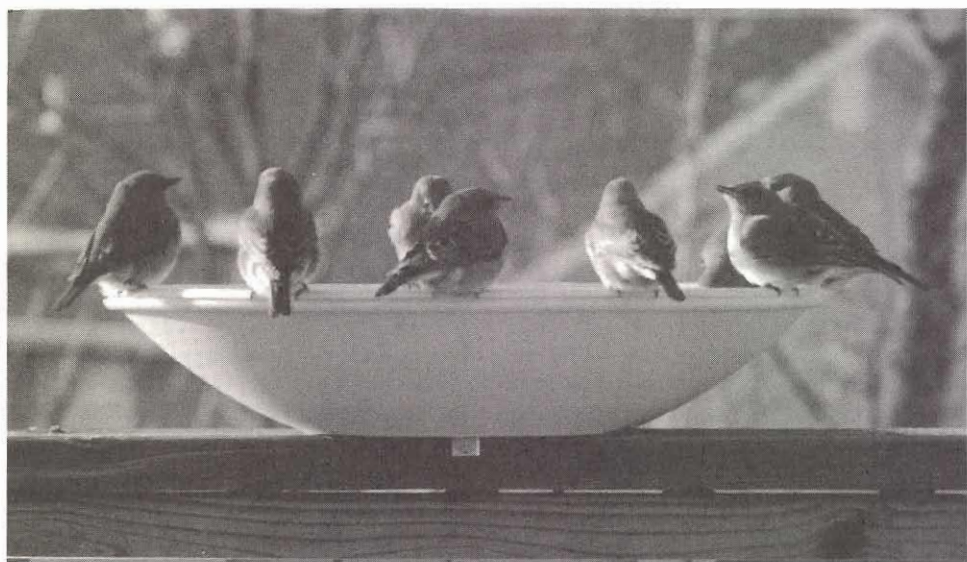
It appears that the birds do this for a reason. Last year, thinking that another kind of bird had tried to destroy the bluebirds' nest, we tore off the drape and dropped it below the box. The next day the drape was back in place and a new family of bluebirds hatched in that nest within a few weeks.

The pinestraw most likely came from our street where it had weathered and been run over by cars, etc., so that it had been crushed as well as becoming very soft and airy. Because it is so long and heavy for a bird to carry, I would assume the birds put the straw inside the box and then pulled it out the hole. Now that's something I would love to have witnessed!

We dearly love to watch our bluebirds and are anxious to know if anyone has ever seen this before--or do you think maybe it's a "Southern thing"?--Rita J. McDaniel, 504 Bibb St., Waycross, GA 31501.



Photograph by Rita J. McDaniel



Gayle Fogarty of Arnold, Missouri, took these photographs last winter. Bluebirds were using her heated birdbath. The eight bluebirds visited on 27 January 1996, while the female Eastern Bluebird stayed warm on a subzero 4 February 1996.

*The German School in Potomac, Maryland, attracts children of many nationalities. Monika Botsai, who teaches second grade, mounted a bluebird box on the fence at the school. Her students watched a pair nest successfully in 1996. After the young fledged, each pupil summarized the experience in German and made an accompanying drawing. Mrs. Botsai translated a few stories for our use. Santeri Lohi is from Finland, Jacob Haller from Germany, and Alanna Boyajian from the United States. The drawing is by Diana Garibaldi, also from the United States.*

## Our Bluebirds

When they saw a nest box, they flew there. Franz and Anne looked at it. They said: "It looks really nice. Let's start work. We will build a nest now."

They flew back and forth and built. When they were done, they were very tired. Because they flew back and forth and built and built. Then it was time to lay eggs. After five days they had five eggs. Then she had to brood for 14 days. And then the kids hatched. After they had hatched they had to be fed. Then they were grown enough and flew out. (THE END).

--Santeri Lohi

## The Bluebirds

At the German School is a nest box. Two days ago the bluebirds started to build a nest there behind the classroom of the 2b. Now on the third day the nest is done. Male and female put their seeds together, so that the female can lay eggs, each day one. The first day she lays one egg, the second day the second one, the third day the third one, the fourth day the fourth one,, and the fifth day the fifth one.

Done with egg laying. Now mother bluebird has to brood the eggs. That lasts about 12 to 14 days. Then the eggs have to crack. When finally everything is done, hard work begins. Mother and father bluebird have to feed now the young birds. The little ones have to be fed so every 10 to 20 times a day. Not all bluebirds will grow up, because the young and the old have many enemies like snakes, cats, and crows. Now all bluebirds are ready to fly. Father and mother coax their kids with worms out of the nest box.

Class 2b always watched everything

--Jacob Haller

## Our Bluebirds

Anna had found a nest box. She went to Hans. He was trying to find something to eat. Anna said to him: "I found a nest box." "May I see it?" "Sure you can see it," said Anna. Both flew to the box. Hans said. "We will build a nest in there." After he said that Hans and Anna started to build a nest. That was hard work. It lasted five days. On the sixth day Anna laid her first egg, and the next day she laid another one, and another one, and another one, and another one. She had laid five eggs. Now she had to start brooding. Anna had to sit on her eggs for 14 days. Then the next day one egg cracked, then the next, until all kids were out of the eggs. Anna called her first child Susanne, the second one Ulricke, the third one Anne, the fourth one Johannes, and the fifth one she called Hans. Anna and Hans were very happy, but not so happy, because they had to start feeding now. There the first kid was crying, because it was hungry. They fed their children until they were ready to fledge. Then they flew out of the nest box and away.

Our class 2b watched everything, and it was so sweet. But now it is not so sweet anymore, because they are gone.

A couple of days later our teacher, Mrs. Botsai, removed the nest from the box. And that was the end.

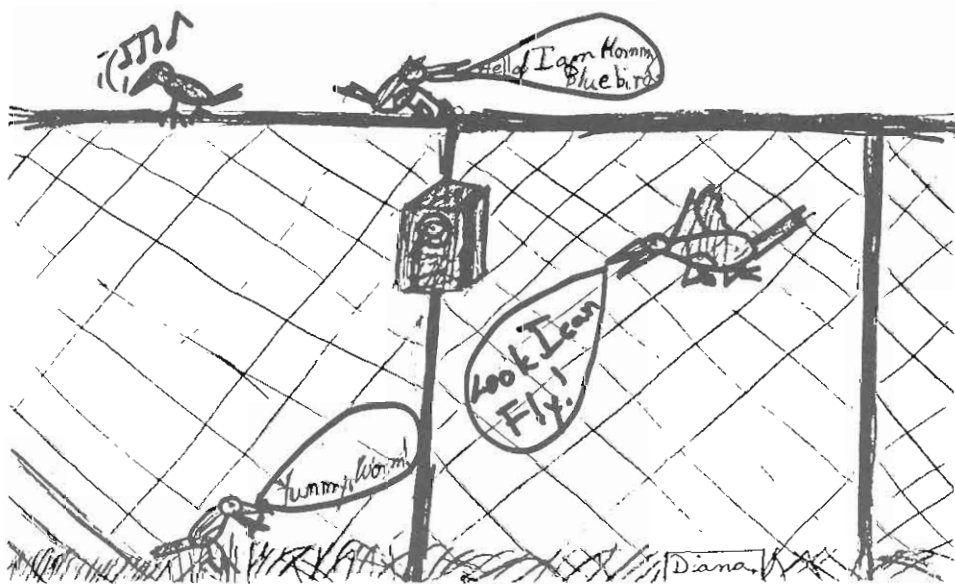
--Alanna Boyajian





Photograph by Monika Botsal

Matthias v. Heydebrand, Kinga Ellerman, and Carol Dammert check a bluebird box at the German School in Potomac, Maryland.



# New York Bluebirders Receive Awards

Two active Schoharie County bluebird enthusiasts were honored by the New York State Chapter of The Wildlife Society this past February. That group is the society representing professional wildlife biologists, managers, and researchers. Joe Therrien was recognized as the "Outstanding Wildlife Student at a Two-Year School" and Ray Briggs was named the "Outstanding Conservationist" of the year.

Joe was a Fisheries and Wildlife Technology student at SUNY Cobleskill who graduated in December 1995. He is now enrolled in the school's four year Wildlife Management program. Joe has been consistently near or at the top of his class each semester at Cobleskill. He is a married adult student with two children. Joe has made exceptional contributions to wildlife management and environmental education efforts that have gone well beyond what you would expect from most students.

Joe has become very involved in environmental education within the county. He took it upon himself to become a certified instructor with Project Wild. He also developed a winter trail guide for the Fox Creek Nature Center in Gallupville. Joe has also been very involved with the establishment of this center's indoor facility and ran water pollution demonstrations at the grand opening ceremonies on 10 December 1995.

Joe has also become heavily involved in bluebird research and management. He has served the past two summers as a bluebird intern. Prior to the second summer he wrote the grant proposals which funded his work. He is a federally licensed bird bander and has banded well over 1,000 bluebirds and Tree Swallows over the past three summers. His banding data is prepared in a manner so that Cornell's Nest Box Network can incorporate it into their research data base.

During the summer of 1994, he developed the Schoharie County leg of

the "Route 20 Bluebird Research Trail" and he actively monitored 180 nest boxes there. This trail is a project of the New York State Bluebird Society and will extend across the entire width of New York State from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania along Route 20. For the past two summers, Joe has served as the statewide field coordinator for this trail. He has worked across the state placing hundreds of nest boxes, training countless county coordinators and work crews, and promoting the trail. Well over 1,000 nest boxes now exist on the trail primarily due to Joe's field work and leadership.

Joe has also conducted two years of nest box comparison research on his leg of the Route 20 trail. His research also included intensive efforts to quantify habitat characteristics at nest boxes used by bluebirds, swallows, and House Wrens in an effort to place nest boxes for bluebirds where wren destruction of bluebirds nests would be minimized. He has also published research in *Sialia* on which trap types are most effective for capturing House Sparrows.

Joe has served an important function in educating the public about bluebird management through hundreds of visits to homes of bluebird enthusiasts, frequently staffing bluebird information booths at various events, and with formal presentations before county and state-wide organizations.

Over the last year he has also worked part-time presenting programs to dozens of schools related to water pollution and ground water management. He has been using two interactive models which demonstrate water pollution control in a highly effective manner for children. He has also been involved with the hamlet of Central Bridge's efforts to improve their municipal water supply.

Ray Briggs, Sr. is one of the most influential individuals in New York State in the drive to restore Eastern Bluebirds to their past prominence. Ray is a retired high school teacher and semi-retired dairy

farmer. In the 1970's Ray sought a project for his conservation and agriculture students where they could become active participants in a conservation issue. The cause that he chose was to provide badly needed nesting sites for bluebirds. His students built and erected hundreds of bluebird boxes in northern Schoharie County.

Bluebirds responded to the addition of the nest boxes and local residents enthusiastically jumped onto the bluebird bandwagon. In 1985, Ray formed the Schoharie County Bluebird Society (SCBS). In the group's early years it was not uncommon to have over 100 people in attendance at local meetings. He convinced county residents that it was a "status symbol" to have a bluebird box on their property.

With Ray as its president the SCBS held regular meetings in Cobleskill and additional meetings in all corners of the county. They also had exhibits at numerous fairs, festivals, and other events. Today the group has well over 1,600 members and the county

consistently has the highest bluebird fledging levels of all the counties in New York State documenting the production of between 1,500 and 2,000 chicks each year.

Ray also has promoted research on bluebirds. He became the first bluebird bander in the county and has trained several sub-banders. Since 1988, well over 3,000 bluebirds have been banded under his leadership.

As the president of the New York State Bluebird Society his enthusiasm and charisma have reached a state-wide audience. His long time dream of a bluebird trail across the entire width of New York State along Route 20 is now a reality. Working with Kevin Colton of Cornell University, Joe Therrien, and Denise Moore of SUNY Cobleskill, and numerous volunteers there are now uniformly stained nest boxes in every county along Route 20. Ray has also ensured that the trail has been established in a manner that will facilitate research on bluebirds.



Two active Schoharie County bluebird enthusiasts were honored by the New York State Chapter of The Wildlife Society in February 1996. Left to right: Ray Briggs; Mark Lowery, president of The Wildlife Society, New York State; and Joe Therrien.

Ray was an early proponent of a bluebird license plate which recently became a reality. He and Pat Lynch of the New York State Bluebird Society were influential in this advance

As past editor of newsletters for the Schoharie County and New York State Bluebird Societies he has provided extensive information on how individuals can best increase bluebird numbers. He also is a frequent speaker at schools, garden clubs, and other groups. His advocacy work on behalf of bluebirds was acknowledged by the North American Bluebird Society in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania several years ago when they presented him with an award for his "outstanding contributions to bluebird management." His work has also been recognized in the New York Times, the

Wall Street Journal, and on television.

While his own accomplishments have been significant, his greatest contribution has been to convince other individuals to become actively involved in bluebird management. He has been a catalyst on both a county and state-wide basis. I owe my own bluebird interest and involvement to Ray Briggs. His work has brought immeasurable pleasure to hundreds of individuals who now see the brilliant flashes of blue first reappearing in the early spring at their nest boxes. Ray has developed a network of lay people who have accomplished what no one individual could have accomplished, making the bluebird a common sight again in many areas of New York.

--Kevin Berner

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## Awards Committee Needs Your Ideas

Every year at the annual meeting the North American Bluebird Society honors bluebirders who have distinguished records in bluebird conservation or research. Awards are also made to organizations. Our next meeting, the 20th, will be held in Newport Beach, California, 15-18 May 1997.

That's the good news. The bad news is that, while I chair a committee of active bluebird enthusiasts, we simply do not know all of the talented and dedicated bluebird volunteers in North America. We need your help!

Think about your area, your friends and bluebird workers, the person or group that you've always said "we can't get along without." Talk it over with people in your organization. The criteria were listed in the Autumn 1996 issue of *Sialia* on p. 142.

The following states have been most often represented by award winners: New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania; then Oklahoma, Minnesota, Georgia, and Ohio; in Canada: Manitoba. We know there are active and dedicated bluebirders in many other states!

Award winners do not need to be present at the annual meeting, but do consider attending this lively gathering of bluebirders from all over North America. It's a great weekend!

The deadline for nominations is 1 March 1997. Please send your replies to me at the following address:

Joan Harmet, NABS Vice President  
Box 72  
Elizabeth, IL 61028

## Wintering Over

Five pieces of sky  
fell to earth.  
They, amid snow and weeds  
and nesting box did fly.  
Up and down;  
in and out  
for warmth and play and seeds.  
A flash of rust under blue  
--fire under sky--  
with a wave of the wing  
and months before spring,  
the bluebirds  
with small voices sing.

--Jill Estock



I have a private road leading back to the 15 acres where I live. I have seven bluebird boxes and they all produce every year--sometimes more than once. I have the best luck with PVC houses; the sparrows don't seem to like them as much as wooden ones.

Recently I was told I had to name my private road to comply with 911 emergency requirements. So I named it Bluebird Lane. Not only is it appropriate, but it also gets a lot of favorable comments.--Floyd Rogier, 1951 Bluebird Lane, Highland, IL 62249.

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### NEW NABS SLIDE SHOW

The new NABS slide show is available for rental at \$10.00 or purchase at \$75.00 + \$7.50 shipping and handling. The show consists of 110 collated, plastic framed 35 mm slides and a printed script (no slide tray). If a cassette narration is desired, add \$10.00 + \$1.50 shipping and handling to the purchase price.

To rent or purchase the bluebird slide show, write to the following address: NABS Slides, P.O. Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD 20916-6295. Please allow one to two weeks for delivery and, if possible, specify several dates for rental.

### Historian's Request

Please send newspaper and magazine articles about bluebirds to Historian Shirley Adams, 3484 Torch Club Rd., Alton, IL 62002. Be sure name and address of publication, volume and date are included. Photographs of members engaged in publicizing bluebirds are always welcome. These items will be added to scrapbooks kept as a permanent record of activity on behalf of bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds.

# Nineteenth Annual Meeting Report

Mary D. Janetatos

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North American Bluebird Society was held September 12-15, 1996 at the Royal Botanical Gardens, in Burlington, Ontario. The meeting was hosted by the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society and drew approximately 170 attendees from the United States and Canada. Visitors from outside the area mainly stayed at two local motels: Visitor's Inn, and Admiral's Inn, Hamilton. Enjoyable fellowship ensued as friends greeted each other and introduced themselves, trading bluebird stories.

Friday's intermittent rain may have hampered visibility on the first scheduled activities, but did not diminish the joy of discovery of the local scene, as some took the boat tour of Hamilton Harbor, and others explored Dundurn Castle. There were remnants of a past time when the United States was an armed adversary of Great Britain on these very sites; weapons stood as grim reminders of the war of 1812. Another guided tour was offered of North East Shoreline Fish & Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project. Participants looked at beach restoration—a program of plantings and rock works to naturalize the shoreline. Some attendees visited the Royal Botanical Gardens on Friday.

Saturday morning the proceedings got under way, starting with complimentary continental breakfast at the impressive Royal Botanical Gardens. The program started with Recording Secretary Doug LeVasseur chairing the Annual Meeting in President Charlotte Jernigan's absence. (Charlotte suffered severe bee stings a few days before the meeting.) Moving eulogies for NABS' Founder Larry Zeleny and for Treasurer Delos C. "Chuck" Dupree were given by Mark Raabe, a former officer of the Society's Board of Directors. Sadie Dorber, Nominating Committee Chair, also reminisced about Chuck Dupree as she presented the slate

of nominees. The following officers and board members were elected: *President:* Charlotte Jernigan; *Vice President:* Joan Harmet; *Treasurer:* Glenn Funkhouser; *Recording Secretary:* Doug LeVasseur; *Corresponding Secretary:* Joseph Tait; *Board Members:* Steve Eno; Edwina S. Hahn; R. David Shiels; William Wheeler. Speakers Bureau Chair Ron Kington will complete the term of Joan Harmet, who was elected to Vice President. Executive Director Mary Janetatos announced the names of recipients of the NABS Award plaques, and made the presentations. (See elsewhere in *Sialia*.) They were as follows: Dr. William A. Carter, Oklahoma; Campbell G. Chambliss, Virginia; Richard and Marlys Hjort, Minnesota; and Myrna Pearman, Alberta. Following the members' meeting, Bill Read, of the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society, official host, directed the group to the various rooms for the presentations.

Kevin Berner, NABS Research Chairman, gave his report in "Nest Box Design," describing the various types of nest boxes utilized by cavity nesting birds during the studied time period. Conclusions seemed to indicate that over a long time period, the Peterson nest box was utilized more often than others, including the NABS standard rectangular nest box and the square slot box. In the most recent period of study, a standard nest box with an *oval* entrance hole was the type most utilized.

Christine Bishop and B. Solymar spoke on "Pesticide Study." This talk described an Integrated Pest Management project whereby the Agriculture Ministry of the province worked with commercial apple, pear, and nut growers on ways to lower the volume of chemical pesticides used in orchards. The methods included ways of spraying: i.e., instead of indiscriminate total coverage, the spray was applied from above the trees, downward, so that it did not waft into the air; also, the amount of

chemical use was cut by 50%, saving the average farmer approximately \$1,000 per season. Scent attractants were used, luring the male coddling moths into traps, thus preventing them from mating with the females, with resulting sterility, and no eggs, larvae, etc. The farmers and Agriculture Ministry officials had even set up an "agri-phone hot-line" to alert the officials as to the opportune time for the attractant to be spread. Small ponds were placed throughout the areas to check the effect on frogs and aquatic life. These practices have not been in use long enough to establish conclusive results regarding their effect on nesting birds, but Bill Read has several nesting boxes strategically placed for future testing of results.

Michael Measure described the "Fatal Light Awareness Program" which is addressing the problem of bird-kills resulting from colliding with lighted buildings--especially skyscrapers--at night. He is currently in the process of alerting the owners of the "killer-buildings" as to how they can minimize these avian fatalities. This involves cooperation which he finds is having some growing success. A very clever educational piece was available which was birdshaped and became three-dimensional when folded: a very effective method of attempting to alleviate this little-known problem.

Dr. Chris Darling spoke on "Blowflies," one of the perennial problems faced by bluebirders.

Larvae of *protocalliphora sp.* tend to climb from the bottom of the nest box up through the nesting material and attach themselves to the legs of nestling bluebirds.

The slide program was entertainingly presented and revealed the extensive research done by the presenter. While the blowflies do not usually kill the young outright, they have a negative impact on the development of the young. Blowfly parasites do exist. The females of two species of wasps lay their eggs on the pupal cases of the blowflies; the hatching young wasps pierce the cases, killing the

blowflies. The practice of sifting carefully through the used nesting material helps to protect the young wasps, saving them for future predation on other blowflies. The serious bluebird can be grateful for Dr. Darling's fine work with blowflies which will in the end benefit the bluebirds.

James R. Hill, founder of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, in his talk "Purple Martins," outlined the steps needed for advantageous "landlording" for the popular species which shares many of the bluebird's problems. According to Hill, currently the housing of choice for martins is a series of hollowed gourds in addition to the traditional "apartment-style" structures. The Association publishes an excellent scientifically-oriented quarterly magazine, *Purple Martin Update*. It can be obtained by calling the Association in Edinboro, PA at 814-734-4420.

Nancy Mahony gave a well-attended talk entitled "Black-Capped Chickadees." The slides revealed many endearing views of those cousins to the Carolina Chickadees which many bluebirders encounter in more southern areas. Many comments from those present revealed a wide acquaintance with and great affection for these tiny cavity nesters who ingratiate themselves with us.

M. Zorn, a very talented nature photographer, wowed her audience with many a breathtaking view in "Photography." Those aspiring to greater heights in their own work took much inspiration from the myriad shots of insects, bluebirds, and other cavity nesters woven into her fascinating talk.

Myrna Pearman, of Ellis Bird Farm in Alberta, spoke on "Cavity Nesting Waterfowl." A recipient of the NABS award plaque this year, Myrna Pearman discussed her observations of the life cycles of various water species, including the Wood Duck and the Northern Pintail. Her lively delivery always makes the time fly as she instructs and entertains. Among her slides was one of NABS founder Larry Zeleny showing the time that he met Charlie Ellis, co-founder with his sister

Winnie, of the Ellis Bird Farm. The Bird Farm signifies a happy coalition between nature and industry, since it was the purchase of the Ellis family farm by Union Carbide, Ltd. which gave impetus to the Bird Farm. Myrna Pearman has been resident biologist and director there for several years.

The afternoon program concluded and the group adjourned. Later they re-convened for the Annual Banquet. A delicious meal was enjoyed along with the proverbial fellowship of the bluebirding attendees. Following the meal, a most entertaining speaker, Kay McKeever of the Owl Foundation, led the listeners through the adventure she and her husband had experienced after they "adopted" a tiny Eastern Screech-Owl into their home. She described many escapades--like when the

bird had hidden his "treasures" (dead mice, etc.) behind the books on the bookshelves... How their marriage survived this adoptee was a hilarious mystery to her audience.

Sunday morning dawned, rain-free, and the field trips got underway. They were as follows: Hawk Migration at Port Stanley; Long Point Observatory; Birding Tour led by B. Curry; Cootes Paradise Rehabilitation led by L. Simser; and Pesticide Study Field Trip led by Annual Meeting Chair Bill Read. With the completion of these very productive and enjoyable field trips, the NABS Nineteenth Annual Meeting came to a close.

*Thanks to Ron Kingston and Dorene Scriven for contributions to this report.* ■

(Photographs on following pages)

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(TALES--Continued from page 39)

York State Bluebird Society was one of the first, and now the Tri-State (New England) Bluebird Society is coming on line--both with considerable help from Sadie and Lil. Our heartfelt condolences to Lil; she lost her mother just after the meeting. Speculation: Is John Rogers, of Brewerton, NY, hoping for an early retirement so that his formidable bluebirding can expand even further? Maybe ditto for Doug LeVasseur, NABS current secretary and Ohio Bluebird Society's president from Senecaville, OH?

Dick and Phyllis Williams, of East Moline, IL, said it well when they wrote to NABS: "Thank you for yet another tailor-made, mind-stretching, exhilarating NABS meeting! As always, it was a joy to reacquaint with old friends and to meet new ones. The speakers were excellent, lodging at the Admiral Inn superb, and we fell in love with beautiful Ontario and its friendly people."

I *did* have other pleasant trips this past summer. I visited family members in Ojai, CA, where *possible* bluebirders, Kathi (my daughter) and Leroy Smith are the parents of my other three grandchildren: Caitlin, 9; Danny, 7; and Matt, 5. They

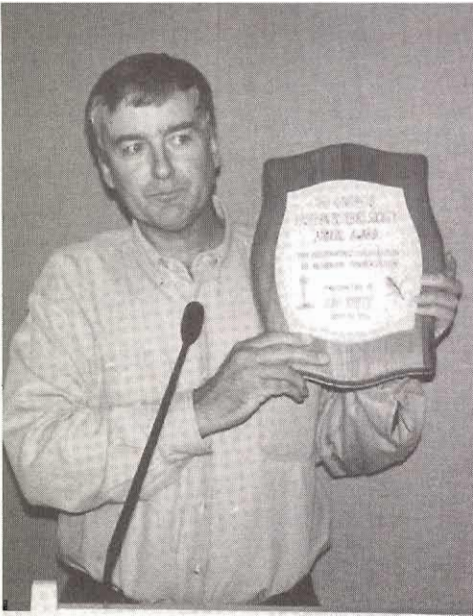
have two "hopeful" bluebird nest boxes mounted in their yard.

Then, upon returning home, we received this note in the mail from Dorothy Manfredi: "I have just received a bluebird house as a gift and I desperately hope to attract some occupants. I have not seen any bluebirds around, but there are some in this beautiful valley. I would be interested in receiving any information you have available. I will be the happiest person in Ojai when I see my first bluebird."

I'm sure you've seen the *special acquisition* of John James Audubon (JJA) reproductions which were advertised in the Autumn '96 Picture Catalog. I was meeting with ad consultant Marcia Wilhide from the printing company who identified herself as a "bluebird appreciator." After hearing of the methods used by that master bird artist (JJA) to achieve his realistic results (he shot a sample of every species he painted, and he painted *all* of the known birds of North America!), she reeled in *shock*. Recovering *slightly*, she gulped: "By *his* killing one of each, we get to see *all* of them!" That's a good way to look at it.

*Happy winter bluebird dreaming, dear readers!* ■





Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Bill Read, Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society president, announces that Leo Smith is the recipient of the group's annual award.



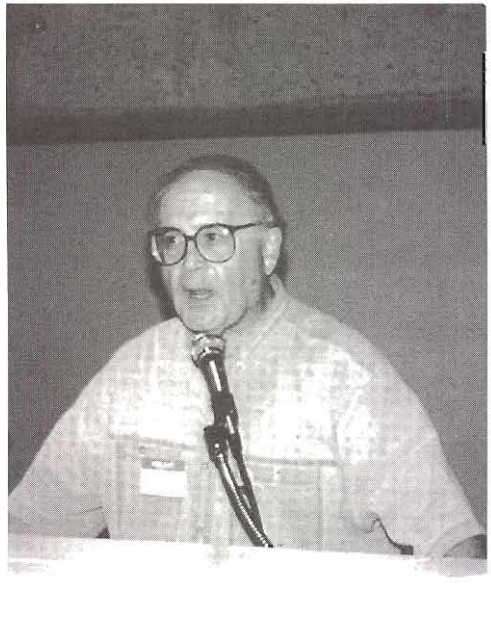
Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Doug LeVasseur, recording secretary, presides over the annual meeting.



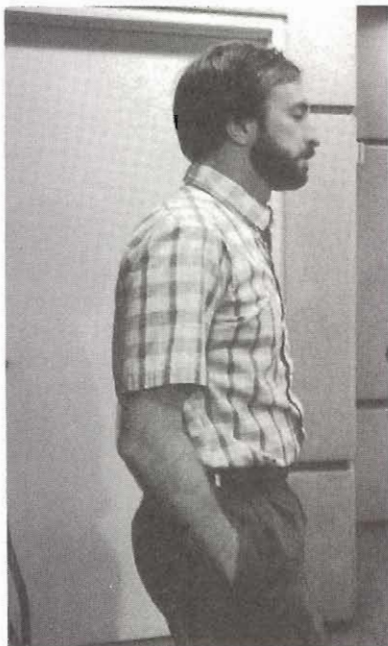
Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Kay McKeever of the Owl Foundation in Ontario was the Saturday evening banquet speaker.



Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Mark Raabe delivered eulogies for Larry Zeleny, founder of the North American Bluebird Society, and for Delos "Chuck" Dupree, first treasurer of the Society.



Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Research Chairman Kevin Berner presented his latest findings at a Saturday meeting.



Photograph by Myrna Pearman

Betty Dupree draws a ticket to determine the winner of the Robert Bateman bluebird print raffled by the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society.



Photograph by Myrna Pearman

John and Carol McDaniel chat with James R. Hill, III (right), founder of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, who presented a program on Saturday. Currently, martin enthusiasts are cooperating in a project to locate and list all active and inactive colonies in North America. To help in this effort, write to Mr. Hill, PMCA; Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; Edinboro, PA 16444 or call 814-734-4420.

## NABS Awards Presented

Five outstanding bluebirders were presented with awards at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting in Burlington, Ontario on 14 September 1996. NABS President Charlotte Jernigan was ill and unable to attend the meeting; in her place, NABS Executive Director, Mary Janetatos presented the plaques.

**Dr. William A. Carter**  
**Campbell G. Chambliss**  
**Richard and Marlys Hjort**  
**Myrna Pearman**

**Dr. William A. Carter** of Ava, Oklahoma, established his bluebird trail in 1970 in Ada and used it through the years with college students doing their research projects on small cavity nesting birds. He also conducted research on cowbird parasitism in bluebird nest boxes. Dr. Carter is listed in *American Men & Women of Science* and was named Oklahoma Conservation Educator of the Year. In 1971 he wrote "Another New Bird for Oklahoma--Western Bluebird," and has compiled bird checklists for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. He has served numerous times as consultant on Environment Impact Assessments. Dr. Carter is a former member of the NABS Board of Directors and assisted in hosting the 1986 NABS Annual Meeting in Wagoner, Oklahoma.

**Campbell G. Chambliss** of Rawlings, Virginia, is a retired instructor of pre-vocational students in Brunswick County, Virginia. He instructed his students in building nest boxes and in establishing bluebird trails. Being a dedicated teacher, he integrated the characteristics and habits of the Eastern Bluebird into their studies. Through his many speaking engagements, many young people became involved in the quest to save the bluebirds. Students also became interested in the study of wildlife, conservation and community service. He and his wife have also spent many hours helping the less fortunate people in their home town. Campbell Chambliss was instrumental in having the Eastern Bluebird adopted as the official county bird for Brunswick County, Virginia.

**Richard and Marlys Hjort**, of Chisago City, Minnesota, are members of the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota and have several trails totaling 134 nest boxes. They help monitor trails in state parks and nature centers. They give programs, workshops, school presentations, and lectures, as well as instructing volunteer monitors. Marlys runs a bluebird oriented mail order business for the Bluebird Recovery Program, and she and Dick travel extensively on the "bluebird circuit." They faithfully attend all NABS Meetings and have displays at the Jackson, Michigan Bluebird Festival. Their wildlife organic garden attracts many people. By passing on their knowledge and experience, many small wildlife species have a home. Children not only enjoy the garden, but they learn about protecting various habitats and the environment. Dick is an innovative and entertaining speaker; he has served two terms on the NABS Board of Directors.

**Myrna Pearman**, of Lacombe, Alberta, has been a bluebird enthusiast since age 15 and has devoted her life to working for bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds. She has been the resident biologist at the Ellis Bird Farm in Red Deer, Alberta, since 1987. Her activities have included monitoring a trail of 450 nest boxes, carrying out a winter feeding program, conducting scientific research, and presenting educational programs. Her nest box program is curriculum-based and delivered to elementary rural schools, involving over 8,000 students. In 1991 she received the Loran L. Goulden Award from the Federation of Alberta Naturalists for her contribution to natural history in Alberta. In 1992 she was

named a "Nature Educator of the Year" by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History. She is the author of two books: *Winter Bird Feeding--An Alberta Guide* and *Nestboxes for Prairie Birds*. She is currently working on another book: *Naturescaping--Creative Wildlife Habitat in Your Own Backyard*. For NABS, Myrna has served on the Board of Directors, worked on various committees, and produced the revised slide program. ■



Photograph by Myrna Fearman

Executive Director Mary D. Janetatos (left) presents award for bluebird conservation to Marlys and Richard Hjort, Chisago City, Minnesota.



Photograph by Priscilla Kingston

Campbell G. Chambliss, Rawlings, Virginia (left) receives bluebird conservation award on 7 November 1996 at the monthly Ruritan meeting. The presentation was made by Ron Kingston, speakers' bureau chairman.



Myrna Pearman, Lacombe, Alberta (left) receives award for bluebird conservation from Executive Director Mary D. Janetatos.

*The Awards Committee chaired by Joan Harmet is composed of the following members: Ray Harris, Mary Janetatos, Charlotte Jernigan, Carol McDaniel, and Barbara Stinson.*

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### 1996 Nesting Box Report

Research Chairman Kevin L. Berner is compiling cavity nester results of the **1996** breeding season for publication in the Summer 1997 issue of *Sialia*. In order to provide as accurate a summary as possible, he needs the totals in a timely fashion. He understands that where larger numbers of boxes and monitors are involved it is a complicated and often lengthy process. Try to submit totals, even

if they are incomplete. If your report involves more than 500 boxes or an entire county, state, or region, you may submit results as late as 20 March 1997. Any summaries after 1 March should be sent directly to Kevin Berner, SUNY-Cobleskill, College of Agriculture and Technology, Cobleskill, NY 12043-9986. Do not depend on summaries sent bulk mail to reach him in time for publication. ■

# BLUEBIRD EXPRESS

*SIALIA welcomes the correspondence of its membership. Bluebird Express should become a forum for all who are interested in communicating their ideas and actions concerning bluebird conservation. We will attempt to publish a wide range of views in a responsible manner. Keep your letters coming!*



Dear Editor:

The bluebird trail at the Spring Valley Country Club in Huntington, West Virginia continues to be successful. In 1996 we fledged 71 bluebirds, up from 52 in 1995. This makes a total of 356 bluebirds fledged since the 22 boxes were installed in March 1991. In 1996, we also fledged 16 White-breasted Nuthatches.

Since April 1996 I have followed Wayne Davis's advice [that bluebirds prefer to build on an old nest] and found that 7 of the 19 nesting attempts were with nests built on top of old bluebird nests or nests of other native birds. The only nests I now discard are House Sparrow nests, any unused nests infested by ants, and House Wren nests not being used. At the end of the nesting season I remove some of the top nests and place them in empty boxes along the trail, so that now only two boxes are empty. Hopefully this new technique will increase productivity in 1997.

Ed Barnett  
7 Donna Heights  
Huntington, WV 25704

#501 sold by the Tomahawk Live Trap Co. in Tomahawk, Wisconsin.

As an avid birder I try to do everything I can to make my yard a place where songbirds can thrive. I am especially dedicated to Eastern Bluebirds and have been very successful in having several pairs raise multiple broods in nesting boxes scattered throughout my property. Unfortunately, House Sparrows present a constant threat. This is why I eagerly ordered the sparrow trap #501 hoping it would help me control this nuisance. I tested the trap the day after receiving it, but instead of catching a House Sparrow, a tiny Chipping Sparrow entered the trap. While trying to get out, it seriously scraped its head and poked its eye out with the sharp wire tips at the entry points of the trap.

The very sharp wire tips at the entry points of the trap cause serious physical injury to trapped birds. I wanted to humanely dispose of House Sparrows and be able to free other birds which might accidentally get caught, without causing them to suffer injuries. Do not use this trap!

Nelly Sirtori  
19732 Golden Valley Lane  
Brookeville, MD 20833

Dear Editor:

I'm writing in hopes that you will print this letter as a warning to other members about using the Tomahawk sparrow trap

Lillian Files, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, received information from a friend that the idea of using bluebird boxes as yardage markers on golf courses is still spreading.

Henry M. Ditman  
2800 Sykesville Road  
Westminster, MD 21157

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The individual writes, "in conclusion, the 1996 survey of the bluebird boxes was a very enjoyable activity. My seven year old son also enjoyed checking the boxes and had his own monitor sheet. We look forward to doing it again in 1997. I have introduced the use of the boxes as yardage markers for the golfers as this will give me the opportunity to build some more boxes for the 1997 season. Bluebird boxes will thus become an important and integral part of the course."

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Dear Editor:

On 12 April 1996, I was visiting my bluebird houses to get them shipshape for the nesting season. One of the boxes is located in a natural hollow at one end of a meadow. The box faces south toward an open field. The east and north sides are flanked by a grove of young trees. To the west is the open meadow for about 200 feet and then a forest of mature hardwoods. The bottom of the side-opening box is no more than four feet off the ground.

When I opened it, I saw a clump of straw and wispy fur, just like a deer mouse's nest. I touched the clump, something moved inside, and a head shot up at the top of the clump. It looked like a deer mouse with large dark eyes. I grabbed the clump and yanked it out on the ground. The creature jumped out and climbed up the side of the box and then into the trees nearby. I noticed it had folds of skin tucked under its legs and forearms. Three smaller creatures fell out on the ground at my feet. I suddenly realized that they were flying squirrels! I had always wondered if we had any. I held these little babies in my hands, put them and the nest back in the box, hoping the mother would continue to stay there. But the next day, when I returned, all of them were gone. I assume and hope that she simply moved them somewhere else and successfully raised them to adulthood. I never would have thought flying squirrels would nest so low.

Dear Editor:

My name is Laura McLendon, and I am a junior at Southland Academy. I have been a member of your society since I was a small girl. Because of my family's involvement in the bluebird conservation efforts over the past 20 years, I chose to focus my 4-H project on Eastern Bluebirds. This project has always been an informative, educational project that includes all of the information needed to begin and maintain a bluebird trail. I have taken this project to regional competition for five years and to state competition for the past two. I have also presented the project before numerous groups in Macon and Crawford counties. This project has really made my community and surrounding communities more aware of bluebirds and their needs.

This past year I conducted an experiment to determine if our new PVC boxes were cooler for the bluebirds than our dark wooden boxes. I monitored my 17 boxes twice weekly throughout the season, recording the interior temperature and the contents of each box. Throughout the season,, I discovered a consistent temperature difference. The PVC boxes were, on the average, three to five degrees F. cooler than the wooden boxes. I changed my 4-H project to focus on this experiment and was very pleased with the results. I did not win at the region (2nd) or at the state (3rd), but I believe I will be successful at both this year.

I wanted to share with you how much the bluebirds have meant to me over the years. They have taken me across the state of Georgia, and, if I win the state competition, they will help send me to college. I am eternally grateful to the bluebirds and to your organization for working so hard to teach others to help them.

Laura McLendon  
Route 1, Box 184  
Oglethorpe, GA 31068

# Bluebird Tales

Mary D. Janetatos

"We've GOT to have some copies of that GREAT newspaper article about the NABS Annual Meeting, Mary!!!" Shirley Adams of Alton, IL, NABS Historian and Marcy Hoepfner, of Matamora, IL, outgoing NABS Board Member, were fairly jumping out of their skins! The Hamilton, Ontario, Spectator had printed a very fine article on their front page, highlighting the bluebird's need for human help, announcing the NABS Annual Meeting, and showing a handsome picture of both the bluebird (actually, Michael Smith's "Mad Bluebird photograph," available through NABS' Picture Catalog) AND our host, Bill Read, of Kitchener, Ontario. Then ensued the great newspaper chase! I had driven my car from Maryland to the meeting, accompanied by Sialia Editor Joanne Solem and Betty Dupree, wife of recently deceased NABS Treasurer Chuck Dupree. So we set out to find the office of the Spectator in the Friday morning drizzle. We soon realized that it was located right next door to the Visitor's Inn where we were staying, so off we went. The two bluebird enthusiasts trooped into the newspaper's office and triumphantly walked out with multi copies Shirley will use some for the NABS scrap book she so artfully puts together, and I guess Marcy will--who knows?--paper her walls with them! By the way, Marcy has had an article about her bluebird activities printed in the September issue of that "bluebird-friendly" magazine Birds & Blooms and her address appeared in it. She reports that over 700 readers have written to her, asking for more bluebird information. (This causes me to reminisce about the 1979 Parade magazine article on bluebirds which had NABS' address in it. It generated 80,000 inquiries! You could say it put NABS "on the map"! ) But, back to the meeting... Pat McAvella, of Hamilton, Ontario, also fell in love with the stunning front-page bluebird, and wrote to photographer Smith in hopes of



purchasing a copy for herself, exclaiming "What a treasure that photo is!"

Reunions abounded and new friends were greeted as the attendees visited the registration area near the lobby of the Admiral's Inn. Bluebird stories were swapped, and innovations which had been tried addressing the various needs of bluebird conservation were explained to attentive listeners. Later, Dick and Marlys Hjort, who like to confuse all of us with the name of their hometown, Chisago City, MN, were at their display table, and Dick showed us his latest invention: a frog house! It's a flat little structure about two inches high. Somehow the frog (toad) finds it, and gets under it, and ...that's it! A little gimmick--are they going to claim that the frog is now a cavity nester? Dick and Marlys were the recipients of a NABS award plaque. They really are ardent bluebirders (see related article elsewhere in Sialia). The I Hear Bluebirds author, Dr. Shirl Brunell was enjoying the gathering with her Texarkana, TX, friends Janann Gleason and Phyllis Howard. She had comforting words for Betty Dupree, as did many others. Christine Ammons and her mother, Alla Briscoe shared with us the ins and outs of the phone calls about bluebirds that Christine gets while she is at her job. She is the postmistress of their hometown, Union Mills, NC. Bill and Joan Davis, of Dayton, OH, joined us at dinner, where we reminisced along with Barbara Stinson, of Warrenton, VA, about other meetings. Bill and Barbara are currently NABS Board Members, and very active Speakers' Bureau members. Congratulations to Bill and Joan, who have recently been awarded the coveted



Blue Feather award by the Ohio Bluebird Society! Jane and Frank Zuern, of Oshkosh, WI, had their distinctive "tree branch" nest box on display, which was much examined by an inquisitive crowd. In a phone conversation later, new NABS Board Member Steve Eno, of Raymond, NE, praised the meeting. Also, he credited his wife, Cheryl, with being just as involved in bluebirding as he is: together they have launched the statewide Bluebirds Across Nebraska. It was good to see Maryland bluebirders there. Jack Davis and Mark Ross, both of Germantown, MD, brought me up to date regarding our local bluebirds. Mark, who is a NABS Life Member, had his annual meeting registration paid for by the Montgomery County bluebird trails section of the parks department. (That's a great way to spend "my" tax money!) Dick and Katie Purvis, of Anaheim, CA, stimulated interest for the next annual meeting, to be held 15-18 May 1997 in Newport Beach, CA, when the hosting group for the Society will be the *Sea and Sage Audubon*. But back to the Hamilton fun! The fascinating surroundings, the Royal Botanical Gardens gloriously abloom with every variety of flora, were not dimmed by the intermittent rain. Camera buffs clicked away to their heart's content. Andre Dion, Quebecois author of *The Return of the Bluebird*, related the news that he and his lovely wife France are deserting their hometown, St. Placid, and taking to the open road in a recreational vehicle--next stop: Brazil, where their beloved Purple Martins spend the winter?

New bluebird friends were made. Joan Dougherty, of Hamilton, and I have more than bluebirds in common: She *married* the name I was *born* with. She does her bluebirding with the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society. Bob Elstone, also of Hamilton said he has been bluebirding for 20 years and only recently became aware of NABS.

There were many other folks attending, some of whom I hope to name at a later date. There were those "conspicuous" by their absence. Jack and Ruby Finch, of Bailey, NC, had been "regulars" at other

meetings, with Ruby giving our invocations, and Jack regaling us with his very successful legendary Homes for Bluebirds. They are in good health, I've discovered and still have us in their prayers...and vice versa. Norah Lane, of Toronto, *almost* made it, but a late striking "bug" attacked, and the illness grounded her. Norah is another of the NABS founding board of directors, whose late husband, John Lane, spearheaded bluebirding from their home then in Manitoba and throughout western Canada. His story was highlighted in the very first issue of *Sialia*. Art and Margaret Rusnell, of Klienburg, Ontario, also suffered from the "flu-bug," but they made it to the Saturday evening banquet. Art currently serves on the NABS Board. Ray Harris, of Pincher Creek, Alberta, completed the Canadian connection on the NABS Board of Directors.

Ron and Priscilla Kingston, of Charlottesville, VA, attend every meeting including the meetings of state bluebird societies. Ron, as chair of the NABS Speakers Bureau raves about the level of bluebird activism shown by his roster of speakers. Newly-elected NABS Board member R. David Shiels and his wife, Carol, of Dallas, TX, have been involved on a grand scale with bluebird displays as well as lectures. Bill Wheeler, of Lafayette, TN, another new board member, also is the "Bluebird Man" in his area. Edwina and Bob Hahn, of Columbus, GA, were relaxed at this meeting, but we reminisced about another great meeting, the one Edwina helped organize three years ago at Callaway Gardens, GA. Also relaxing this time were the Idaho hosts of the memorable NABS Seventeenth Annual Meeting, Al and Hilda Larson, of Boise. With the Mountain Bluebird as its state bird, that was a wonderful meeting to celebrate bluebirds! Two of NABS' past presidents, Sadie Dorber Vestal, NY, who now chairs the Nominating Committee, and Lillian Files, Tyngsboro, MA, could have been trading stories about the various state bluebird societies sprouting everywhere. The New  
(Continued on page 30)

North American Bluebird Society, Inc.  
Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements  
November 1, 1995 through October 31, 1996

Cash Balance - November 1, 1995		\$ 11,208.54
Cash Receipts:		
Sales of <i>SIALIA</i> journal	\$ 24,204.00	
Sales of merchandise	27,477.50	
Membership dues	24,621.80	
Contributions	15,984.27	
Bequests received	<u>52,790.94</u>	<u>145,078.51</u>
		156,297.05
Cash Disbursements.		
<i>SIALIA</i> journal	23,602.10	
Merchandise and related costs	21,883.66	
Membership fulfillment	11,823.89	
Educational material and related costs	2,973.32	
Research	5,738.65	
Investments acquired	55,000.00	
Rent	8,000.00	
Salaries	12,453.63	
Payroll taxes--employer's share and employees' withholdings	<u>4,301.34</u>	<u>145,776.59</u>
Cash Balance, October 31, 1996		\$ <u>10,510.46</u>
Liquid Assets and Inventory:		
Checking account		\$ 10,510.46
Savings account		1,885.29
Bank certificates of deposit		20,508.72
Investments with Dean Witter Reynolds		62,365.42
Common stock		1,332.00
Inventory of merchandise		<u>25,254.09</u>
	Total	<u>\$121,855.98</u>

Respectfully submitted,

*Glenn E. Funkhouser*

Glenn E. Funkhouser, Treasurer

(BOOSTERS--Continued from inside back cover)

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**Art Credits**

Jon E. Boone: 2, 36  
Letitia Lussier: Downy Woodpeckers 6  
Suzanne Pennell: 38

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Delores Gilbreath  
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Lois Rae Harder

(Continued on page 40)

Founded in 1978, THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY is an incorporated non-profit organization determined to increase the populations of the three species of bluebirds on this continent. Inasmuch as the populations of these birds have diminished due to the maladroit actions of human beings, as well as natural disasters, the primary objective of the Society is to educate all who will listen about the importance of preserving these singular creatures in their native environment.

Toward this end, the Society will work, within the bounds of effective conservation, to study those obstacles impeding bluebird recovery; to publish results of those studies; to promote ideas and actions which might reduce the effect of those obstacles; and to obtain a more complete knowledge about bluebird ecology, in the hope of learning more about the ecology of humankind.

Membership: Student (under 21) \$10.00; Senior (over 60) \$10.00; Regular \$15; Family \$25; Sustaining \$30; Supporting \$50; Contributing \$100; Corporate \$100; Donor \$250; Life \$500. Three year rates: Student and Senior \$28.50; Regular \$42.00. Add \$2.00 per year for Canada and Mexico and \$3.00 per year for other countries (surface mail). U.S. funds only, please. Amounts over \$6.00 are tax deductible.

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**Box 6295**  
**Silver Spring, MD 20916-6295**  
Telephone: 301-384-2798  
Fax: 301-879-9650

