



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

# Bluebird Notes

PUBLISHED BY  
The North Carolina Bluebird Society  
www.ncbluebird.org



NCBS is an affiliate of NABS.

December 2008 through February 2009

Volume 24 Issue 1

## North Carolina Bluebird Society Mission Statement

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

### Inside this issue:

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## NCBS Annual Meeting—May 9, 2009

NABS 2007 had seventeen scientific speakers and T. David Pitts was the one that spoke most clearly to me; the one that gave me facts and figures that I could relate to; and the one that I wanted to share with the members of the North Carolina Bluebird Society!

His talk is *“Winter Survival: Flight, Food, Feathers, Fat, and Flocks.”* Since we here in parts of North Carolina have winter populations of bluebirds, this topic is particularly appropriate. This talk will add to our knowledge of the mechanisms that bluebirds use to survive the winter weather and the ways that we can help by planting and doing supplemental feeding. Since 1969 Dr. Pitts has been a Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Tennessee at Martin. He has studied bluebirds since then and had constructed nest boxes in the mid-1950s. He is one of the charter members of the North American Bluebird Society (1977) and has had a banding permit since 1971. His research has included discovering a method for determining the age of adult Eastern Bluebirds, documenting the effects of harsh winter weather on Eastern Bluebirds and studying the effects of nest box size and color on reproduction. David is an amateur photographer who uses his pictures in his presentations. His photo of a male bluebird is on the Tennessee’s Watchable Wildlife license plate which has raised more than five million dollars for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency’s non-game programs. In 1990, he was awarded the UT National Alumni Association’s Outstanding



Teacher Award and has also been a recipient of a NABS’s Research Award. Dr. Pitts has a resonating voice that reaches the back of the auditorium and his message about bluebirds will reach into your hearts and minds. Come be part of his bluebird world.

*Helen Munro, Editor NCBS*

**Although NCBS 2009 is not until Saturday, May 9, 2009, please look at your calendar now and decide rather or not this meeting and its contents appeals to you. It is too easy to put this newsletter down and then go looking for it the middle of April! Full refunds for the meeting are available until May 1 so look the program over, fill in the registration form and mail it and your check now.**  
**Thanks.**

## Bluebird Notes

### Issue 24 Vol. 1

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

### Open Board Positions

Directors  
President



## Bluebird Tales



### GRANTS FOR CLAY/CHEROKEE COUNTIES

The bluebirds in Far Western North Carolina have benefited from two recent grants. Ed and Carol Reid, Clay County coordinators, received a grant for \$500 from the Dub and Murray Martin Trust. These monies will be used to establish a bluebird trail throughout the Brasstown community. Boxes have been posted surrounding the John C. Campbell Folkschool, Blacksmith shop, Rivercane Trail, Fire Department, Brasstown Community Building, Village Shops and in yards throughout the community. Brasstown is known throughout these parts as the POSSUM CAPITAL of our country. At our famous gas station/grocery store/movie rental/ice cream store and place to be - CLAY'S CORNER -a possum is dropped every NEW YEAR'S EVE, rather than a big ball in New York City. We hope to rival the fame of the possum and add a new title THE BLUEBIRD CAPITAL. We have heard that the possum and the bluebird are good friends. We hope so.

Another grant was received from Lowes - LOWES HERO GRANT. Carol's daughter, Emily Peters and friend, Bonnie Smith, wrote this grant for Murphy High School's Interact Club. They received building materials from Lowes for the High School vocational classes to build bluebird boxes. Boxes were posted at Murphy Elementary and High School. Carol Reid's second grade students learn each year to monitor boxes while they study the life cycle of birds. *Bluebird Tips* are shared with the families of students annually. Students have enjoyed the DVD- *INSIDE THE NEST BOX*. It is perfect for teaching the life cycle of birds and aligns perfectly with the NC curriculum. The joys of bluebirding are being taught and encouraged in the far west. We want our bluebirds to find lots of fine boxes to raise their young. These gentle birds add much beauty to our mountains.



*Ed & Carol Reid*



# Bluebird Tales



## Bluebirds Nesting in October?

**From:** Pat Bumgarner  
**Sent:** Sunday, September 28, 2008 11:04 AM  
**To:** president@ncbluebird.org  
**Subject:** Bluebirds nesting in October?

Good Morning -

Quick question -- we live in Greensboro and we have enjoyed watching our bluebirds nest in a birdhouse right off of our screen porch. I am sure I am not using proper terminology but there were two nestings in the same 'condo' if you will (this is a multi-dwelling birdhouse).

Now this morning - Sept 28th - we are seeing more activity of a bluebird checking out the same real estate - they have been moving from 'condo' to 'condo' to peek in. Is this normal activity for them to be looking in the fall? Has our climate in NC become so warm in the fall and even winter that they would consider another nesting? We did only see two nestings this spring - do they usually have three?

Thanks for any info that you can provide.

Pat & Ken Bumgarner

**From:** [hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net)  
**To:** Pat Bumgarner  
**Subject:** RE: Bluebirds nesting in October?  
**Date:** Sun, 28 Sep 2008 20:12:36 -0400  
 They can have three nestings, but normally by August 15, it is all over. I have read of one nesting that happened in September, but as I recall the eggs didn't hatch.  
 I can only assume that your bluebirds are checking things out for next spring. There are cases when they "bundle" together in the cold weather for survival and they may be looking for that type of box to roast in. Normally, they start looking in February, but I have seen some in December checking out bluebird houses.  
 Please let me know if you find that a nest has been built and eggs laid. It certainly would be unusual.  
 Thanks.  
 Sincerely, Helen (Munro, Acting President of NCBS)

**From:** Pat Bumgarner  
**To:** [hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net)  
**Subject:** RE: Bluebirds nesting in October?  
**Date:** Sun, 28 Sep 2008 20:47:29 -0400

Hey Helen -

We will keep an eye on the box and let you know if we see further activity.  
 Thanks for the response!

Pat & Ken Bumgarner

**From:** Pat Bumgarner  
**To:** [hsmunro@ac.net](mailto:hsmunro@ac.net)  
**Tue 10/14/2008 4:55 PM**  
**Subject:** RE: Bluebirds nesting in October?

Hi Helen -

Just thought I would send you a picture that we were able to get on Saturday (Oct. 11) of our bluebirds. There were at least 8-10 of them playing around in the backyard flying from box to box - hopefully searching for that perfect home for when the time comes!

Thanks,  
 Pat & Ken Bumgarner



# North Carolina Bluebird

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>
<b>Advance</b>					
Raymond Bridges	1	1	7	7	7
<b>Asheboro</b>					
Chuck Bliss	34	29	211	190	188
<b>Asheville</b>					
Diane Hankins	5	2	21	20	20
<b>Bunnlevel</b>					
Terry M. Herndon	22	12	363	387	378
<b>Burlington</b>					
Kathryn Carroll	8	7	27	26	16
Ray Ashley	3	2	20	18	18
Cynthia Benson/Fran Outhwaite	30	11	162	128	131
<b>Cary</b>					
Sally Tiller	29	21	178	142	132
<b>Chapel Hill</b>					
Lois Herring	10	4	16	12	8
<b>Charlotte</b>					
Rick & Karen Mitchell	1	1	9	7	7
<b>Clemmons</b>					
Bill Abbey	54	37	380	269	247
<b>Dudley</b>					
Georgia Pacific Bluebird Trail	13	12	48	44	44
<b>Fayetteville</b>					
Ernestine Yates	3	3	17	17	17
Catherine M. Traylor	6	3	9	6	6
E I Dupont	31	31	120	98	98
<b>Four Oaks</b>					
Ethelene Allen	50	42	280	224	213
<b>Foxfire Village</b>					
Helen Munro	78	66	401	271	270
<b>Garner</b>					
Joye Stephenson-Lake Benson Park	11	9	47	38	34
Joye Stephenson Garner Sr Center	1	1	4	1	1
Joye Stephenson & Phil Egan	2	2	15	13	11
<b>Goldsboro</b>					
Waynesborough Garden Club	5	1	15	14	14
<b>Greenville</b>					
Henry T Peszko	1	1	4	4	4
<b>Greensboro</b>					
The Grands c/o Jim Jochum	13	13	75	64	64
<b>Hickory</b>					
Lake Hickory CC - R. Warmuth	72	42	361	251	218
<b>Holly Springs</b>					
Betty Ann Packler	2	2	11	8	8
<b>Indian Trail</b>					
Bill & Bonnie Ingersoll	1	1	3	3	3
<b>Liberty</b>					
Brian H. Greene, JR	3	3	23	14	14
<b>Mt. Olive</b>					
John & Virginia Pickles	6	5	14	8	8
<b>New Bern</b>					
Don Elsass	2	2	15	14	10
<b>Pinehurst</b>					
Greenway Wildlife Habitat - Marissa Back	11	7	38	31	31
<b>Pineville</b>					
C. Gene Faulkner	2	2	10	6	6
<b>Purlear</b>					
Zane T. Walsh	20	18	82	71	71
<b>Raleigh</b>					
Sandy Thach	6	5	9	7	0
Barbara & David Pearce	3	1	8	8	8
Patrice.Cooke	3	1	10	10	10
NC Museum of Art - Carol Kepler	9	9	43	39	34
Louise Dail	2	1	13	13	13
Susan Wyatt	24	14	123	84	75
John & Laurie Nuhn	1	1	6	5	5
Ravenscroft School - Reah Kittelberger	4	4	32	31	31
In Memory of Lois Mopsik- R. Kittelberger	1	1	9	8	8
The Kittelberger Family	4	1	8	8	8
Jane Currin	4	1	5	5	5

# Survey 2008

<u>Name</u>	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>
<b>Reidsville</b>					
Houston Pyrtle	12	12	24	96	96
<b>Ronda</b>					
Samuel Bullard	6	3	27	18	10
<b>Southern Pines</b>					
Jean & Jim Walker	61	53	195	143	114
<b>Tarboro</b>					
Kay & David Hindsley	5	3	23	22	22
<b>Thomasville</b>					
Rev. Chet Byerly	3	1	4	4	4
<b>Union Mills</b>					
Christine B Ammons	60	46	479	370	321
Brooklyn A Breedlove	14	12	120	114	108
Pearl Barnette	1	1	10	10	10
<b>Union Grove</b>					
Joseph H Critchley	8	5	31	29	24
<b>Wake Forest</b>					
Sue Crawford	3	2	10	10	10
<b>Walnut Cove</b>					
Randolph Agee	1	1	7	6	3
<b>West End</b>					
Marisa Back	1	1	4	3	3
Bob & Ruth Stolting	15	14	87	57	52
Iris & Richard Johason	12	4	44	42	42
<b>Wingate</b>					
Ruth Carelock	5	3	22	16	
<b>Wilkesboro</b>					
Jim Felts	38	27	201	185	181
<b>N. Wilkesboro</b>					
Lea W. Barnes	1	1	9	9	9
<b>Winston Salem</b>					
Frank Williams	42	39	205	187	179
Carrie Pippins	1	1	12	9	7
	880	661	4766	3954	3689
	<u># of Boxes</u>	<u>w/bb</u>	<u># BB eggs</u>	<u>hatched</u>	<u>fledged</u>

## North Carolina Bluebird Society's Annual Survey Facts:

\*  
Earliest Date of First Bluebird egg laid: February 2nd 2008

\*  
Number of bluebird boxes:

2008 880  
2007: 1,094  
2006: 1,193  
2005: 1,157  
2004: 1,255  
2003: 1,286  
2002: 1,318  
2001: 1,281  
2000: 1,377

\*  
Number of bluebird boxes used by bluebirds:

2008: 661  
2007: 814  
2006: 826  
2005: 844  
2004: 855  
2003: 850  
2002: 968  
2001: 953  
2000: 1,013



## *Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box*

Recorded by the Cornell Birdhouse Network

Summer 1999

Produced by the North Carolina Bluebird Society

VHS available for \$15.00 including shipping and handling.

DVD available for \$13.00 including shipping and handling.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NCBS.** SEND ORDER & CHECK TO:

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

## North Carolina Bluebird Society Products

Description of Item	Cost Postage Included	No. Wanted	Total
Magnets with Bluebird & Dogwood	\$ 4.00	X _____	= _____
Magnets with State Outline/Bluebird	\$ 4.00	X _____	= _____
Bluebird Earrings (clipped)	\$ 7.00	X _____	= _____
Bluebird Earrings (pierced)	\$ 7.00	X _____	= _____
Caps with NCBS Logo	\$ 13.00	X _____	= _____
Bluebird Note Cards (12)	\$ 12.00	X _____	= _____
<i>Carolina Blue</i> Tote Bags	\$ 15.00	X _____	= _____
<i>Carolina Blue</i> T-Shirts			
by Dempsey Essick (S, M, L, XL)	\$ 20.00	X _____	= _____
Cloisonné Bluebird Pins (1inch, 4 colors)	\$ 5.00	X _____	= _____
<b><i>Bluebirds Forever</i></b> (12 page booklet)	\$ 3.00	X _____	= _____
2 copies	\$ 5.00	X _____	= _____
<b><i>On the Wings of a Song—CD</i></b>	\$ 8.00	X _____	= _____
<b><i>Bluebirds, Inside the Nestbox</i></b> DVD	\$ 13.00	X _____	= _____
( DVD special 2 for \$20; 3 for \$30; 6 for \$60)			
<i>Roberta Lee</i> Bluebird Poster 18" x 24"	\$12.50	X _____	= _____
			Total = _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **NCBS.**

SEND ORDER & CHECK TO:

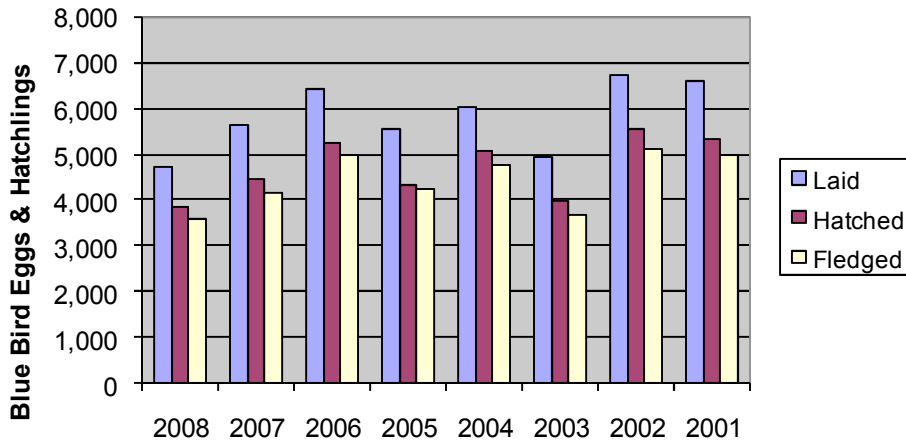
**Ms. Christine Ammons, 670 Nanneytown Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167-8762**

Prices good through 06/09

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

# Survey Summary

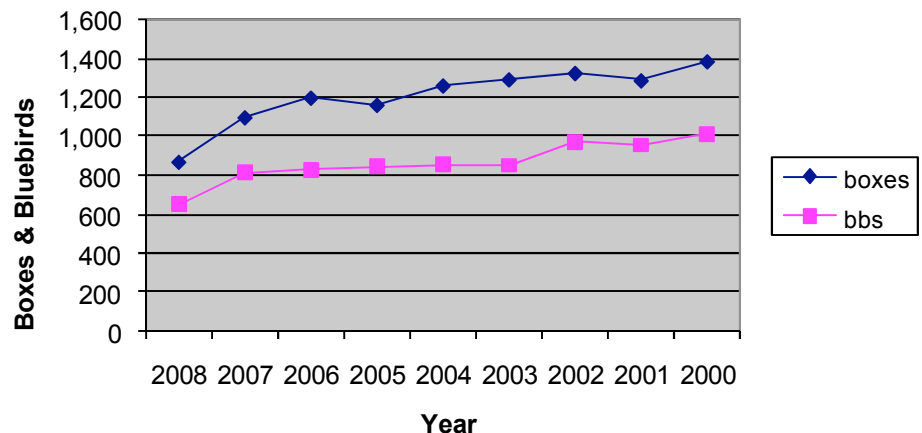
**2001-2008 Laid, Hatched & Fledged Comparisons**



This compilation of the North Carolina Bluebird Surveys has been done by Reah Kittelberger from Raleigh. She enters all of the numbers into Excel and they are pasted or scanned into this newsletter. Many thanks. Take a few minutes to look over pages 4 & 5. It is great to welcome back many of the state's bluebirders each year with their data. The overall results looks as if the total number of bluebird boxes and bluebirds fledged is decreasing!

This decrease would seem to be a result of fewer people reporting. A quick check of the number of people reporting finds that it ranges from a low of 60 to a high of 86. The year 2000 when 86 people sent in their surveys resulted in the high of 5,522 bluebirds fledged in North Carolina. Sixty-one people reporting in 2008 shows that we fledged 3,689. The conclusion is obvious: the more people submitting surveys, the more bluebirds are reported as having fledged.

**Bluebird Boxes with Bluebirds**



Using the numbers on page 5, if one divides the number of houses used by bluebirds with the number of houses reported available, the occupancy rate varies from 66% to almost 75%. Using the figures below and dividing the number of bluebirds fledged by the number bluebird eggs laid, the percentages vary from 74% to 80%. Conclusion: The bluebirds are doing well. We just need more people to send in their surveys!

\* Number of bluebird eggs laid:

2008	: 4,766
2007	: 5,659
2006	: 6,430
2005	: 5,559
2004	: 6,011
2003	: 4,932
2002	: 6,723
2001	: 6,613
2000	: 6,923

\* Number of Eggs Hatched:

2008	: 3,954
2007	: 4,479
2006	: 5,241
2005	: 4,314
2004	: 5,092
2003	: 3,998
2002	: 5,563
2001	: 5,324
2000	: 5,765

\* Number of Bluebirds Fledged:

2008	: 3,689
2007	: 4,174
2006	: 4,962
2005	: 4,236
2004	: 4,761
2003	: 3,693
2002	: 5,098
2001	: 4,996
2000	: 5,522

# Directions to Hawthorne Convention Center

The Hawthorne Inn & Conference Center is located off Business 40 near the heart of downtown Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

## Heading East From Asheville/Statesville

1. Head East on I-40, then continue East on Business 40 into downtown Winston-Salem.
2. Take the Cherry St. Exit (5-C) onto High St. The front entrance of the hotel is immediately on your right.

## Heading West From Raleigh/Greensboro

1. Take I-40 West, then take Business 40 split (Exit 206) into downtown Winston-Salem.
2. Take the Cherry St. Exit (5-C) onto Cherry St.
3. Turn left at the first traffic light onto 1st St.
4. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Marshall St.
5. Cross over Business 40 and through the next traffic light.
6. As you head downhill, the hotel's rear parking entrance will be on your right. Turn into the parking lot and drive around the building to the hotel's front entrance.

## Heading South From Wytheville

1. Head South on Highway 52 to downtown Winston-Salem and take the exit for 3rd, 4th and 5th Street (110A).
2. Turn right at the top of the ramp onto 5th St. Stay on 5th St. through downtown and turn left onto Marshall St. Your landmark for this turn is the Benton Convention Center on your right.
3. Take Marshall St. until it crosses over business 40 and go through the next traffic light.
4. As you head downhill, the hotel's rear parking entrance will be on your right. Turn into the parking lot and drive around the building to the hotel's front entrance.

## Heading North From Charlotte

1. From I-85 north take the Highway 52 North exit.
2. Then take the exit for Business 40 West (109B).
3. Take the Cherry St. Exit (5-C) onto Cherry St.
4. Turn left at the first traffic light onto 1st St.
5. Turn left at the next traffic light onto Marshall St.
6. Cross over Business 40 and through the next traffic light.
7. As you head downhill, the hotel's rear parking entrance will be on your right. Turn into the parking lot and drive around the building to the hotel's front entrance.



These directions are from the Hawthorne Convention Center website.

<http://www.hawthorneinn.com/>

**Toll Free Reservations:**

**1-877-777-3099**

Local Number:

**1-336-777-3000**

# North Carolina Bluebird Society Annual Meeting Saturday, May 9, 2009 at the Hawthorne Convention Center 420 High St. (Exit 5C from I-40) Winston– Salem, NC

**Coffee, NCBS Membership, NCBS Store, Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Vendors— 8:30 a.m. to Noon**

**Bluebirders Forum—8:45 to 9:30 a.m.—** Question and Answer period—Ray Welch, Moderator

**Welcome – 9:30 to 9:45 a.m.—**Acting President Helen Munro, *Wing of a Song* by Kay Hindsley

**Possible Afternoon Activities—9:45 to 10:00 a.m.** Bill Abbey, Annual Meeting Co-Chair

**10:00—11:00 a.m.** *Winter Survival: Flight, Food, Feathers, Fat & Flocks—*  
Dr. David Pitts from the University of Tennessee at Martin

**Break for everyone—11:00 to 11:45 a.m. (Check out Silent Auction & purchase door prize tickets.)**  
County Coordinators will meet with Ray Welsh & Virginia Pickles. Location to be announced.

**11:45 a.m. to Noon—**Bluebird Societies in Crisis—Helen Munro **(Door Prizes and Silent Auction closes at Noon.)**

**Lunch—Noon to 1:00 p.m.**

**1:00 p.m. Old Salem** is a nearby local attraction for your enjoyment after the meeting. This is a carefully restored Moravian town (C. 1766) and living history community. Old Salem is a scant three block walk along a delightful stroll-way (or drive and enjoy plenty of free parking). You may stroll the old streets free of charge or purchase tickets for entry into the ten major restored buildings. A Two-Stop ticket which is admission to two of the museums is \$14 for adults and \$7 for children ages 6-16. An “All in One” ticket is \$21 (\$10 for children) with a \$3 discount for AAA and \$2 for AARP. For information call 1-888-653-7253 or see <http://www.oldsalem.org>.



Cut along the line below and submit this registration form.

## Registration Form—Saturday, May 9, 2009

Name #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Name #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #2 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ First Time Attending Annual Meeting? Yes \_\_\_ If no, how many? \_\_\_\_

**Please send checks to: NCBS, c/o Helen Munro, 22 Bobolink Rd., Jackson Springs, NC 27281**

910-673-6936

hsmunro@ac.net

**# attending**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adult registration & Lunch** \$15 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Child registration & Lunch** \$ 5 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Adult registration only** \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Will be there for dinner on Friday night.**

# Return by April 30, 2009

## Friday: May 8, 2009

Traditionally the guest speakers and the NCBS Board Members meet the night before the annual meeting for dinner. This gives everyone an opportunity to socialize and to put the give-a-way bags together for the Saturday Meeting.

This year we will meet at the restaurant at the Hawthorne Convention Center at 7 pm. No reservations are needed for this, but please indicate on the registration form whether or not you are coming so we can look for you.

Rooms have been set aside at the Hawthorne Convention Center for NCBS attendees on Friday night, May 8, 2009. The rate is \$72 plus tax. Please make your room reservations by April 8th. Rooms will be available at this rate until April 8, 2009. Rooms may be cancelled up until 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 7, 2009 without penalty.

The Hawthorne Convention Center reservation number is **1-877-777-3099 or 1-336-777-3000**. Identify yourself as being with the North Carolina Bluebird Society.



I found this picture somewhere. I would credit the photographer if I knew where.

Please let me know if this picture is yours so that I can say thank you.

In meanwhile, we will enjoy this double rainbow with the magnificent male bluebird!!

Sincerely,

*Helen Munro, Editor*

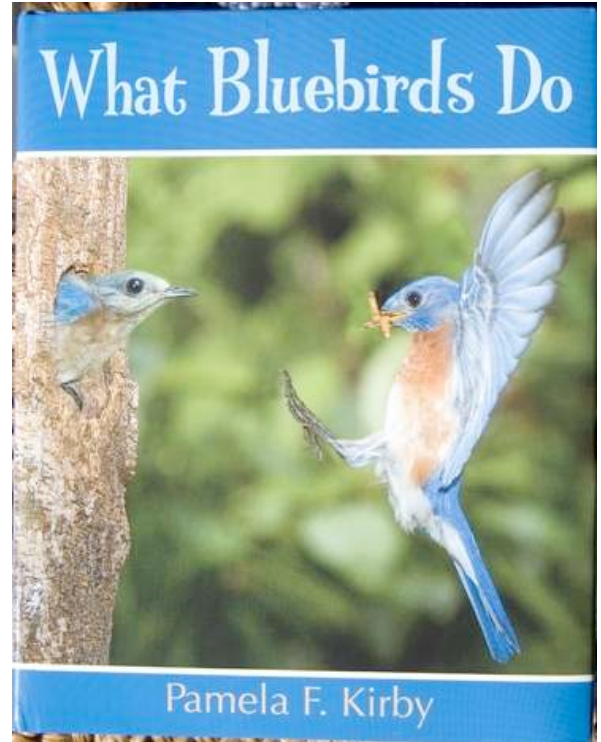
## North Carolinian Author of a Children's Book on Bluebirds

Pamela Kirby has been published in numerous national photography magazine and has received awards and recognition from the National Wildlife Federation Photography Awards, the Pilsner Urquell International Photography Awards, and Birder's World Photo Contest. She lives in Gibsonville, NC. contacted me by email. She is publishing a book based on her encounters with bluebirds during one breeding season. She was able to capture their story using her camera.

Last July, she and her husband traveled to see me so that I could see the mockup of the book and comment on the text. I enjoyed a quick glance through the beautiful pictures and scanned the text for content.

Pam's publisher is Boyds Mills Press, the same one that does *Highlights for Children*. The publication date is slated for March 1, 2009. She and her husband Darrell are planning to attend NCBS 2009 where this book should be available for \$18.95.

*Helen Munro, Editor*



## Reminder to County Coordinators

County Coordinators have been asked to write a yearly report. In each County Coordinator's notebook is a report form asking for any programs given; summary of phone calls received, newspaper articles produced and any other NCBS activities in which you, as a county coordinator, has been involved.

Region 1 (Burke, Catawaba, Clay, Henderson, McDowell, Rutherford, Swain and Watauga) should send their reports to Christine Ammons. Those in Region 2 (Anson, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly and York (SC)) forward theirs to Pat Propst. Region 3 (Alamance, Caswell, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph and Rockingham) should address theirs to Chuck Bliss. Region 4 (Chatham, Durham, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Wake and Wayne) send theirs to Jimmy

Dobson. Region 5 (Cateret, Edgecombe, Pitt and Warren) mail theirs to Stella Rideout. Region 6 (Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, Montgomery, Moore and Robeson) report to Mike Jackson.

Addresses are found in your notebook.

Yours truly, CC for Moore County, did not send in a report, but I will. I promise!

These region reports will go to the two state coordinators (Virginia Pickles and Ray Welch) to help them evaluate the successes of the county coordinators. This will help them determine future activities for the county coordinators.

North Carolina has 100 counties and only 43 counties are covered. We are looking for volunteers.

Try to do this in the month of February as you clean out nest boxes and get ready for Spring 2009.

*Helen Munro, Editor & CC*

# North Carolina Bluebird Society

## NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

North Carolina Bluebird Society Dues:

( ) 1 Year (\$10.00)

( ) 3 Years (\$25.00)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to access the NCBS Bluebird Notes newsletter via the Internet rather than have it mailed to me.

Yes	No
-----	----

Access information will be sent to the E-mail address you furnished including advance notification of membership expiration.

If you elect to receive the Bluebird Notes newsletter by mail, your Membership Expiration appears on your Mailing Label.

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

North Carolina Bluebird Society  
ATTN: David Hindsley  
135 Lakeview Drive  
Tarboro, NC 27886

I am interested in:

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

## Contributions to the Newsletter

Sharing Bluebird information and stories make this an unique publication

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

Slide Programs, Videos and books can be borrowed,  
Please Contact: Hank Moss, Jr.  
525 Fairway Drive Southern Pines, NC 28387  
(910) 692-2328 hmjr@nc.rr.com

## Wanted!!

Thirty-five MM slides needed! Would you be willing to share any old 2" x 2" slides that depict any of the bluebird predators or competitors in action?

Cat	Mockingbird
Blow Fly	Ant
Raptor	Field Mice
Snake	Bear
Wood Roach	Spider
Wasp	Other?

Forsyth County Coordinator, Bill Abbey, is developing a slide presentations relating to "Predators, Competitors, Solutions."

Please send a few that you can spare to

**Bill Abbey**  
**3626 Tanglebrook Trail**  
**Clemmons, NC 27012**

**Or call 336-766-5857.**

# Installing Bluebird Houses in Moore County

The wonders of the internet and email continues to amaze me. In September I received an email from the state of Washington about putting bluebird houses on land in Moore County, NC. Kathy Moore, her husband Scott and daughter Madeleine would be visiting in mid-October. I met them and her Uncle Allan on October 17, 2008, and we were able to put up six Credit Union boxes and two less traditional boxes. Kathy writes, "The land is predominately owned by my grandfather Norris Hannon with a small piece belong to my mom Darlene Peterson. We were able to take my grandfather out and show him the boxes after they were installed. He is very excited about this project. The bluebird house we put inside the 446 acres by the T in the road is on my mother's piece."

Kathy goes on to write in her e-mail "It is interesting that installing bluebird houses was step one of our stewardship plan. This plan is called Forest/Stewardship Plan for Hannon Land, prepared by Harold R. Brady, R.F. Brady and Associates Forestry, Inc., PO Box 1673 Southern Pines, NC 28388."

"Implementing the forestry plan is a tax advantage because it makes the land a working forest and therefore it is not subjected to regular property taxes. The land has not been placed in a conservation trust, but that is something we are discussing. If not for the entire property, maybe part of it, while the rest would be an environmentally responsible working forest."

"The land has been in our family for 150 years and we would like to preserve its beauty and diversity for future generations. Supporting bluebirds and other native cavity-nesters only enriches the environment and our enjoyment of it. We hope the birds will find our land and nesting boxes suitable to their needs."

"Madeleine is so excited about the bluebird houses. She can hardly wait to go back to NC to see if we have any tiny inhabitants and their parents next spring."



This is a picture of my Grandfather, Mom and Madeleine."

*Kathy Moore*

This article was written using emails between Kathy Moore and Helen Munro

*Post Script:* I have gone out since the boxes were installed and put labels on them advising that destroying birds' nests is a federal offense. This land is reverting to forest, but each box was placed carefully in hopes of using the biggest open fields available. A man living in an similar area near this land claims to be getting bluebirds in his nest boxes.

I will be checking in May to see if the bluebirds have found their way home.

It is a privilege for me to help with this conservation project. The future of the bluebirds (and wildlife) depends on land owners making them welcome.

*Helen Munro*

*Acting NCBS President*



This picture was taken just to the right of an old house that had been occupied by Kathy's Great Aunt Ollie. The house is at least a mile off the main road and has beautifully sculptured shingles on the side of the upstairs' porch. Unfortunately, looking through the windows reveals the sky as seen through the missing roof!

The picture shows Uncle Allan, Kathy, Madeleine and Scott Moore putting up a Gilbertson nest box in the small clearing in front of the house.

## Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program Presents

### *Top Ten Tips for Successful Bluebirding*

--- by Keith Radel

1. **COMMITMENT!** Commit to open and check the contents of your nest boxes **AT LEAST** once a week during nesting season. Keep written records of what you find. Weekly checking identifies problems and determines the success or failure of each location to attract and raise bluebirds. **IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THIS COMMITMENT, DO NOT INSTALL NESTBOXES.**
2. **HABITAT!** Select habitat in an open area with scattered trees, at least 300 feet from brush. Place the nestbox in **SHORT** or **MOWED GRASS**, with nearby perching sites: overhead wires, pasture fencing, or a standing dead tree.
3. **THE RIGHT NESTBOXES!** Select a durable, waterproof nestbox with an entrance hole the **CORRECT SIZE** for bluebirds. The box **MUST** be easy to open for regular checking and cleaning. BBRP recommends the Gilbertson PVC, the Peterson, or the Gilwood box. But none should be installed without proper mounting:
4. **THE RIGHT MOUNTING!** First: have the site checked for underground utilities. Mount nestboxes on 1/2 inch to 3/4 inch **SMOOTH METAL PIPE**, with at least five feet from ground to entrance hole, with the hole toward a tree or perch, not a road or highway. To eliminate climbing predators, **NEVER** mount on trees, fences or wood posts. The Steve Gilbertson idea of electrical conduit over rebar makes an ideal mount.
5. **SPACING!** Space nest boxes at least 500 feet apart. Overloading an area with nest boxes may result in increased populations of competitive birds such as house wrens and tree swallows, causing problems in future years.

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## Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program Presents

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--- by Keith Radel

6. **WELCOME DESIRABLE BIRDS!** Allow nestboxes to be used by native cavity nesters, such as black-capped chickadees and tree swallows. If tree swallows are competing with bluebirds, try **PAIRING** two nestboxes 10-15 feet apart, with at least 500 feet to the next pair.
7. **DEAL WITH UNDESIRABLE BIRDS!** The nests and eggs of **HOUSE SPARROWS** **MUST** be removed. House sparrows are not native to this country and are the worst enemies of bluebirds. **IF YOU CANNOT DEAL WITH SPARROWS, DO NOT INSTALL BLUEBIRD NESTBOXES.** Avoid placing boxes where house sparrows are abundant - near livestock farms or within cities. The PVC nestbox is the most sparrow resistant. House wrens have become a problem for all cavity nesting birds. These sweet-singing little birds poke holes in other birds' eggs, and take over nestboxes by filling them with sticks. Avoid areas where house wrens are likely to nest - brushy areas. Install nestboxes at least 300 feet from trees or brush.
8. **MONITOR! MONITOR! MONITOR!** Open the nestboxes at least once a week until the nestlings are 12 days old. Check after a heavy rain for wet nests, which can be replaced with dry grass. Keep blowfly larvae out of box. Remove a dead nestling immediately. Remove old nests after young have fledged, and before the second nesting begins. After the nesting season, if house sparrows are in the area, leave the door of wooden boxes open, and tape the entrance hole of PVC boxes. The next spring, no sooner than April 1 in Minnesota, close wood doors and open PVC holes.
9. **SHARE THE WORK AND THE JOY!** Help your friends and neighbors check their bluebird nestboxes.
10. **REPORT YOUR RESULTS!** Become a member of a bluebird organization that publishes results and makes recommendations. Send reports with your bluebird results every year. Share your experiences and knowledge so that bluebirds will be here for **FUTURE** generations to see and enjoy!

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