## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Message to Our Affiliate Organizations - Kevin Corwin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the President - Bernie Daniel</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tick Time</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the Managing Editor - Scott W. Gillihan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Notices: Annual Meeting</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Notices: Proposed Bylaws Change</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Notices: Finances</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Notices: Directors Election</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Grants Program</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BluesNews</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Research Grant Applications</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird Wives of Virginia and South Carolina - Terry McGrath</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Gallery</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABS Conference 2020</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Know the Laws Regarding Nestbox Trail Management - Bernie Daniel</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluebirds Everywhere</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Population Health of Bluebirders - Glen Hvenegaard, Robyn Perkins, and Garrett Rawleigh</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birder Survey</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bluebird Population Index - Bernie Daniel</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Perching - Tom Betts</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remembering Bill Thompson III - Bet Zimmerman Smith</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Populations Face Catastrophic Collapse - University of Sydney</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliates Assigned to Each NABS Regional Representative</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliates of the North American Bluebird Society</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cover photo:** Eastern Bluebird making its way into the world. Photo by JP1961; iStockPhoto.com

**Table of Contents photo:** Black-capped Chickadee by Jim Toreli, Color Impact Photography of Sterling Heights, Michigan (colorimpactphoto.com). Photo posted on Flickr.com as being in the public domain.
Summer Message to Our Affiliate Organizations

Kevin Corwin

Hello Fellow Bluebirders!

As you may know, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has a continent-wide database called NestWatch. NestWatch is used by some Affiliates and many independent nest monitors to record information for each nest attempt they observe. It provides them with a permanent repository for their monitoring records and a variety of reports and datasets that can be used to analyze a broad spectrum of trends over time. Affiliates that use NestWatch can avoid the need to manage their own databases and systems, which can be a real boon to small, volunteer-run organizations such as ours. The NABS Board has been investigating the potential benefits to the bluebirding community, and to the scientists who use the NestWatch database for their research, that might accrue from a closer working relationship between our community and NestWatch.

To that end we will be meeting with the NestWatch staff in early June to learn about NestWatch and what they use it for, explore the various options currently available for getting nesting data into the system, and learn about their flexibility in accepting diverse datasets. After we’ve digested what we learn about NestWatch we will spread that knowledge to you so that you can decide if you want to send your nesting information to them. We think the impact our community could have on the volume and quality of information in NestWatch could be dramatic, and our bluebirds could be the beneficiaries of better research by the scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

I want to assure you that we are working on this initiative solely to enable us to provide you with the information you need to make a rational decision about sending your information to NestWatch. We are not going to push anyone to use NestWatch if you do not want to use it.

Thank you for all you do for our little blue friends.

The North American Bluebird Society, Inc. is a non-profit education, conservation and research organization that promotes the recovery of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting bird species in North America.

www.nabluebirdsociety.org
It is late April and we have had a cool spring with periods of heavy, as in 2–3 days-at-a-time, rain and a little sleet. There have been relatively few actually “warm” (like room temperature?) days so far. As well, I’m not seeing many insects around here. I think most of you are aware of the world-wide concern about what seems to be a steep population decline for many insect species. In the Fall 2017 (Vol. 39 No. 4) issue I touched on some of the scientific studies that have been documenting the dramatic decline of invertebrates (including insects) at entomological research stations around the world. Likewise, I believe there is ample anecdotal evidence that supports the belief that insect populations are decreasing. For example, when we first moved into our house in Symmes Township (near Loveland, Ohio, northeast of Cincinnati) we daily had hundreds of butterflies visiting our annual flower beds and perennial patches. I recall that there were at least 25+ species each summer. It was fun to use “binos” to spot and identify them. Last summer I do not recall seeing a single Viceroy (maybe one?), or an Eastern Tiger Swallowtail or Painted Lady, either, though we had plenty of coneflowers and phlox blooming along with daisies, hollyhocks, black-eyed Susans, and all kinds of annuals. Perhaps we had a handful of Eastern Black Swallowtails? Monarchs? Forget about it. But we used to have them when we moved into the house in 1980. These days Cabbage White and Clouded Sulfur is about as good as it gets for butterflies on most days. The same is true for fireflies—we used to have them in the many thousands every evening and now we don’t. Well, the weather is on track to warm up a bit next week maybe I will be proven wrong! But of the possible factors influencing bluebird population trends I think we will find the changing insect population dynamics to be a big part of the puzzle.

Speaking of bluebird populations: In this issue is my second attempt to illustrate what is happening with Eastern Bluebird (EABL) populations across eastern North America. Recall I presented some preliminary analysis on that topic one year ago in this Journal (Summer Vol. 40, No. 3). This time my study is more focused on two measures of EABL status—abundance (measured by the number of bluebirds in a unit area) and the trend (how the bluebird population is changing with time). I have proposed a model for using these two measures to create a tool I call the “Bluebird Population Index” (BPI). I am hopeful that the BPI can be used to track our progress with EABL across the continental range from decade to decade. This latest paper spells out more clearly the concerns that I mentioned in the first paper last year. Specifically, that concern is that we do not seem to be increasing the continental population of EABL like we did in the 1980s–2000 period. In some important parts on the EABL range the population is actually decreasing. I would of course invite responses to this paper from our members. I intend to do a similar assessment of the other two bluebird species when I can find the time. Please note the “disclaimer” at the end of the article—it is important.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology NestWatch program is a citizen science program and as you know NABS will consider a plan to develop a formal working relationship with the scientists and staff of NestWatch when we meet with them in June. I urge all NABS members to look into NestWatch (https://nestwatch.org/) and participate if you can. If we get good participation from our members and also from the members of our Affiliate organizations I believe that we will reap significant benefits in terms developing a continental-scale database on the reproductive success for cavity-nesting species. The NestWatch scientists will be able to use the data from thousands of our nestboxes to conduct studies about important trends that are developing in bluebirding over the continent. In many cases, these trends would not be obvious to individual bluebirders or individual Affiliates analyzing their own data. This is because data from one Affiliate, for example, seldom gets compared and contrasted with the like data of other Affiliates or fellow bluebirders in other regions. NestWatch could be a big step toward addressing that problem by pulling all our data together.

Since we are thinking about the topic, I will mention that there are other citizen science projects devoted to bird studies that already are, or soon will be, important tools for tracking the status of bluebirds. The National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC), started in 1900, was probably the original “citizen science” project although that term or concept was probably unknown at the time (?). The CBC now has 118 years of data tracking winter bird populations on this continent. The CBC started out as a pleasant way to spend a winter afternoon and was never intended to be used as an analytical tool for tracking
winter bird populations. But today it is used for that very purpose and is now an important database for ornithologists and avian ecologists. I have recently noticed that the CBC is showing some interesting and important trends happening with winter bluebird populations and I will be discussing this with you soon.

In addition, there is a relatively new citizen science program, also from the National Audubon, called Climate Watch. This program uses survey data on bluebirds and nuthatches in an attempt to determine if changes in the climate are affecting bird populations and bird migration patterns. After only a few years Climate Watch already has some very interesting data on two of our bluebird species. But that is a topic for another day! To ward off confusion, Climate Watch (Audubon) is a completely different program from NestWatch (Cornell).

I will close for now with a few reminders. In this issue you will find the details on the NABS 2020 Conference on March 11–15, 2020, in Kearney, Nebraska. Please try to attend—as you can see from the program it will be a wonderful event with an unbeatable field trip attached.

The Summer issue of Bluebird always contains the ballot for the Board of Directors. Please participate in the election of your Society’s Board. Also please take note that the Annual meeting—open to all members of NABS—will be held on September 17, 2019, via conference call. We would really like members to login and participate.

Also please note in this issue a discussion of how the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies to our practice of bluebirding and nestbox trail management. It is good to review this topic periodically to remind our members that are limits to what we are allowed to do, under that law, on our trails each breeding season.

I hope the rest of the season presents ideal weather and plenty of insects where ever you are!

Bernie Daniel

---

**Tick Time**

With the onset of the summer bluebird breeding season (and the summer barbecuing season, and camping season, and farming season, and ...), it’s a good time to review the best practices for avoiding ticks. These tiny critters can induce serious health problems, so an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let’s be safe out there!

Good sources of information:
- Bet Zimmerman Smith’s article in the Spring 2018 issue of Bluebird
- Centers for Disease Control website: https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/index.html

In a nutshell, to prevent tick bites:
- Wear long-sleeved shirts tucked into pants and tuck the pant legs into your socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing so ticks show up.
- Use insect repellent on skin, shoes, and pants.
- As soon as you come home from tick-y areas, wash your clothes in hot water and dry on high heat; take a hot shower and check for ticks.
A house in our suburban neighborhood has a small Purple Martin housing unit in the backyard. In the 12 years that we’ve lived here, I’ve never seen a Purple Martin at that house, or anywhere else in town for that matter. The distribution maps show that we are (supposedly) within the breeding range of the western subspecies (*Progne subis arboricola*), which I know from research I did on them in the Colorado Rockies in the early 2000s. However, I also know that our arid Southwestern climate does not support a sizeable population of flying insects; thus, my neighbor’s efforts to attract martins is doomed. There’s an important lesson here in proper placement of a nestbox. As in all real estate matters, the three most important factors are location, location, location. Don’t put up a nestbox for species that don’t inhabit your area, or where key habitat components are missing. (Surprisingly, and happily, I’ve seen few House Sparrows using the martin house.) Maybe some day I’ll knock on my neighbor’s door and offer to take the house down.

My thanks to all of the writers and photographers who contributed material to this issue, and to the sponsors, advertisers, and Affiliates. As always, my thanks to you, the members of NABS, for your hard work and dedication to the conservation of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters.

Please send any letters, photos, articles, or ideas to me at NABSeditor@gmail.com or 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402.

**Officials of the North American Bluebird Society, Inc.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Committees (chairperson listed first)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
<td>Executive Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st VP for Affiliate Relations - Kevin Corwin (CO)</td>
<td>Facebook Committee - Linda Schamberger (NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd VP for Community Relations - Jim Burke (NC)</td>
<td>Finance Committee - Jim Engelbrecht (NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
<td>Grants Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer - Jim Engelbrecht (NY)</td>
<td>Development Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Education Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Brockway (MT)</td>
<td>Education Committee - John Schuster (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Burke (NC)</td>
<td>Education Committee - Chuck James (TN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vicki Butler (CA)</td>
<td>Education Committee - Allen Jackson (NJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Corwin (CO)</td>
<td>Awards Committee - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
<td>Awards Committee - Greg Beavers (IN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Engelbrecht (NY)</td>
<td>Awards Committee - Nancy Pearson (NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Fisher (MD)</td>
<td>Awards Committee - Bet Zimmerman Smith (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Jackson (NJ)</td>
<td>Awards Committee - Myrna Pearman (AB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck James (TN)</td>
<td>Nominating Committee - John Schuster (CA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
<td>Nominating Committee - Bet Zimmerman Smith (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler “Sky” Rector (GA)</td>
<td>Website Committee - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Schuster (CA)</td>
<td>Website Committee - Bet Zimmerman Smith (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bet Zimmerman Smith (CT)</td>
<td>Website Committee - Cherie Layton (NY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Del Straub (MT)</td>
<td>Bluebird Managing Editor - Scott W. Gillihan (NM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook Committee - Linda Schamberger (NY)</td>
<td>Facebook Committee - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Committee - Jim Engelbrecht (NY)</td>
<td>Facebook Committee - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
<td>Grants Committee - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
<td>Development Committee - Bet Zimmerman Smith (CT)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Committee - Bernie Daniel (OH)</td>
<td>Education Committee - Allen Jackson (NJ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Committee - Jim Burke (NC)</td>
<td>Membership Committee - Chuck James (TN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster - Cherie Layton (NY)</td>
<td>Webmaster - Kathy Kremnitzer (MD)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notice to NABS Members of the Annual Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 8:30 pm Eastern Daylight Saving Time

In compliance with Article XIX of the NABS Bylaws (Adopted September 4, 2018) members are hereby notified of the Board’s intention to hold the NABS Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held via teleconference call (this notice is also on the NABS website: www.nabluebirdsociety.org).

The NABS Board invites all current members to participate in the meeting via teleconference call on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 8:30 pm Eastern Standard Daylight Saving time.

The meeting will be called to order by NABS President Bernie Daniel and will proceed to the first order of business, which will be the announcement of the results of the annual election and then certification of those results by voice vote of the Board members on the call. Though unlikely to occur, a “roll call” vote will be used if necessary. (Note the results of the annual election are determined from a tally of the ballots that are inserted in this issue of Bluebird and which have been returned to NABS signed and postmarked before the close of the voting period August 15, 2019).

The second item of business will be a presentation of the NABS Financial Statement by NABS Treasurer Jim Engelbrecht. The financial statement is also published in this issue of Bluebird and on the NABS website. If any questions have been submitted to the Board before the meeting date Bernie will try to answer them. The Annual Meeting will then be adjourned.

How do I join the Annual Meeting?

To join the Annual Meeting teleconference call dial in to 712-770-4124 — this will start a recording, which will prompt you to enter the conference call code, which is 525322# (you must include the pound key) and you will be logged in to the call. Because there may be a large number of members calling in, it is suggested you begin to log in at around 8:20 pm (Eastern Daylight Saving time). The call will start at 8:30 p.m. sharp but you can still call in after the meeting has started as there is no lock out.

Members may submit questions (via mail, email, or telephone) by September 3, 2019 to Bernie (president@nabluebirdsociety.org) 513-300-8714, or to Kathy (NABS Treasurer) (secretary@nabluebirdsociety.org), or to any other NABS Board member.
Proposed Update to the September 4, 2018, Edition of the NABS Bylaws

In 2019 the NABS Zeleny Fund grew by over 50 percent due to an estate donation. This dramatic increase drew the Board’s attention to the remote possibility that sometime in the future there could come a time when NABS might merge with another 501(c)(3) organization, and the Board has voted to place language in Article VIII of our Bylaws to ensure that, if such a merger should ever occur, the assets in the Zeleny Fund will be securely limited to the purpose allowed in our current Bylaws (see Article X of the current NABS Bylaws).

Please note that NABS has no current plans for merger nor has any organization approached the NABS Board to discuss a merger.

A vote of the membership is required to allow us to implement this update. We ask you to review the proposed Bylaws change shown below. We will also be posting a copy of these changes on the NABS website before June 15th.

You can also review the current 2018 Bylaws document in its entirety on the NABS website by clicking on the “ABOUT NABS” entry at the top of the Home Page, then clicking on “LEGAL” in the drop-down menu that appears, then clicking on the “NABS BYLAWS” line on the Legal Information and Documents Page.

The vote on this update is a single line item on the Annual Election of Directors ballot that is included elsewhere in this issue of the journal.

We thank you in advance for your participation in this mundane but important vote.

The entirety of the proposed change is constituted in the inclusion of a reference to mergers in the title of Article VIII and the addition of Paragraph 2 to Article VIII of the current Bylaws.

The proposed revised Title of Article VIII reads as follows:

ARTICLE VIII – DISSOLUTION AND MERGERS

The proposed new Paragraph 2 of Article VIII reads as follows:

2. If the Board of Directors determines it necessary or prudent to merge NABS with another organization it shall first ensure that organization has purpose and mission statements similar to those of NABS and operates within the rules set forth in section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code. In addition, the Board shall ensure that language shall be incorporated into the bylaws of the merged organization clearly stating that the assets in the Zeleny fund shall be used strictly for the purposes designated in ARTICLE X, Paragraphs 8 – 9, of the current NABS Bylaws. The Board shall also give 90-day notice to the NABS membership of the proposed merger by publication in Bluebird and on the NABS website. After the 90-day notice has been satisfied the proposal shall be submitted for a vote by the current NABS membership in accordance with ARTICLE XVIII, Paragraphs 1 – 4, of the current NABS Bylaws.

Lots to Like on Facebook!
Great friends, great photos, great videos, and great information are all waiting for you on the NABS Facebook page. Stay connected with NABS members and other bluebird enthusiasts at www.facebook.com/NorthAmericanBluebirdSociety
A Message on NABS Increased April 2019 Funds

Please note that our current Asset Total of $299,556 as of April 30, 2019, is $69,448 over that of a year ago. This is mainly due to a bequest received in December 2018 of $55,035 from the estate of Joseph Kujanik. In honor of his contribution, NABS has set up the Joseph Kujanik Education Grants Program.

NABS endeavors to make our financial position readily available to our membership and the general public. We do this by publishing our year-end 990 reports on our website and providing the above update in our Summer Bluebird journal. The Financial Statements shown above will be discussed at our annual meeting on September 17, 2019 at 8:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving time.

North American Bluebird Society Statement of Financial Position as of April 30, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2018 NABS Spending Total $56,625</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bluebird Journal $25,609</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Education $10,904</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Research Grants $8,238</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Affiliates/Website $4,295</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Operations $7,579</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSETS**

Current Assets Checking/Savings

General Operating Accounts:

- Union Savings Bank $18,700
- Fidelity General Operations $66,305
- PayPal $605
- Community Bank $25,739

Total $111,349

Zeleny

- Union Savings Bank $4,135
- Zeleny Fidelity $184,071

Total $188,206

Checking/Savings Total $299,556

**ASSETS TOTAL** $299,556

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Permanently Restricted Net Assets $100,000

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $88,206

Unrestricted Net Assets $116,266

Net Income $4,916

Total Equity $299,556

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** $299,556
Notice to Members: NABS Director’s Election 2019

Per our by-laws NABS holds an annual election of our Board members. Our election runs from June 15 to August 15, 2019, and ballots can be submitted during that time.

**Who can vote?** Members in good standing as of May 15, 2019, shall be eligible to vote in the Annual Election. (NABS by-laws Article XVIII. 4)

**How to vote?** Please locate the two self-addressed postcards inserted in your Summer (this) issue of *Bluebird*. For an individual membership you are entitled to one vote (mail in one ballot). For a “family” membership you are allowed to mail in both ballots. To be counted your ballot must be signed, dated, and postmarked before August 15, 2019. Be sure to add the correct postage.

The Director nominations closed on May 15 and the following slate was submitted by Vicki Butler, NABS Nominations chair and approved by the Board of Directors. To comply with NABS by-laws, the slate is posted on the NABS website (by June 15) and printed in the Summer issue of *Bluebird*.

Short biographies of the four candidates (in alphabetical order) for the NABS Board of Directors (Class of 2022) are included below:

**Darrell Ashworth** lives in West Virginia. Darrell has been around bluebirds most of his life thanks to family and relatives that had bluebird boxes in their yards. He works for the US subsidiary of a global electrical solutions company that is based in Paris. His free time over the past couple of decades has been spent hiking in 20 states, fly-fishing, winning Kentucky’s Elk Hunt lottery, and helping his bluebirds to defend their box in his backyard. Some of his best birdwatching and life birds have come while standing knee-deep in a trout stream.

**Christine Boran** relishes retirement in a vintage farmhouse on pine acreage inside the Blue Ridge Highlands, southwest Virginia. It was here she discovered the first sight of a bluebird pair feeding hatchlings at an existing weathered nestbox. She installed a bluebird trail of 14 nestboxes in the community. Today, she monitors 50 nestboxes weekly, reporting records to the Virginia Bluebird Society and to Cornell NestWatch. She educates others on nestbox management and maintains certification with the Virginia Master Naturalists. She enjoys macro photography, weather monitoring & reporting, birding by ear, and hummingbirds. She serves the VBS on the Board of Directors and as a County Coordinator and is on the NABS Speakers Bureau.

**Stan Fisher** lives in Boyds, Maryland, and he monitors a trail at his home (Bluebird Hill Farm) as well as four other nearby trails. He is currently the president of the Maryland Bluebird Society. He actively assists others in his community on getting started with bluebirding by serving as a local resource for speaking and trail monitoring. Stan is a Charter as well as a Life member of NABS. In addition to serving as a NABS director, Stan is also as a member of the Grants Committee and co-chairs the Nestbox Committee.

**Joe Siegrist** lives with his family in Erie, Pennsylvania, and is President/CEO and directs research for the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Before focusing on martins, he conducted avian research for the University of Illinois and the Illinois Natural History Survey studying Acadian Flycatchers, Northern Bobwhite, and Neotropical migrants in general. In addition to conservation research, he has also worked as an educator teaching high school science, a zookeeper, a naturalist, and a stay-at-home parent. He has presented at both local and regional scientific conferences and frequently speaks at public events representing the Purple Martin Conservation Association. He is focused on engaging the younger generation and instilling in them an understanding of the need for conservation of both aerial insectivores and cavity nesters.

**NABS by-laws are found at:** [www.nabluebirdsociety.org/Board/boardofdirectors.htm](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/Board/boardofdirectors.htm)
Notice of the 2020 North American Bluebird Society Grants Program

NABS, Inc. is a nonprofit education, conservation, and research organization that promotes the recovery of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting bird species of North America. Accordingly, NABS sponsors an annual competitive grants program in support of that mission.

The NABS By-Laws mandate: 1) a Zeleny Fund wherein monies are put aside and are to be used only for the support of grants and, 2) that the Society can award grants in three areas: research, conservation, and education. A comprehensive description of the NABS grants is given on the Society’s website (http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/grants/). All three types of grants will be offered in 2020. Comprehensive guidance for applying for a NABS grant is on the website.

Larry Zeleny Research Grants
Grants for research projects are competitive and applications are invited via a Request for Proposals that is published annually on the NABS website as noted above (www.nabluebirdsociety.org/grants/). Research grants must be submitted by November 1, 2019, and awardees will be notified of their selection before February 1, 2020. Two kinds of research grants are recognized: 1) pure research grants, which examine some aspect of bluebird (or other native cavity-nesting species) biology, ecology, or life cycle (e.g., a study of nestbox parasites on chick health), or 2) applied research grants (e.g., finding more effective ways of defeating nestbox predators. The NABS Grants Committee evaluates the proposals and recommends those for funding.

Joseph Kujanik Education Grants
Support for ideas pertaining to the development of books, fact sheets, pamphlets, DVDs, or other video products, or other kinds of media that can serve the purpose of educating bluebirders and/or the public about bluebirds and bluebirding (as well as other native cavity-nesting species) can be submitted to NABS for consideration as an education grant. Education grants can be submitted at any time and they will be evaluated for award by the NABS Education Committee, which will give recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors.

Art Aylesworth Conservation Grants
Proposals that deal with broader-scale issues related to bluebird recovery might be candidates for a NABS conservation grant. For example, NABS recently participated in the funding of a three-year project to reintroduce Western Bluebirds to an area of North America where they had been extirpated. This and similar projects might be considered for a NABS conservation grant. Conservation grants can be submitted at any time and they will be evaluated by an ad hoc committee from the Board, which will give recommendations for funding to the Board of Directors.

Biking for Bluebirds
It’s too late for this year, but mark your calendar for next April’s “Mountain Bluebird Classic” bike ride in beautiful Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Riders can choose either a 30-mile course or, for the more hardy riders, a 70-mile course. There is no charge to enter, although riders are asked to make a donation, which goes to support the Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation’s bluebird banding program. Learn more at https://jhwildlife.org/our-work/nature-mapping/bluebird-nest-box-project/

Careful with the Power Tools
Speaking of fun bluebird-related activities, earlier this year the Elk County [Pennsylvania] Conservation District hosted a “Bluebird Box Craft & Sip” event. Think of it as a combination nestbox-building / wine-tasting event. Pairing wine-tasting with a hands-on creative activity has become very popular in a lot of circles, although this may be the only such affair that involves nestbox building. This might be a good way to recruit new volunteers to your organization!
Announcement and Instructions for NABS Research Grant Applications

Guidelines for the 2020 North American Bluebird Society (NABS) competitive research grants program are detailed below. To apply please submit a ten (10) page (maximum) proposal package including the items outlined below before November 1, 2019. Award notices will be issued by February 1, 2020. Questions about this RFP can be addressed to: bdaniel@cinci.rr.com.

1. Cover letter (this letter or email need not be included in the 10-page proposal limit).

2. Grant proposal (arranged with the following sections):
   A. Project Title
   B. Principal Investigator Information: Name, phone, email, mailing address, and the affiliation of the applicant. Student applicants please include a faculty advisor or institute official.
   C. Introduction: Background and supporting information or justification for the proposal.
   D. Project Motivation: The hypothesis or question(s) that this research project addresses. Very important, please explain how you think this research addresses the NABS mission.
   E. Research Protocol
      i. The cavity-nesting species of interest;
      ii. Methods (e.g., study design, quality assurance, power, & methods of analysis);
      iii. The study location(s);
      iv. Permits (assurance that required permits at state or federal levels are in place);
      v. Timeline (start/finish for field/lab work, analysis, and final report dates anticipated);
      vi. Literature Cited;
      vii. Detailed budget: please include other funding sources and the amount requested from NABS.

3. Letters of Support (2 for student applications, 1 for faculty applications).


IMPORTANT NOTES:
Proposals must be submitted before November 1, 2019, via email to: bdaniel@cinci.rr.com

All items should ideally be combined into a single Adobe (.pdf) document. A single MS Word (.doc or .docx) document is acceptable but note that most Word versions will save as .pdf. The PI’s last name should appear at the top right corner of each page, and each page should be numbered bottom center.

Please restrict the application to a maximum of ten pages (letters of recommendation can be short and pithy!).

Projects to build, maintain, or upgrade a bluebird trail are not eligible for NABS research grants unless they are being established for research purposes. In addition, assurances must be given that such trails will be adopted by a trail monitor, taken down, or inactivated after the research project has been completed.

Grant recipients are expected to submit a report to NABS summarizing the project results within 90–120 days after the completion of the project.

NABS’s mission and additional details are given on our website: http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/
A member of the South Carolina Bluebird Society called our President, Mike DeBruhl, in a panic. It seems she had two female bluebirds going at it “beak and claw”! The females were fighting on the ground, at the opening to the nestbox, and in the air. Mike rushed over and observed the females were not fighting—they were both trying to get inside their nestbox! Sure enough, inside the box were eight eggs, and each female was incubating her four eggs. One nest, two mothers, and eight babies all in a roughly 5” × 13” space! The landlord of the box reported one male was feeding both females! A follow-up happily reported all eight birds fledged!

Meanwhile, a little north of us a similar situation was occurring...a member of the Virginia Bluebird Society reported on her trail a nest of nine eggs with two females sitting side by side!

Eight eggs in South Carolina. Photo by Pat Young Dunlop of the South Carolina Bluebird Society. Pat lives in Aiken, SC.

Eight of the nine Virginia eggs hatched. Photos by Vickie Fuquay of the Virginia Bluebird Society. Vickie lives in Pittsylvania County, Danville, VA.

**Vehicle/Property Donation Program**

If you have a car, truck, motorcycle, RV, boat, or even an airplane that you no longer need, NABS would like to receive it as a tax-deductible charitable donation.

To donate, simply call this toll-free number: **866-244-8464**. Our agents will have your vehicle, boat, RV, etc. picked up and taken to a facility where it will be evaluated by experts. A determination will be made regarding what should be done to maximize its selling price, thereby resulting in significantly higher value than it might otherwise generate so you will receive the maximum tax benefit allowable by U.S. law. For tax purposes you, the donor, will receive a formal Certificate of Donation complying with all State and Federal requirements for authenticating your donation to NABS, an IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charity.

Thank you for supporting the conservation of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters!

www.nabluebirdsoociety.org
Always nice to see bluebirds nesting in natural cavities, especially Eastern Bluebirds, which are heavily reliant on nestboxes. Tom Murray found this male with a bright green caterpillar in Groton, Massachusetts. You can see more of Tom’s beautiful photos at https://www.flickr.com/photos/tmurray74/.

Who needs a big fat tree for a nest cavity? Not this Ash-throated Flycatcher. This species is the western counterpart to the East’s Great Crested Flycatcher. Photo by James Maughn: https://www.flickr.com/photos/jjmaughn/

For such a big and easy to spot bird, we’ve seen surprisingly few photos of Pileated Woodpeckers over the years. This fine photo was taken by Jen Goellnitz in North Ridgeville, Ohio. Jen’s photos are featured at https://www.flickr.com/photos/goellnitz/

A photographer who posts online under the name “jacksnipe1990” shared this family portrait, taken in California. His notes say that there was a fifth Western Bluebird fledgling just outside the frame. https://www.flickr.com/photos/47862125@N03/
Great selection, low price, and unbeatable quality.

Phone orders please call 800-222-3563. We accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express.

For additional information or to place an order through our website, please visit www.grubco.com. Buy from us with confidence!

Grubco’s bluebird feeders are available in two versions; cedar and recycled plastic. Keep any unwanted birds out. The holes are sized and located specifically for bluebirds. Whichever feeder you decide to use, you will join thousands of happy bluebird feeder users.
Join the Migration to Kearney, Nebraska

NABS Conference, March 11-15, 2020

What is the most impressive sight you’ve seen? If you’ve ever visited Kearney, Nebraska, in March, your answer might be viewing 80 percent of the world’s Sandhill Cranes converged upon one 80-mile stretch of land. Yes, that’s right — 500,000 cranes visit the central Platte River every spring to fuel up on grain from nearby cornfields in preparation for the long journey to their Arctic and sub-Arctic nesting grounds.

This epic migration of the cranes — a species that has existed since the Eocene 34 million years ago — represents one of the world’s great natural spectacles, luring more than 70,000 birdwatchers from every state in the union and 47 countries annually to the Kearney, Nebraska, area.

This picturesque landscape makes for the perfect backdrop to the North American Bluebird Society’s March 11-15, 2020, conference in Kearney. Hosted by Bluebirds Across Nebraska, attendees will enjoy crane viewing led by experienced staff and volunteers at the National Audubon Society’s Rowe Sanctuary to witness one of the great birding wonders of the world. Viewing blind trips are planned for the morning — when the cranes wake up and take off from the river sandbars — and evening — when they return to roost — so conference attendees are encouraged to experience both.

But spring in Nebraska isn’t just about the cranes. According to Smithsonian.com, 20 million other migrating birds belonging to about 300 species stop along the Platte, including 280 of the world’s remaining whooping cranes, 90 percent of white-fronted geese, thousands of endangered piping plovers, 30 percent of northern pintails, 50 percent of mallards, as well as bald eagles and about 2 million snow geese.

Attendees will have the option of seeing many of these during our birding field trip or to learn more about Nebraska through our Prairie Culture tour.
The birding field trip will include:
- Viewing Prairie Chickens through spotting scopes and binoculars.
- A visit to the Funk Lagoons rainwater basin to see waterfowl and other birds.
- A tour of Harlan Reservoir, which can feature waterfowl, eagles, snow geese and pelicans, depending on migration.
- A prairie dog village.

The Prairie Culture tour will include stops at:
- The G.W. Frank Museum of History & Culture (unk.edu/offices/frankhouse), one of the first electrified houses in the American West, it offers a window into Kearney’s past, its early rise and fall, and rebirth as a center for health and education.
- The Archway (archway.org), a museum that spans I-80 saluting the pioneers of the past.
- Museum of Nebraska Art (mna.unk.edu), which celebrates visual artwork that reflects the state’s culture.

Lunch for both field trips will be at Burchell’s White Hill Farmhouse Inn (burchellfarmhouseinn.com).

But wait, there’s more! Much more! The conference also includes workshops, educational exhibits, live and silent auctions, a raffle, vendors, and fun socializing with new and old birding friends. Dinners on Friday and Saturday will include a cash bar. In addition to Friday’s live auction, we’ll also be entertained by Al Batt (albatt.com), Minnesota writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist. On Saturday, awards will be presented by NABS and BAN, with entertainment presented by Ron Cisar of Omaha, Nebraska. His program, “Earth Music,” is a celebration of the Earth through song.

Our event speakers are sure to entertain and educate attendees. They include:
- Naturalist, wildlife photographer and field guide writer Stan Tekiela (naturesmart.com), who will present “Captivating Bluebirds.”
- Julie Zickefoose’s (juliezickefoose.com) talk will be based on her book, “Baby Birds: An Artist Looked Into the Nest.”
- In addition to providing Friday night’s entertainment, Al Batt will again lend his nature-related storytelling skills on Saturday.
- Bernie Daniel, NABS president, will discuss distribution and trends for the population of the three bluebird species based on data from the Breeding Bird Survey.
- Biologist, author, nature photographer and NABS Lifetime Achievement Award winner Myrna Pearman (myrnapearman.com) will educate attendees on her experience transforming Ellis Bird Farm into an internationally renowned conservation, education and research center.
- A representative of Rowe Sanctuary (rowe.audubon.org) will discuss the Sandhill Cranes’ annual migration.

The conference will occur at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 110 S. 2nd Ave., Kearney, NE, 308-237-5971. When calling for hotel reservations, attendees should mention they are with the NABS/BAN conference to receive their room discount.

More details and registration information will be available at nabluebirdsociety.org/conference or bbne.org as plans are finalized.
When we put up nestboxes and monitor our trails we are assisting in the reproduction of a wild bird species. Yes, “our” bluebirds are wild birds and no, they really are not ours! Smile! As a result our bluebird trail activities are actually covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) which makes it “…illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, … any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid Federal permit.” A lot of “legalese”! And yes again, all three species of bluebirds and all other cavity-nesting species we typically see (except House Sparrows and European Starlings) are covered under the MBTA.

So what does this really mean? It means that our bluebirding/trail monitoring actions are covered under the MBTA. However, regulating agencies at federal, state, and local levels generally grant some “exceptions” to our nestbox monitoring efforts because they realize that we are helping native cavity-nesting species. These officials know that without bluebirders we would have fewer native cavity-nesting birds—by far. That said, there are also limits to the exceptions that have been given to nestbox managers. We must be aware of these limits.

Most obvious is that it is not legal to remove or interfere with the nest of any other native bird species that chooses to use one of our “bluebird” nestboxes. Some bluebirders find the territorial and egg destructive habits of a House Wren to be less than endearing. Even so it is illegal to remove a wren nest with eggs (a false or dummy nest can be removed). The same applies to all other native bird species.

So we can monitor our nestboxes without a permit and have no concerns about violating any federal law. However, there are some things that we should not do unless we have permits (at both federal and state levels) to do them. It is important for all bluebirders to know about the MBTA and know exactly how it applies to the work we do on our trails.

Bill Abbey of the North Carolina Bluebird Society carefully researched this topic over a decade ago. In doing so he interviewed wildlife officials and then wrote an outstanding article on it. Bill’s article is from 2006 but essentially nothing has changed in this arena and his article is still as relevant and topical as when he wrote it. You can read his excellent discussion reprinted below. Please note carefully what we are allowed to do on our trails without a permit and what actually requires a permit to perform.

I make one final point. We all need to keep in mind that these exceptions that our bluebirding movement has been granted are not permanent or “in law.” These allowances could someday be withdrawn if the perception ever arose that bluebirders, as a group, are not following reasonable practices and acting prudently within the law. I believe that there is no danger that this perception exists today but we must always continue to be responsible and work within the freedoms we have been granted.

Please read Bill Abbey’s careful explanation of the MBTA as it applies to nestbox trail management.

Stimulated by Myrna Pearman’s article, “It’s the Law”, (Bluebird, Winter 2006) some North Carolina bluebird monitors initially reacted with dismay—”WHAT!? A government agency wants me to get a permit to monitor my own bluebirds?? Not in this life, Pal!” Well closer, less emotional reading of the article suggested that the government does not intend to interfere with your reasonable monitoring activities; this is just logical management in the interests of all native migratory birds. In order to achieve a better understanding of permitting regulations at the Federal level, various telephone calls to the Fish and Wildlife Service were made. Discussions, both up and down the chain netted the following:

1. As a bluebird nestbox monitor you may proceed, WITHOUT PERMIT, to monitor your nestboxes. Activities include, “Open, close, remove and replace contaminated nest material, remove infertile, damaged or abandoned eggs, remove dead birds and other salvage needs.”

2. If, however, you wish to “take, keep, use or display” nests—with or without eggs—fertile or otherwise, you must have and exhibit a Federal permit Special Purpose – Possession of Dead Specimens Migratory Birds.
3. Should circumstances suggest that you wish to “rescue, rehabilitate, keep or display abandoned or discarded, injured or ill migratory birds” you must have and show a Special Purpose – Possession Permit Live Birds. (Exception: Any person who finds a sick, injured or orphaned migratory bird may, without permit, take possession of the bird in order to immediately transport it to a permitted rehabilitator”).¹

Without such Federal permit, as only briefly summarized herein, for instance a bluebird monitor using a bluebird nest with or without eggs in a fourth-grade classroom conservation demonstration would be in violation. A bluebirder who found a nest of indisputably abandoned baby bluebirds and took them home to shelter, feed, raise, and release would be in violation of Federal Law.¹

At the North Carolina State level, regulations are quite similar. Telephone conversations with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission provided more local advice. For “monitoring activities, including nest removal to repair or replace material for cause” as well as, “removal of damaged or destroyed eggs or dead young” NO PERMIT is required.²

It appears that, for the most part, existing Federal and State regulations have little or no effect on our basic nestbox monitoring and record keeping activities. A review of the regulations suggests no need to change accepted monitoring procedures. Routine maintenance of boxes is unaffected. No new government regulation of any level is anticipated.

Reference to the taking and keeping of inanimate material or live birds is clear. If any reader feels uncertain about their particular situation or case...see the reference below and make the call.

Note 1: For applicants with special circumstances and unusual case issues, the permitting process anticipates exceptions for unique situations which, when explained, can be allowed by the permit-issuing agent.

Note 2: Lest there be some argument fostered by the use of the term “Migratory Bird”, 50 CFR 10.13 List of Migratory birds, includes all three species of bluebirds among the 20 pages of protected birds.

Citations:
² Dan Barnes, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh (919-707-0061).

This article first appeared in the North Carolina Bluebird Society newsletter, Bluebird Notes (vol.21, no. 2) in 2006 and is reprinted here with permission.

---

**Bluebirds Everywhere**

“Bluebirds Everywhere” is a feature that celebrates the widespread and creative uses of bluebird images and the word “bluebird” itself. We invite you to submit your own images and ideas—simply email them to NABSEditor@gmail.com or mail them to NABS Editor, 5405 Villa View Dr., Farmington, NM 87402. Let’s see what bluebirds you can find!

If you’re into tattoos, and you’re in Portage, Indiana, you should stop by Bluebird Tattoo and get a tat. But more than just an amazing ink shop with a great name, Bluebird Tattoo partners with the American Red Cross to host an annual blood drive. You can learn more about donating blood, and see some of their handiwork, at https://www.bluebirdtattoo.com/
There is a vital and reciprocal relationship between bluebirds and the people who care about them. Indeed, the key to the recovery of bluebird populations is the continuous involvement of volunteers who construct, monitor, and maintain bluebird nestboxes. Given the importance of these volunteers, our team of researchers at the University of Alberta investigated the demographics, motivations, benefits, turnover, and recruitment of bluebirders. We surveyed participants attending the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) conference at Ellis Bird Farm near Lacombe Alberta in 2016 to understand and analyze the health, motivations, and long-term prospects of the bluebirder population.

Demographically, we found that bluebirders were older, wealthier, more educated, and slightly more rural than average populations in Canada and the USA. The average age of respondents was 68.3 years, significantly higher than the average age of populations in Canada (40.6) and the USA (37.3). Bluebirders realized that they will have to “retire” eventually from their bluebird trails, most commonly due to poor mobility, poor health, and getting older. Amazingly, 8% of respondents stated only death (they are very dedicated!) would stop them. As a result, new bluebirders are needed to ensure the future of bluebirding networks and trails, as trail managers are crucial for the health of bluebird populations.

We documented that bluebirders are highly committed to their trails. On average, respondents spent 35 days and $529 (Canadian) annually on their trail, while managing an average of 119 nestboxes each. Bluebirders also commonly provide bluebird education, volunteer for bluebird organizations, and donate money to conservation projects.

Why are bluebirders so committed? To answer this question, we asked respondents for their motivations for managing a bluebird trail and how they personally benefited. The most common motivations included conservation of bluebirds, experiencing nature, and seeing bluebirds. Keep in mind, motivations could have changed over the 18 years most bluebirders have been managing their trail. Perceived benefits of trail management included positive impacts on health and physical activity, enjoyment, and experiencing nature. Notably, motivations and benefits are not directly connected but do have some overlap, and both must be understood in order to adequately plan for the future of bluebird trails.

The primary concern exposed by this study is the advancing age and impending retirement of volunteers and, by extension, the future of bluebird networks and trails. Transitioning bluebird trails to new volunteers is essential. However, there is little guidance or planning to assist bluebirders in this transition. Respondents reported that communicating with bluebirding organizations was not an efficient or effective means to find new trail managers, and many feared what would happen to their trail upon retirement, with some witnessing trails being abandoned already. Individually, some bluebirders have tried to recruit and train a replacement using various methods, including recruiting from nature organizations, family members, tours, promotions, or friends. However, the majority of participants did not have a replacement or a plan for recruiting one. This lack of preparation for the impending turnover is a significant concern for bluebirds as it could result in many trails being abandoned.

Given this dire assessment, where do we go from here? Bluebird trails are going to need new managers sooner rather than later. One path of action is creating and sharing recruitment plans through bluebirder networks. For recruitment plans to be successful, they should appeal to the motivations of volunteers, target new demographics, and increase communication and connection. As noted, the fundamental motivations of bluebirders were conservation and experiencing nature; therefore, using these motivations to draw in new volunteers will likely result in increased interest and retention of new bluebird trail managers.

The main barriers to volunteerism include lack of time, lack of awareness, and cost. Current bluebirders may be relatively wealthy, reducing one barrier, but even with many finished with full-time employment, even the highly motivated bluebirders cited time as their biggest constraint. If the most committed bluebirders find that time spent managing their trail is a constraint, it will be challenging to attract new managers who may have even less time.
In order to diversify bluebird volunteers, these constraints could be minimized by allowing for varying commitment levels, including collaborative trails, shorter routes, or stronger organizational support. New trail managers could be paired with current bluebirders for training and mentoring, which, as past studies have shown, helps retain volunteers. With high levels of education (23% of bluebirders have a graduate degree and 27% have a bachelor’s degree), recruitment efforts to this group should include explanations and justification before new behaviors, like trail management, will be adopted. These strategies should begin at the organizational level, support current trail managers in their transition, involve updated communication, and social interaction among bluebirders. Of course, new recruits need to know about available opportunities for managing existing bluebird trails. As bluebirders maintain nesting boxes for bluebirds, so too do bluebirds bring joy, fulfillment, satisfaction, and health benefits to bluebirders. This reciprocal relationship could be stressed to entice future volunteers.

A key part of moving forward is the education and involvement of young people. Outreach and partnerships involving schools, outdoors clubs, nature clubs, and universities, are essential to involving young people and increasing their knowledge and passion for nature. Recruiting the next generation of bluebirders could address their potentially unique motivations, such as an opportunity to engage with new technology, competition, learning, and supporting the public good. Importantly, no two volunteers are the same and organizations need to have diverse and flexible recruitment options in order to ensure a future volunteer network of bluebirders.

Overall, this study showed that bluebirders are all highly committed, and most often older, wealthier, highly educated, and rural. There is a concerning and impending turnover of these volunteers as current bluebird trail managers age. Currently, there is a lack of direction to deal with this turnover, but bluebirder decline is not inevitable! Given the critical role nestboxes play in supporting bluebird populations and the critical role bluebirds play in supporting nestboxes, current trail managers and bluebird organizations need plans to ensure the future of bluebirders, and by extension, bluebirds. These plans need to include diversifying volunteers, increasing communication and advertising, and involving young people. The bluebirds cannot afford inaction.

This article is based on a longer article published in the scholarly journal, Human Dimensions of Wildlife (vol. 24, no. 3, pp. 250–266).

Glen Hvenegaard is a professor of Environmental Science at the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus. His research investigates human interactions with nature, with a focus on environmental interpretation, citizen science, park recreation, ecotourism, and wildlife conservation.

Robyn Perkins is Bander-in-Charge at the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, Alberta. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus.

Garrett Rawleigh is a research assistant for Glen’s project on the effectiveness of park interpretation. He holds a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of Alberta - Augustana Campus.
Please Help with this Survey

How do individual attributes predict bird conservation behaviors among birders in the United States? There is a serious disconnect between birder interests, needs for bird conservation, and public policies for bird conservation in the United States. An estimated 45 million Americans feed and/or watch birds. At the same time, 233 species of birds (22% of all native species) need conservation action. To better respond to evolving public values and bird conservation needs, it is necessary to gain a better understanding of birders. Through my PhD research survey, I’m interested in discovering the link between the attributes of individual birders and the type of bird conservation action they take. Results will be used to improve public policies for bird conservation. Ignore any questions that make you uncomfortable or that you do not wish to answer; no personally identifiable information is being collected. I am inviting members of NABS to complete this online survey if you wish to do so. Here is the URL to my survey:

https://tinyurl.com/yypuur4k
(https://boisestate.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dmwJXVkEWZb8JUN )

Thank you,
Terrell D. Rich
Department of Administration and Public Policy
Boise State University
terrellrich@u.boisestate.edu
208-867-5112

Nest box sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$17</td>
<td>Gilwood Bluebird (All Cedar)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Troyer Bluebird (All Cedar)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$18</td>
<td>NABS-style Eastern/Western/Mountain Bluebird Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13</td>
<td>PVC Bluebird Sparrow-resistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13</td>
<td>PVC Chickadee 1 1/8&quot; hole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20</td>
<td>Barnwood Chickadee 1 1/8&quot; hole &amp; wood-burned chickadee on door</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30</td>
<td>Mealworm Feeder All cedar with treated roof, lift-up side allows easy access</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All boxes come with roofs unattached. Gilwood, Troyer, NABS-style and PVC boxes come with roofs treated with product to increase longevity. Gilwood, Troyer and PVC boxes built to mount with Gilbertson conduit rebar system.

Offered by Bluebirds Across Nebraska

Visit bbne.org to order boxes; printable order form may be downloaded.

Order form available upon request, contact Steve Eno at 402-783-3011.

Shipping not included in price.

One free box with every 10 ordered.

BAN will be hosting NABS 2020 conference in Kearney, Nebraska, March 11-15. Anyone purchasing or renewing a NABS membership at the conference will receive one free bluebird box or kit.
One of our biggest challenges presented in the NABS mission of promoting the recovery of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds is garnering an understanding of how populations of these birds are changing in time and space across the continent. In this article I would like to propose a method of using the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) to systematically evaluate how bluebirds are faring, e.g., are their populations increasing over time and across their range or is something else going on?

Readers of this journal will recall that last year I wrote a series of articles on the “status” (i.e., the abundance, population trends, and the distributions) of the three bluebird species over their current breeding season ranges. These articles were based on the results from the BBS, which is conducted by the US Geological Survey each spring. Based on BBS data, we noted previously that Eastern Bluebirds (EABL) are observed on about 2,131 (i.e., 56%) of the BBS survey routes each spring across the continent (See Figure 1). These routes with EABL are located in 43 states and provinces.

As you may recall from the earlier articles, the BBS is a scientifically designed survey with specified protocol and is designed to accurately estimate the numbers of breeding birds that can be detected on about 3,800 designated, 25-mile routes in North America (NA). The surveys are conducted on these same routes at approximately the same time each year and thus they are useful for monitoring bird population trends over time.

The data collected from the yearly BBS surveys can be used to evaluate the status of EABL and to compare its current standing with past years. Figure 2 provides a plot of the average number of bluebirds observed on the BBS routes from 1966 (the year the BBS started) to 2015 (the last year data have been published). The plot in Figure 2 shows that the EABL population has increased steadily across NA over the first 40 years of the BBS survey. However, the growth rate appears to be decreasing over the last 15 years compared to the prior two (1980–2000) decades.

More detail on the EABL population growth can be seen in Table 1, which shows that the calculated population trend for EABL across the entire range (i.e., all of NA) is only about 0.1% per year since 2005. In addition, the EABL population trend in the

---

**Figure 1.** Starting locations of 3,800 BBS routes that are surveyed each June. The blue dots show the location of the 2,131 routes where EABL are typically observed. The green dots are those routes not in the EABL breeding range. The BBS is conducted every year at the designated locations and following a strict scientific protocol. The reader can consult earlier articles for a detailed description of the BBS protocol. The map was composed using Simple GIS client software.

**Figure 2.** Scatterplot showing the population index versus time for EABL over all the years of the BBS (1966–2015). The population index is a relative measure of abundance or the average number of EABL observed at all routes for the year indicated. The red and green lines show the calculated slope of the plot over two time periods: green = 1980–2000, and red = 2000–2015. The slope of the green line is approximately 3 times that of the red line, which appears to indicate that EABL population growth has slowed according to the BBS.
United States (US), which holds approximately 95% of the EABL continental population, is even lower—only 0.07% per year. Both of these growth rates are probably indistinguishable from zero. This means it is possible that EABL population growth in the US has actually stopped over the last decade. The possible reasons for this slowdown were discussed in detail in the previous paper on EABL (Bluebird, Summer issue 2018) and will not be dealt with herein. In contrast to the US, the EABL population in Canada (which holds approximately 5% of the total population) is presenting a strong growth rate of about 4% per year.

Table 1 presents the two basic quantitative measures of population status computed from the BBS, which are:

1. **Abundance** – this is the density birds per unit area and it is reported as the average number of EABL per route (calculated as the sum of birds found on all of the routes surveyed in a year divided by the number of routes counted in that year).

2. **Trend** (population trend) – the trends indicate how the EABL population across the area of the survey (in Table 1 the two countries or the continent) is changing—i.e., if it is increasing or decreasing from year to year. These results are reported as percent change (either increasing for positive change or decreasing for negative change).

Taken together these two parameters help us to make a critical assessment of the EABL status in any area for which we have the data. The abundance is a measure of the population size and the trend tells us whether that population (regardless of size) is growing or decreasing. Obviously, the ideal situation would be a large population (high abundance) of EABL that is growing over time (i.e., has a positive growth trend).

The BBS also reports these same population measures (i.e., abundance and trend) for smaller areas or sub-regions within the counties. Thus, Table 2 presents the trends and abundances for the EABL, broken out by the 43 state/provinces where it is detected in the BBS surveys, and for the period in question (i.e., 2005 to 2015).

In Table 2 the various states/provinces are arranged in order of abundance, highest to lowest. That is states like Missouri and Kentucky, at the center of the EABL range, with an average of 14–15 birds per route are at the head of the table and states like Colorado and Wyoming at the far edge of the EABL range, which average 0.01 EABL per route, are at the end of the table. The table also lists the number of BBS routes that are counted in each state/province every year. The number of routes counted is also important information because it is the factor that determines the quality of the data. Some states/provinces with fewer routes or lower populations of EABL result in abundance and trends of lower statistical significance.

The same data from Table 2 is displayed spatially in the two maps (Figures 3 and 4). The map in Figure 3 shows the EABL abundance in each state/province. The green-colored states indicate those with higher bird densities (abundance) and red shows areas with lower densities. Displaying data on a map allows one to more readily visualize spatial patterns not obvious in the table. For example, looking at the map in Figure 3 it is clear that the areas with the highest EABL abundance are in the southeast sector of the US. Based on estimates from the Cornell University eBird program it appears that 15 states including the Atlantic and Gulf Coast states along with Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas hold approximately 60% of the continental EABL population. Accordingly, these 15 states make

---

**Table I. BBS population statistics for EABL populations by region 2005–2015.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region surveyed</th>
<th>Number of routes</th>
<th>2005 to 2015 trend (%)</th>
<th>2005 to 2015 confidence interval</th>
<th>Average number of EABL per route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North America***</td>
<td>2,535</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>-0.40 to 0.67</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States***</td>
<td>2,295</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>-0.49 to 0.63</td>
<td>4.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada**</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>4.06</td>
<td>-4.53 to 8.72</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Indicates that trend estimates for that region are compromised by either fewer routes and lower route densities, or relatively smaller numbers of birds and therefore exhibit relatively larger confidence intervals compared to estimates for regions marked by **. The confidence interval is the range in which we are 95% certain that the real trend lies.
up the majority of the green-coded, high-abundance areas on the map (Figure 3).

Likewise, 6 of the 7 Midwestern states, which hold an additional 18% of the continental EABL populations (as per eBird), are also green coded. Taken separately this abundance map looks gratifying overall and could be described as the “expected” pattern for EABL distribution across its NA range.

However, looking at the map of EABL population trends (Figure 4) in the same 43 states/provinces one sees a less encouraging picture. Fortunately, most of the high-abundance Southeastern block states all are all coded green, i.e., showing a positive EABL population growth trend. However three of those states (Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky) are coded red meaning they have a strong negative trend, i.e., decreasing EABL populations. Two other states in the region, Arkansas and Oklahoma, are coded yellow indicating that they are most likely have stable (neither growing or declining) populations. Equally unfortunate, six of the seven Midwestern states also have negative population trends (i.e., coded red or yellow; also cf. Table 2). In summary, a large section of the continent that lies in the “heart” of the traditional EABL range appears to be losing birds each year according to the data from the BBS surveys.

Interpreting the relationship between EABL population abundance and trends can present a confusing picture on first observation. For example,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Province</th>
<th>Total routes</th>
<th>2005 to 2015 trend (%)</th>
<th>EABL per route</th>
<th>State/Province</th>
<th>Total routes</th>
<th>2005 to 2015 trend (%)</th>
<th>EABL per route</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri***</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>–2.67</td>
<td>14.97</td>
<td>Michigan***</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>–1.86</td>
<td>1.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky***</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>–10.18</td>
<td>14.38</td>
<td>Delaware**</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5.77</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee***</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>–3.04</td>
<td>14.37</td>
<td>Minnesota***</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>–0.56</td>
<td>1.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma***</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>10.17</td>
<td>New York***</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>1.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina***</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2.02</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>Vermont**</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>–0.14</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alabama***</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>Connecticut**</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina***</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.28</td>
<td>9.43</td>
<td>Iowa**</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1.37</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia***</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>2.42</td>
<td>8.98</td>
<td>New Hampshire**</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia***</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>8.49</td>
<td>Nebraska**</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas***</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>–0.22</td>
<td>7.62</td>
<td>New Jersey**</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6.97</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia***</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>Manitoba**</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi***</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>Maine**</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana***</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>–4.96</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>Massachusetts**</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3.39</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio***</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>Arizona*</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>–2.9</td>
<td>0.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland***</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>South Dakota**</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas***</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1.73</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>Ontario**</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>0.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas***</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>North Dakota**</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5.88</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin***</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>–2.16</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>Quebec*</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>8.23</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisiana***</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>New Brunswick*</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>7.89</td>
<td>0.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois***</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>–7.62</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>Colorado*</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>–1.39</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania***</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>3.92</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>Wyoming*</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.29</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida***</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Regions where data are reliable, i.e., >14 routes in region where birds are seen with good precision and abundance;
**Regions with data of less reliability with either <1 bird per route, <14 routes with good precision and abundance, or >3% change per year; *Regions with data of least reliability with either <0.1 bird per route, <5 routes with good precision and abundance, or >5% change per year. Population trends shown in red are those regions with negative trends. Abundance figures in green are those regions averaging >5 birds/route. State names in blue are the members of the 15 Southeastern states, which hold about 60% of the continental EABL population.
there are states with good abundance (e.g., averaging >5 birds per route) and a positive growth trend (e.g., North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama) and this is clearly the ideal situation and would result in increasing numbers of EABL in that region.

At the other extreme would be states with fair or low abundance (e.g., averaging <5 birds per route) and a negative population trend. This situation obviously would eventually lead to the extirpation of EABL from that region. Between these two extremes are states/provinces with high abundance and negative population trend and those with low abundance and positive population trend. Thus, it would be useful to have some way to rationalize this information (abundance and trends) into a format that would let one estimate whether the status of the whole EABL population (continent wide) is improving, degrading, or static over time.

In searching for such a tool I came up with a model that I am calling the Bluebird Population Index (BPI), which is created using the BBS data to divide the 43 states/provinces with EABL (Table 2) into four groups: (1) those with good abundance (>5 birds per route) and a positive growth trend; (2) those with fair/poor abundance (<5 birds per route) and positive growth; (3) those with good abundance and negative population trend; and finally (4) those with fair/poor abundance and negative growth. Doing this creates the BPI diagram shown in Figure 5.

The upper left hand box (coded dark green) represents the “ideal” situation of high abundance and positive growth; there are 8/43 states (19%) in this category. “Ideal” status is clearly the best situation and is good to find that seven of the Southeastern states (plus West Virginia) are in this category.

At the next level are states that are considered to be in “acceptable” status, i.e., having fair/poor abundance but showing positive growth (color coded light green on the upper right of the BPI). In this category are 23/43 (53%) of the states/provinces. It is reasonable to expect that over time states that remain in the “acceptable” status could be moved to the “ideal” status because the positive population growth trends would lead to higher abundances.

The lower left hand box (coded yellow) is labeled “undesirable” status. States/provinces that are this status are characterized with good abundance but negative population growth. There are currently only 4/43 states (9%) in this “undesirable” status. However all four of them, Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky, are in the Southeast sector, the “heart” of the EABL breeding range, and are thus important
for maintaining the continental population. I believe that this observation is a matter of some concern. Logically, any state/province, even one with a good EABL abundance (like these states), would experience declines in total population over time if it continues to experience a negative growth. Thus, states in the “undesirable” status would drop to the level of the “unsustainable” (Figure 5, red box, lower right) were these negative population trends not reversed.

The final box on the lower right is coded red and labeled “unsustainable,” i.e., an area with a low abundance and a negative growth that would likely lead, over time, to extirpation of EABL from that region. Currently 8/43 states (19%) are ranked in this status. The “unsustainable” status is clearly the least desirable possibility. Some of the states in this block are states at the edge of the EABL range (e.g., Arizona, Colorado, Vermont). These regions have less than 1% of the total EABL population and are not central to maintaining the species. However, much more troubling is the observation that five Midwest states that are critical to maintaining the continental EABL population, e.g., Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, are in this category of “unsustainable.” We need to confirm that this is the actual situation in these states and if so understand what is causing it.

Hopefully the BPI ranking scheme will be useful in tracking the progress of the EABL population and comparing one period of time with another. For example when the BBS scientists release the new BBS statistics for the 2010–2020 and 2015–2025 periods it will be possible to repopulate the boxes shown in Figure 5 with the newer data to determine if the population status of important EABL-producing states/provinces have improved and moved to a more favorable status or dropped to a less favorable one. Hopefully, the BPI might also be useful to the NABS Affiliate organizations and permit them to follow bluebird population changes in their own states/provinces.

References

Disclaimer. This presentation notes that Eastern Bluebird population trends vary markedly from state to state on the bird’s continental range. First, it should be pointed out here that these trends are in no way a reflection on the efforts of bluebirders or the bluebirding organizations (e.g., Affiliates) in these individual states/provinces. Almost certainly these observed variations in EABL population trends are due to a combination of environmental factors such as food availability, land use/habitat changes, weather patterns, House Sparrows, and/or other factors. NABS and all of the Affiliates must work together to find out what these mitigating factors are and decide how we address these issues as they arise in one area or another. Second, my designation of routes averaging <5 birds per route as “fair/poor” abundance and >5 birds per route as “high” abundance was arbitrary. It seem logical to me based on all of the data I reviewed, but it could certainly be debated.

Membership Renewal
Is this your last Journal? Please check your mailing label for membership expiration date.
If renewing through PayPal, remember you can use either your credit card or your PayPal account.
The transplant are a shovel and a tamping bar. Soon the trees, though clearly dead, appear natural and look as though they had been there all along.

We also bring in old decaying logs and strew them around. In short we work to make the land appear wild. We still do a good bit of mowing, weaving in and out among the stakes because the robins, Killdeer, and, of course, the bluebirds prefer the cropped lawns and fields. The whole effect is rugged and natural with a dash of something special in those stakes.

Adapted from a slightly longer article published in the Summer 1980 issue of Sialia, which was the former name of Bluebird. The author was Tom Betts of Indiana, Pennsylvania. The artwork was by Suzanne Pennell Turner, who served as the journal’s Art Editor.
Insect Populations Face Catastrophic Collapse

University of Sydney

A research review into the decline of insect populations has revealed a catastrophic threat exists to 40% of species over the next 100 years, with butterflies, moths, dragonflies, bees, and ants most at risk.

Authors of the review, Dr. Francisco Sánchez-Bayo of the University of Sydney and Dr. Kris Wyckhuys of the University of Queensland, said that habitat loss from intensive agriculture alongside agro-chemical pollutants, invasive species, and climate change are the drivers behind the collapse in insect populations.

Their study, published recently in the scholarly journal Biological Conservation, involved a comprehensive review of 73 historical reports of insect declines from across the globe, systematically assessing the underlying drivers of the population declines.

“But because insects constitute the world’s most abundant animal group and provide critical services within ecosystems, such an event cannot be ignored and should prompt decisive action to avert a catastrophic collapse of nature’s ecosystems,” the report said.

Dr. Sánchez-Bayo said, “We are not alarmists, we are realists. We are experiencing the sixth mass extinction on Earth. If we destroy the basis of the ecosystem, which are the insects, then we destroy all the other animals that rely on them for a food source. It will collapse altogether and that’s why we think it’s not dramatic, it’s a reality.”

To address this threat to insects, humanity needs to rethink “current agricultural practices, in particular a serious reduction in pesticide usage and its substitution with more sustainable, ecologically based practices.”

Dr. Sánchez-Bayo said this is urgently needed to slow or reverse these current trends to “allow the recovering of declining insect populations and safeguard the vital ecosystem services they provide.”

Remembering Bill Thompson III

Bet Zimmerman Smith

The birds have lost another champion. On March 25, 2019, Bill Thompson III succumbed to pancreatic cancer. He was 57 years old.

Bill’s obituary noted that his first word may have been “junco.” At the tender age of 6, he had already sighted a Snowy Owl. Of course he met his naturalist/artist wife Julie Zickefoose at the World Series of Birding, and they named their first daughter Phoebe. Their house in Whipple, Ohio, has a birding tower on top of it so they could always keep an eye out.

But Bill was not “just” a birder—he was also a musician, philosopher, and author. In 1978, his family launched the hobbyist magazine Bird Watcher’s Digest. Two decades later, Bill joined the team, keeping his parents’ vision alive. He and his brother Andy worked together to put out a best-selling Backyard Booklet Series with sixteen titles. Bill wrote a number of other birdy books, including The New Birder’s Guide to Birds of North America; Identify Yourself; Bird Homes and Habitats; Identifying and Feeding Birds; Bird Watching for Dummies; and also edited All Things Reconsidered: My Birding Adventures by Roger Tory Peterson. His appropriately titled blog, Bill of the Birds, was succeeded by the popular birding podcasts This Birding Life and Out There with the Birds. In between, he traveled the world, visiting 25 countries and 44 states, logging at least 673 birds on his North American Life List.

After learning of his diagnosis, Bill blogged that “I am not scared of dying, but I am scared of leaving so much undone,” despite having already accomplished more than most. One of his many gifts to the future was encouraging young people to take up birdwatching. He opened the eyes of so many to nature. A friend noted Bill was an “immense and shining source of fun, joy and knowledge.”

Those who wish to remember the “Pied Piper of Birding” can make donations to the Bill Thompson Youth Birding Trust of the Marietta Community Foundation (mcfohio.org).
Large mealworms now available!

15% Discount for All NABS Members

Free Brochure on Request
1-800-318-2611 • FAX (513) 738-4667
info@thenaturesway.com
P.O. Box 188, Ross, OH 45061-0188
www.thenaturesway.com

“Feeding live insects to the wild birds in my yard has helped me build a special bond with individual birds.”
—Julie Zickefoose
An important part of our effort to increase and improve our communications with the Affiliates is to ensure you know who your Regional Representatives are and how to contact us. Listed below are all the NABS Regional Representatives with our NABS email addresses, and the Affiliate organizations each of us is assigned to support. Although we expect to communicate primarily with the person named in each of the Affiliate listings on the last pages of this journal, we welcome the opportunity to correspond with any Board Members or Officers of the Affiliates. These assignments are effective as of June 1, 2018.

Jim Burke: jburke@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Bluebird Hollow Farm (GA)
- Bluebird Recovery Program (MN)
- Bluebirds Across Nebraska
- Bluebirds of Iowa Restoration
- Florida Bluebird Society
- Iowa Bluebird Conservationists
- Johnson County Songbird Project (IA)
- Michigan Bluebird Society
- Missouri Bluebird Society
- North Carolina Bluebird Society
- Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society
- South Carolina Bluebird Society
- Tampa Audubon Society (FL)
- Tennessee Bluebird Society

Bernie Daniel: bdaniel@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Bluebird Team SMG (IN)
- Bond County Bluebird Society (IL)
- Brown County Bluebird Club (IN)
- East Central Illinois Bluebird Society
- Hendricks County Bluebird Society (IN)
- Indiana Bluebird Society
- Kentucky Bluebird Society
- Michigan Audubon Society
- Northwest Illinois Bluebird Recovery Program
- Ohio Bluebird Society
- Sand Bluff Bird Observatory (IL)
- Southern Illinois Audubon Society

Kathy Kremnitzer: KathyK@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
- Bermuda Bluebird Society
- Maryland Bluebird Society
- Mid-Coast Audubon Society (ME)
- New Jersey Bluebird Society
- Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (VA)
- Potomac Valley Audubon Society (WV)
- Virginia Bluebird Society

Vicki Butler: vbutler@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Bluebird Restoration Assn of Wisconsin
- California Bluebird Recovery Program
- Lafayette County Bluebird Society (WI)
- Southern California Bluebird Club

Kevin Corwin: KCorwin@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Bella Vista Bluebird Society (AR)
- Bring Back the Bluebirds Project (BC)
- Colorado Bluebird Project
- Friends of the Bluebirds (MB)
- Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation (WY)
- Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society
- Oklahoma Bluebird Society
- Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Soc’y (BC)
- Texas Bluebird Society
- Tucson Audubon Society (AZ)

Jim Engelbrecht: jime@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
- Bronx River - Sound Shore Audubon Soc’y (NY)
- Michael Kushid Natural History Preserve (NY)
- New York State Bluebird Society
- Orleans Bluebird Society (NY)
- Purple Martin Conservation Association (PA)

Jane Brockway: janebrockway@nabluebirdssociety.org
- Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors (AB)
- Ellis Bird Farm, Ltd (AB)
- Golden Eagle Audubon Society (ID)
- Montana Bluebird Trails
- Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Soc’y (AB)
- Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project (OR)
- Rocky Mountain Blues (ID)
Affiliates of the North American Bluebird Society

The North American Bluebird Society serves as a clearinghouse for ideas, research, management, and education on behalf of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting species. NABS invites all state, provincial, and regional bluebird organizations to become NABS Affiliates in a confederation of equals working together in a partnership in international bluebird conservation. No cost is associated with affiliating with NABS. Your affiliated organization will be listed on the NABS website and in Bluebird. To find out more about becoming a NABS Affiliate please contact Kevin Corwin at KCorwin@nabluebirdsociety.org. If your organization is listed below, please review your listing to ensure it is current and send any changes to Kevin.

Thanks!

**Alberta**

Calgary Area Nestbox Monitors
Ron Reist
5720 59th Ave.
Olds, AB T4H 1K3 - CANADA
403-994-1155; rreist56@gmail.com

Ellis Bird Farm, Ltd.
Myrna Pearman
P.O. Box 5090
Lacombe, AB T4L 1W7 - CANADA
403-885-4477, 403-887-5779
mpearman@telus.net
www.ellisbirdfarm.ca

Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society
Joe Michielsen
2123 22nd Street
Coaldale, AB T1M-1H6 – CANADA
403-345-4777; joe.michielsen@hotmail.com
www.bluebirdtrails.org

**British Columbia**

Bring Back the Bluebirds Project
Cowichan Valley Naturalists’ Society
Genevieve Singleton
6015 Mary St.
Duncan, BC V9L 2G5 - CANADA
250-746-8052; twinflower4@gmail.com
www.cowichanbluebird.ca

Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Society
Ray Town
P.O. Box 277
Logan Lake, BC V0K 1W0 - CANADA
250-523-9474; info@bcbluebirds.org
www.bcbluebirds.org

**Florida**

Florida Bluebird Society
Faith Jones
763 Mallard Dr.
Sanford, FL 32771
407-415-0705
florida.bluebirdsociety@gmail.com
www.florida.bluebirdsociety.org

Tampa Audubon Society
Mary Miller
P.O. Box 320025
Tampa, FL 33679
813-951-8145; limpkin1945@verizon.net
www.tampaaudubon.org

**Georgia**

Bluebird Hollow Farm
Ray & Charlotte Burnfin
3400 Bronco Road
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-5906; ray@bluebirdhollowfarm.com
http://bluebirdhollowfarm.com

**Idaho**

Golden Eagle Audubon Society
Pam Conley
P.O. Box 8261
Boise, ID 83707
Pam_Conley@q.com
www.GoldenEagleAudubon.org

Rocky Mountain Blues
David Richmond
HC 67  Box 680
Clayton, ID 83227
208-838-2431; fowest@custertel.net

**Illinois**

Bond County Bluebird Society
James E. Wilson, D. Mus
502 Shannon Drive
Greenville, IL 62246-1359
618-664-1045; w.j.wilson@sbcglobal.net

**Arizona**

Tucson Audubon Society
Jonathan Horst
300 E. University Blvd. #120
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-971-6238; jhorst@tucsonaudubon.org
www.tucsonaudubon.org

**Arkansas**

Bella Vista Bluebird Society
Laura Caggett
17 Foster Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72715
479-876-2315; bellavistabluebird@gmail.com
www.BVBluebirds.com

Bermuda Bluebird Society
Stuart Smith
#2 Up and Down Lane
Paget DV 03, Bermuda
441-777-9856; smitty@ibl.bm
www.Audubon.BM/Conservation/Bluebird

**California**

California Bluebird Recovery Program
Dick Blaine
22284 N. De Anza Circle
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-257-6410; dick@theblaines.net
www.cbrp.org

Southern California Bluebird Club
Jo-Ann Coller
18132 Larkstone Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92705
joanl1@socal.rr.com
www.socalbluebirds.org

**Colorado**

Colorado Bluebird Project
Audubon Society of Greater Denver
Kevin Corwin - 720-482-8454
9308 S Wadsworth Blvd
Littleton, CO 80128
303-973-9530
bluebirdproject@denveraudubon.org
www.denveraudubon.org/conservation/bluebird-project/

**Arizona**

Tucson Audubon Society
Jonathan Horst
300 E. University Blvd. #120
Tucson, AZ 85705
520-971-6238; jhorst@tucsonaudubon.org
www.tucsonaudubon.org

**Arkansas**

Bella Vista Bluebird Society
Laura Caggett
17 Foster Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72715
479-876-2315; bellavistabluebird@gmail.com
www.BVBluebirds.com

Bermuda Bluebird Society
Stuart Smith
#2 Up and Down Lane
Paget DV 03, Bermuda
441-777-9856; smitty@ibl.bm
www.Audubon.BM/Conservation/Bluebird

**California**

California Bluebird Recovery Program
Dick Blaine
22284 N. De Anza Circle
Cupertino, CA 95014
408-257-6410; dick@theblaines.net
www.cbrp.org

Southern California Bluebird Club
Jo-Ann Coller
18132 Larkstone Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92705
joanl1@socal.rr.com
www.socalbluebirds.org

**Colorado**

Colorado Bluebird Project
Audubon Society of Greater Denver
Kevin Corwin - 720-482-8454
9308 S Wadsworth Blvd
Littleton, CO 80128
303-973-9530
bluebirdproject@denveraudubon.org
www.denveraudubon.org/conservation/bluebird-project/
East Central Illinois Bluebird Society
Paul or Janice Thode
2420 County Road 0 North
Breadlands, IL 61816
217-834-3050; janice_thode@yahoo.com

Northwest Illinois BBRP
Dick Bach
9262 Fitzsimmons Rd.
Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-3575; Kiritemoa35@gmail.com

Sand Bluff Bird Observatory
Jennifer Kuroda
P.O. Box 2
Seward, IL 61077
815-629-2671; jen_kuroda@yahoo.com

Southern Illinois Audubon Society
Laraine Wright
P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222
618-457-8769
LARAINEWRIGHT66@gmail.com

Indiana
Bluebird Team SMG, Sunnyside Master Gardeners
Ray Weatherholt
1180 Nance Lane
Lanesville, IN 47136
812-725-2009; r.weatherholt@twc.com

Brown County Bluebird Club
Dan Sparks
2634 Scarce O Fat Ridge Rd.
Nashville, IN 47448
812-200-5700, 360-361-3704 f
b4bluebirds@yahoo.com

Hendricks County Bluebird Society
M. Huber
3970 W. County Road 100 S.
Danville, IN 46122
317-745-3317; 70mlbh@gmail.com

Indiana Bluebird Society
Ken Murray
P.O. Box 134
Rensselaer, IN 47978-0134
219-866-3081; ibs07@rhshi.tv
www.indianabluebirdsociety.org

Iowa
Bluebirds of Iowa Restoration
Jaclyn Hill
2946 Ubben Ave
Ellsworth IA 50075-7554
515-836-4579; jaclynhill@netins.net

Iowa Bluebird Conservationists
Chris Parks
P.O. Box 302
Griswold, IA 51535
712-520-2103 cell; chparks@gmail.com

Johnson County Songbird Project
Jim Walters
1033 E Washington
Iowa City, IA 52240-5248
319-466-1134; jcmwalt@infionline.net

Kentucky
Kentucky Bluebird Society
Phil Tamplin, Jr.
26 Poplar Hill Rd.
Louisville, KY 40207
502-426-7500; philip.tamplin@gmail.com
www.biology.eku.edu/kbs

Louisiana
Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society
Sheryl Cooper Bassi
356 Lord Road
Oak Ridge, LA 71264
sherylbassi@hughes.net
www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org

Maine
Downeast Audubon
Leslie Clapp
PO Box 1212
Ellsworth, ME 04605
207-374-5012; deaudubon@gmail.com
www.downeastaudubon.org

Mid-Coast Audubon Society
John Weinrich
P.O. Box 548
Damariscotta, ME 04543
207-563-2930; jweinrich@roadrunner.com
https://MidCoast.MaineAudubon.org

Manitoba
Friends of the Bluebirds
Herb Goulden
3407 Rosser Ave.
Brandon, MB R7B 2P9 - CANADA
204-728-8370; goulden@mymts.net
www.mbbluebirds.org/

Maryland
Maryland Bluebird Society
Kathy Kremnitzer
19305 Deer Path
Knoxville, MD 21758
301-676-9371; griffin459@myactv.net
www.mdbluebirdsociety.org

Michigan
Michigan Audubon Society
Rochelle Rook
P.O. Box 15249
Lansing, MI 48901
517-580-7364
rrooke@michiganaudubon.org
www.michiganaudubon.org

Michigan Bluebird Society
Kurt Hagemeister
P.O. Box 2028
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2028
734-663-9746
khagemeister@michiganbluebirds.org
www.michiganbluebirds.org

Minnesota
Bluebird Recovery Program
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis
P.O. Box 984
Faribault, MN 55021
Carrol Johnson
507-664-9433; mmbirdrider@hotmail.com
www.bbrp.org

Missouri
Missouri Bluebird Society
Steve Garr
P.O. Box 10580
Jefferson City, MO 65110
573-638-2473; steve@birds-i-view.biz
www.missouribluebird.org

Montana
Mountain Bluebird Trails, Inc.
Lisa Rakich
P.O. Box 794
Ronan, MT 59864
406-925-0025
president@mountainbluebirdtrails.com
www.mountainbluebirdtrails.com

Nebraska
Bluebirds Across Nebraska
Steve Eno
2500 W. James Dr.
Raymond, NE 68428
402-783-3011; info@bbne.org
www.bbne.org

New Jersey
New Jersey Bluebird Society
Allen C. Jackson
37 Porreca Drive
Millville, NJ 08332
856-327-4861, 609-805-4073 (cell)
aljaxn@aol.com
www.njbluebirdsociety.org
New York
Bronx River–Sound Shore Audubon Society
Sandy Morrissey
Scarsdale, NY
914-949-2531; brrssaudubon@gmail.com
www.brrssaudubon.org

Michael Kudish Natural History Preserve
David Turan
2515 Tower Mountain Rd
Stamford, NY 12167
607-242-1260; info@mknhp.org

NY State Bluebird Society
Kevin Berner
499 W. Richmondville Rd
Richmondville, NY 12149
518-294-7196; bernerkl@gmail.com
www.nysbs.org

Orleans Bluebird Society
Gary Kent
3806 Allen’s Bridge Rd.
Albion, NY 14411
585-589-5130; gkworking4u@hotmail.com

North Carolina
NC Bluebird Society
Ken Kermode
3102 Doubleday Place
Durham, NC 27705
919-489-0095; president@ncbluebird.org
www.ncbluebird.org

Ohio
Ohio Bluebird Society
Mike Watson
The Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, OH 44094
440-462-9084
ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com
info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org
www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org

Oklahoma
Oklahoma Bluebird Society
Brad Williams
17629 E. 120th St
Collinsville, OK 74021
918-688-1135; ChefBadBrad@icloud.com

Ontario
Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society
Bill Read
24 Brant Place
Cambridge, ON, N1S 2V8 - CANADA
519-572-3633; billreadsbooks@gmail.com
www.oebs.ca

Oregon
Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project
Lisa Fratianni
P.O. Box 1469
Sherwood, OR 97140
503-816-1837; lfrat65@gmail.com
www.prescottbluebird.com

Pennsylvania
Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Dean Rust
253 Brook Farms Road
Lancaster, PA 17601
JULY7D8@aol.com
www.thebsp.org

Purple Martin Conservation Assoc.
John Tautin
Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Dr., Suite 6
Erie, PA 16405
814-833-2090; jtautin@purplemartin.org
www.purplemartin.org

South Carolina
South Carolina Bluebird Society
Mike DeBruhl
P.O. Box 5151
Aiken, SC 29804-5151
803-641-2092; cmdebruhl@atlanticbb.net
www.southcarolinabluebirds.org

Tennessee
Tennessee Bluebird Society
Chuck Cruickshank
133 Chanusi Way
Loudon, TN 37774
612-760-4193
chuck.cruickshank@gmail.com
tnsialia@gmail.com
www.tnbluebirdsociety.org

Texas
Texas Bluebird Society
Pauline Tom
P.O. Box 40868
Austin, TX 78704
210-201-5678; ptom5678@gmail.com
www.texasbluebirdsociety.org

Virginia
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia
Laura McDonald
11100 Wildlife Center Drive, Suite 100
Reston, VA 20190
703-438-6008; info@audubonva.org
www.audubonva.org

Northern Shenendoah Valley Audubon Society
Kaycee Lichliter
1346 Sulphur Springs Road
Middletown, VA 22645
540-664-9596; kayceelichliter@hotmail.com
www.audubon-nsvas.org

Virginia Bluebird Society
Cathy Hindman
726 William St
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
703-470-7425; vbs@virginiabluebirds.org
www.virginiabluebirds.org

West Virginia
Potomac Valley Audubon Society
Kristin Alexander
P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443
304-676-3397; Kristin@potomacaudubon.org
www.potomacaudubon.org

Wisconsin
Bluebird Restoration Assoc of Wisconsin
Patrick Ready
815 Sky Ridge Dr.
Madison, WI 53719
608-239-0791; birdsready@gmail.com
www.braw.org

Lafayette County Bluebird Society
Carol McDaniel
9320 Wicks Rd.
Gratiot, WI 53541
608-922-2473; bluebirdhouse.org@gmail.com
www.bluebirdhouse.org

Wyoming
Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation
Kate Gersh
25 S. Willow St. Suite 10
PO Box 8042
Jackson, WY 83002
307-739-0968; kate@jhwildlife.org
www.jhwildlife.org
A great big THANK YOU to these NABS Sponsors!

Our sponsors support the work of NABS through an annual contribution

**Gold Level (at least $2,500)**

*Lordi Marker Family Foundation*

**Silver Level (at least $1,000)**

*Vicky Larkin*  
*Elsie Eltzroth*

**Bronze Level (at least $500)**

*Nature’s Way*

*A Unique Blend of Nature, Soil and Skill.*

**True Blue Level (at least $250; available only to NABS Affiliates)**

**Nestbox Neighbors (at least $100; available only to NABS Affiliates)**

*SOUTHERN ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY*
Renew Today! Give a friend the gift of bluebirds!

Please be sure to include your NABS membership ID number on all renewals (your ID number is on your address label)

Date ____________________

☐ New Membership  ☐ Renewal  ☐ A gift subscription from: ________________________________ for:

Please circle one:  1 Year  2 Years  3 Years  4 Years

Please check membership type below and multiply that $ amount by the number of years circled for membership payment due. Add any donation amount for total amount due.

- Household
- Single Person

Subscribing  ☐ $30  ☐ $20
Supporting  ☐ $50  ☐ $40
Contributing  ☐ $85  ☐ $75
Guardian  ☐ $110  ☐ $100
Life  ☐ $500
Organization  ☐ $125
A+  ☐ $15 (one year, one-time introductory membership offer for Affiliate members only)

Name of Affiliate organization: _______________________

Additional Donation

☐ $10  ☐ $25  ☐ Other __________

☐ Check enclosed (in U.S. funds)
☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

Card # ____________________________

3 digit security code on reverse side: __________

Expire: ______ Signature: ______________________________

Total amount paid/charged to credit card: ________________

We do not share or sell NABS’s membership list.

Payment must be in U.S. funds.
Mail to: NABS Treasurer, P.O. Box 7844, Bloomington IN 47407
An online membership form with payment through PayPal is available online at www.nabluebirdsociety.org