



NCBS Logo with Carolina Blue by Dempsey Essick

Bluebird Notes

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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:

<i>Bluebird Tales</i>	2-3
<i>2007 Bluebird Survey</i>	4-6
<i>Bluebirds Trail</i>	7
<i>Feeding Bluebirds</i>	8
<i>Another Bluebird Feeder</i>	9
<i>NCBS 2008</i>	10
<i>Bluebird Nest Box Plans</i>	11
<i>NABS 2008</i>	13
<i>Bluebird Christmas Shopping</i>	15

NABS 2007—Athens, GA., September 19-23

Charles Seabrook reported on NABS 2007 for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Sunday, September 23, 2007. He had asked Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty about bluebirds. "They are gorgeous, remarkably sweet creatures," said Patricia Gowaty, a UGA associate professor of ecology, who was the conference's keynote speaker. The birds'

tameness, brilliant plumage, warbling song and strong liking for nesting boxes endear them to bird lovers everywhere, she noted." "Scientists love them, too, because they are easy to observe and study as they forage in open landscapes and nest close to houses and other buildings. In addition, the sex of

(Continued on page 4)



Left: Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty, Co-chair NABS 2007 and Keynote Speaker. Her talk was "Ecological Canaries: Bluebirds and the Future of Life on Earth."

Right: Jimmy Dodson, Durham CC, Rougemont, NC & NABS Board Member.



Hilda Thompson (Helen's Twin), Rochester, NY, Registration



Helen Munro, NCBS President, Co-Chair of NABS 2007, Registration



Marisa Back, West End, NC, Registration



Ethelene Allen, Johnston CC, Four Oaks, NC & her daughter, Patricia Rogers, Benson, NC



Left: John & Virginia Pickles, Mt. Olive, NC, Registration

Right: Maria & Chuck Bliss, Asheboro, NC



Bluebird Notes

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

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

Bruce Fensley – Rec. Sec.
(910-692-6054) bfensley@earthlink.net

David Hindsley – Recording Chair
Kay Hindsley – Corresponding Sec.
(252) 823-0737 jdhind@earthlink.net

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

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

Ray Welch
(336)-764-0226
rwelch5@bellsouth.net

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

Chuck Bliss
Co-Chair County Coordinator Program
(336) 625-5423 cbliss@triad.rr.com

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

Bill Satterwhite - Director
(919) 787-5248 billsatt@intrex.net

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

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

Robin Eisenbeis– Director
(919-380-9661)
robin2109@nc.rr.com



Bluebird Tales



Non-hatching Bluebird Eggs

Helen, who would be knowledgeable about such animals. I had one nest last fall with 4 eggs that did not hatch and now I've had the second nest this year...one with 5 eggs and the latest with 4. None have hatched. Back with the DDT problems, I wonder if I may have a similar problem or just an opportunistic sterile male bb. Any ideas?

*Catherine M. Traylor
Fayetteville, NC*

Snakes & Unhatched Eggs

The August newsletter was so good. Great to read how excited the first time bluebirders are. Kind of forget how that was 25 years ago.

About the snakes. Relocation of a snake may not be a great idea. I did read that snakes have a territory. Monitors on rattlesnakes at South Mountain showed that you could find the same snake at the same place at about the same time each day. The article then said that taking a snake out of its territory was the same as killing the snake. Now I do not know very much about snakes. I suppose there would be someone that could tell us more.

I do not think that a bluebird takes out eggs that are not going to hatch. They build over the eggs. That is just what happened after the cold weather April 8th. They built over the eggs that got cold.

*Christine Ammons
Union Mills, NC*



How to tell that
you are not
Mom's Favorite!

This came in as an email. Even though I can't credit the photographer, I send them a telepathic "thank you."

Editor



Bluebird Tales



There was a old Lady that Lived in a Shoe ...

Helen,
I received this from a man in Missouri. I already answered his questions but I wanted to pass the picture on to you. I don't know if you want to put the pictures in the newsletter or not but I thought it was interesting to see bluebirds nesting in a boot. His name is Jerry Luna and he is from Ozark County, Missouri.

*Virginia (Pickles)
County Coordinator Co-Chair
Mt. Olive, NC*



Virginia,

I thought you would enjoy these pictures... If you were to blow the last one up, you would find baby bird mooning his dad. Out plopped the feces and away dad goes...I would say this answers all my questions...

*Jerry Luna
Ozark County,
Missouri*

NABS 2007

(Continued from page 1)

juveniles — not just adults — can be readily distinguished by differences in plumage color and pattern. This makes them a "model" species for studying mating behavior and interactions between parents and offspring, said Gowaty, who has spent more than 30 years tracking bluebirds in Georgia and South Carolina.”

It was this theme of the bluebirds studied scientifically by seventeen scientists reporting on their activities at NABS 2007 that revealed much more about them than is seen in the weekly monitoring visits to the nest box on bluebird trails. Dorene Scriven of the Bluebird Recovery Program, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis described the lineup of speakers as “this is what a NABS meeting should be.” Her book, *Bluebird Trails, A Guide to Success*,” is a corner stone of basic bluebird information.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution article went on to say, “In her field studies, Gowaty helped dispel a once widely held notion about bluebirds — that pairs were mostly monogamous. She found that as many as half the nests contained young sired by multiple males. In other words, many female bluebirds "mess around," she said. Based on her landmark findings, other scientists found evidence of such activity in more than 90 percent of 100 species studied.”

“Reflecting on her findings, Gowaty concluded that female bluebirds who mate with several male partners may gain an evolutionary advantage — by producing babies with a variety of genetic make-ups. The greater the genetic diversity, the better the chances of the offspring withstanding diseases and parasites.”

Each speaker added a layer of knowledge to the bluebird picture. Dr. Ken Ross (University of Georgia) reported on the natural history of the imported fire ants. These ants are present in the Athens, Georgia, area, but not in the Clemson, South Carolina, environment. Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty and Brant Faircloth (University of Georgia) have reported changes in bluebird behavior

(aggressiveness and success rate) depending on whether or not they are competing with fire ants for the same ground arthropods that are part of their food base.

Dr. Robert Cooper and Dr. Robert Matthews, also of the University of Georgia, presented papers on House Sparrows and Paper Wasps. Both of these organisms challenge bluebirds and bluebird trail monitors.

Dr. Janis L. Dickinson, Associate Professor and Director of Citizen Science Cornell Lab of Ornithology, introduced the latest Cornell project, *NestWatch*. “Citizen Science, as practiced at Cornell Lab of Ornithology, involves the public in gathering important data to track changes in wild bird populations at the continental or even global scale.” This on-line entry will supplement 300,000 nest records cards dating back to the 1960s. Janis emphasized that “As one of the most impressive grass roots conservation movements of all time, the bluebird community has certainly played a vital role in bluebird conservation past.” She urged NABS members to join *NestWatch* which is replacing *The Birdhouse Network*.

Dr. Dickinson had studied the Western Bluebird at the University of California Berkeley’s Hastings Reserve which provided insights into the bluebird family structure. One of the many projects that she did was one where the mistletoe (winter food for bluebirds) supply was cut in half. Normally, the sons stay in the parents’ home territory and the daughters leave. The reduction in the food supply forced the sons to also leave the home territory.

Dr. Jeanne Fair of Los Alamos National Laboratory also worked with Western Bluebirds. Initially studying between 440 and 700 boxes over a ten year period, stress factors included “the Cerro Grande fire in 2000, several years of severe drought, large scale tree thinning project, a 90% mortality of pine trees from bark beetles in several of the areas where nest boxes are placed, and the occurrence of West Nile Virus starting in 2003. In addition parasite load of blowflies in the nests and the blood parasite,

(Continued on page 5)

NABS 2007

(Continued from page 4)

Plasmodium spp. have been monitored in Western Bluebirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers.” Data collected included survival, nest productivity, physiological measures such as immune function, heavy metal concentrations, foraging observations of color-banded individuals to name a few. “This information will provide a preliminary understanding of the underlying mechanisms of stress and will have direct implications for understanding the costs of stress that can impact avian populations.”

Mountain Bluebirds were studied at two different elevations by Dr. L Scott Johnson of Towson University (Maryland). Doing his research in the Bighorn Mountains of north-central Wyoming, he compared Mountain Bluebirds nesting at a low-elevation of 4872 feet above sea level and a high-elevation site at 8225 feet. Because the high-elevation site had condition more stressful to bluebirds, he expected to find that the bluebirds at the high-elevations would lay larger eggs, but have smaller clutch size. Instead, it was found that the eggs were smaller, the clutch size had slightly fewer eggs, but “both males and females do indeed feed nestlings more frequently at the higher elevations.” Using the technology of the wireless internet Dr. John Pickering (University of Georgia) showed the audience how to check out the web site <http://www.discoverlife.org/research>. This is a data base striving to catalog all species and make them accessible on the web. By following simple directions, you can click your way to identify unknown plants and animals. Photographs can be submitted for identification. “Discover Life's research center (<http://www.discoverlife.org/research>) and its partners are establishing teams of scientists, students, and volunteers to study the impact of weather and other factors on a diverse array of species. These teams will use simple on-line identification guides, databases tools, and standard research protocols to gather and share information from a potentially vast array of study sites around the globe. In 2008,

we propose to start a large-scale, long-term scientific study of U.S. National Parks and other areas in North America. We invite the North American Bluebird Society and its members to join this endeavor.... If you wish to get involved, please email dl@discoverlife.org or call 706-542-6676.”

Dr. Melanie Rathburn (Boston University), having collaborated with Dr. Gowaty, presented information on the effect of food availability and the mate guarding behavior of Eastern Bluebirds. It was found that supplementing the territory with live crickets during the fertile period caused the male Eastern Bluebirds to guard the females more than the control area (no extra food). This guarding “manipulates females in two ways: by keeping other males away (Gowaty, 1981) or by restricting females’ movements (Gowaty, et al. 1989).” For humans it is the blue of the male Eastern Bluebird that is one of the bird’s outstanding features. Dr. Geoffrey Hill addressed the structural blue/ultraviolet coloration of the feathers of Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) to test 1.) whether expression of structural coloration is dependent on individual condition and 2.) whether structural coloration functions in female mate choice or male/male aggression. They made the males brighter or drabber (using markers) and females “showed no mating preference for the more or less colorful males (Liu et al. 2007). In the field, however, males with more exaggerated blue coloration paired earlier, fed mates and young at a higher rate, and had higher reproductive success (Siefferman and Hill 2003, 2005c).

Dr. Peter Arcese (University of British Columbia) using data collected by Vincent A. Bauldry (deceased) tackled the problem of birds deciding when to breed. Peter compared “the timing of breeding and individual fitness of 1095 individually-identified female Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) studied near Green Bay, WI, from 1968 to 1994” with “a long-term study of Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*) in coastal British Columbia.”

(Continued on page 6)

NABS 2007

(Continued from page 5)

Dr. Arcese “suggests that climate change is likely to influence optimal breeding date, the precision with which birds will predict optimal breeding conditions annually, and, thus, the fitness of individuals and populations. We conclude by suggesting how comparative studies of bluebird populations across North American could become critical to developing theory to predict the consequences of climate change for the bird populations worldwide.”

Dr. Jon Plissner of ABR, Inc. studied Eastern Bluebirds from 1985 to 1991 and investigated their natal dispersal. This “is the movement of individuals from their natal nests to the locations where they first attempt to breed.” A second word, philopatry, describes the tendency of a migrating animal to return to a specific location in order to breed or feed. “Among most birds, natal dispersal is sex-biased, with females settling farther from natal sites than do males. Dr. Plissner, however, “found no tendencies for females to disperse farther than their male siblings. In fact, sibling pairs or trios from the same brood dispersed or remained philopatric together more often than predicted by chance, suggesting that eastern bluebirds tend to live in kin-structured neighborhoods.” He did find “that fledglings from later broods were more philopatric than fledglings from earlier broods, a pattern that was also evident in comparisons of full siblings from different broods (i.e., younger individuals, from later broods, were more philopatric than older siblings).” He concludes that his work is consistent with a hypothesis of dispersal resulting from parent-offspring competition over local resources, although the significance of the difference in brood sex ratios (more females earlier in the season and more males later in the season) remains to be addressed.”

Dr. David Pitts (University of Tennessee at Martin) presented “Winter Survival: Flight, Food, Feathers, Fat and Flocks.” Bluebirds have been known as a “disaster species” because they are vulnerable to winter weather. However, if they can survive in a more northerly range, they get first access to the “high quality nest sites during the following nesting

season.” Their first defense against the colder weather is flight (migration). It was fascinating to see the graph showing the weight of the bluebirds as they approach winter and went from 30 grams to 40 grams or more as they added body fat. By molting in the fall, they replace the old feathers with new feathers with “maximum insulating capability.” In addition, they have the ability to fluff out their feathers as illustrated by “The Mad Bluebird” picture with which we are familiar. They huddle in cavities sharing body heat with other bluebirds. “While Eastern Bluebirds may not be as well adapted to cold weather as are some species, they are not totally defenseless against winter weather.” Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty was the responsible for this conclave of bluebird scientist. She has been studying bluebirds for over thirty years and many of the speakers were students or colleagues. At the Saturday night banquet, she congratulated the North American Bluebirds Society, their affiliates and individual trail monitors on a job well done. She gave an estimate of ten million bluebirds and described bluebirds as “a species of least concern.” She reports that since 1960, 300 papers were published about bluebirds. “...Dedicated, clever, hardworking scientists using bluebirds have been fabulously productive of knowledge related, not just to bluebirds, but principles of why and how life on Earth works.” Bluebird scientists have been able to be so productive partly because of the generous support of the NABS research funds, a funding source that gave many of them their starts in science.” Dr. Gowaty goes on to challenge NABS members and scientific community to collaborate armed with extraordinary knowledge and new questions associated with global change. The title of her talk was “Ecological Canaries: Bluebirds and the Future of Life on Earth.” The bluebirds are, indeed, more amazing than even bluebirders think they are! Dr. Gowaty challenged the audience to think of questions that they wanted to ask the bluebirds. Marisa Back of North Carolina wanted to know, “How does a female bluebird know that they haven’t selected an uncle or a cousin for a mate?” Dr.

(Continued on page 10)

Bluebird Trail by P. Allen Smith



The cottage isn't the only house that's going up at the Garden Home Retreat. We've been working on building a whole neighborhood. The houses are less than a square foot in size, but that's plenty of room for a single family. What kind of family could live in such a tiny home? A family of bluebirds!

Bluebirds build their nests in cavities, but they don't have the ability to create their own so they need our help. By mounting bluebird boxes we provide an easy alternative to nesting spots that occur naturally such as abandon woodpecker holes or crevices in dead trees.

Because bluebirds prefer to make their homes in wide open spaces my garden in the center of town is not suitable, but the Garden Home Retreat in the countryside is perfect.

There are grassy pastures where they can hunt for insects, scattered trees and fence lines for perching and we've just added 5 bluebird boxes where they can make nests. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we'll find the houses occupied by mid-spring.

Here are a few points to consider if you are planning on putting up bluebird boxes this year.

- Is your site suitable? Bluebirds prefer big, open spaces in a pesticide free location with scattered trees or fences for perching.
- Late February and early March is the time to set up bluebird nesting boxes if you want to encourage these birds to make a home in your yard. This may seem a little premature, but late winter and early spring is when male scouts are out looking for a place to nest.
- Bluebirds are particular about their homes. You can purchase boxes designed just for bluebirds or make one yourself. The boxes should be made of untreated wood, well ventilated, watertight, have drainage holes, easy to monitor, and easy to clean. You can find plans for a bluebird box online at www.nabluebirdsociety.org. Gilbertson houses created by Steve Gilbertson, from Akin, Minnesota, who is a recognized Eastern Bluebird authority, are made from PVC. They are becoming a popular choice because house sparrows don't seem to like them.
- Common predators are cats, snakes, and raccoons. Mount your bluebird box on a metal pole to prevent these guys from attacking the nest. As a further deterrent apply a coat of grease to the pole and a collar just below the box.
- House sparrows are also cavity nesters and very

aggressive. Site your bluebird box away from your house, barns or outbuildings where sparrows are common. Monitor your boxes weekly and immediately remove sparrow nests, which are messy and made with a mixed bag of materials.

- The location of the bluebird box is important. They should be placed 100 yards away from wooded areas, facing away from prevailing winds, and about 5 feet above the ground. If you are going to put up more than one box, they should be equidistant: 125 to 150 yards apart for Eastern bluebirds, 100 yards apart for Western bluebirds and 200 – 300 yards apart for mountain bluebirds.

- It is important to check on your bluebirds once a week during nesting season. Bluebird boxes are designed with a side that opens so you can look inside without disturbing the nest.

- o Bluebird nests are cup shaped and made primarily of grass.

- o Bluebirds nest in late March and early April in most areas of the country.

- o It takes 12 to 14 days for bluebird eggs to hatch.

- o Stop monitoring the box after the baby bluebirds are about 12 to 14 days old.

- o Baby bluebirds will leave the nest when they are 18 to 21 days old.

- o If the baby bluebirds appear to be abandoned, call you local wildlife control immediately for help.

- o Clean out the bluebird box as soon as the nestlings have left to encourage another brood.

Bluebirds usually produce eggs twice in a season.

Good To Know

Bluebirds eat insects during the summer, but they like berries as well. Here is a list of a few berry producing plants that are among their favorites.

Flowering Dogwood	Foster Holly
Eastern Red Cedar	American Elderberry
Shadblow, <i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	
Euonymus Americana	American Holly, <i>Ilex opaca</i>
Boston Ivy	Viburnum sieboldi
Elaeagnus	BeautyBerry

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~~ FEEDING BLUEBIRDS ~~

Why don't Bluebirds visit my feeders like other birds?

During the nesting season, the bluebird's diet consists mostly of ground insects. Later, during fall and winter they switch over to 'berries when necessary. Their beaks simply are not designed for cracking open seeds and is why they are rarely seen at feeders. The exception may be a feeder that offers hulled sunflower chips in winter but as long as insects and berries are readily available, in all likelihood, they won't visit this type of feeder either. There are, however, bluebird feeders in which you can place meal worms that the bluebirds will readily accept. Some people just put them in an open plate or platform feeder, but other birds will also scoff these morsels up quickly.

Typical Bluebird feeders will look similar to a house with Plexiglass or slotted sides so the birds can see in, with 1 1/2" entrance holes (like a nest box) on each end so they can enter and leave easily and will keep most other birds out.

Feeder pictured at right can be ordered from The North American Bluebird Society at:
<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/catalog/feeding.html>



Handy? Build your own feeder. ..

For the handyperson, here is a link for a different design with detailed plans so you can build your own:

<http://bluebird.htmlplanet.com/fawzifeeder.htm>

Photo at left shows one I built pretty much using the these plans but elected to change a few dimensions to suit my needs and available materials.

Mealworms

Bluebirds LOVE mealworms and these can be purchased at most local sporting or fishing stores where they are sold for bait.

Mealworms can be somewhat expensive at these stores but may offer an immediate source if needed in a hurry. For regular feeding, you will find the following sources to be much more reasonably priced:

PHOTO AT RIGHT: Looking through the Plexiglass end, you can see Bluebirds will quickly learn to find your offerings. The slots on the sides also allow Bluebirds to enter and keep most others out.

North American Bluebird Society

Natures Way (<http://www.herp.com/nature.html>)

Rainbow Mealworms (<http://www.rainbowmealworms.com/>)



The following suet mixture is an excellent food source for winter months and some Bluebirds may even try it in summer/fall:

1 cup Lard or suet plus 1 cup Peanut Butter (plain or crunchy) plus 1 cup Cornmeal

3 cups Oats ("Quaker" cereal type) plus 1 cup Sugar (less is ok, but the full cup is great for a winter calorie boost in cold climates)

Melt lard and peanut butter together. Stir until blended. Add all the other ingredients one at a time for smoother stirring. It should be thick. You may add extra oats or cornmeal if it is not thick enough. Pour the mixture into a greased pan, cool in refrigerator and cut or spoon into the proper shape for your feeder (some small plastic containers are already the shape and size for most suet feeders). Chopped peanuts, chopped raisins, sunflower hearts, and powdered sterilized eggshells can also be added to this mixture.

Reprinted by permission from the Massachusetts Bluebird Association (Vice-President—Hart Millet)

Another Mealworm Feeder

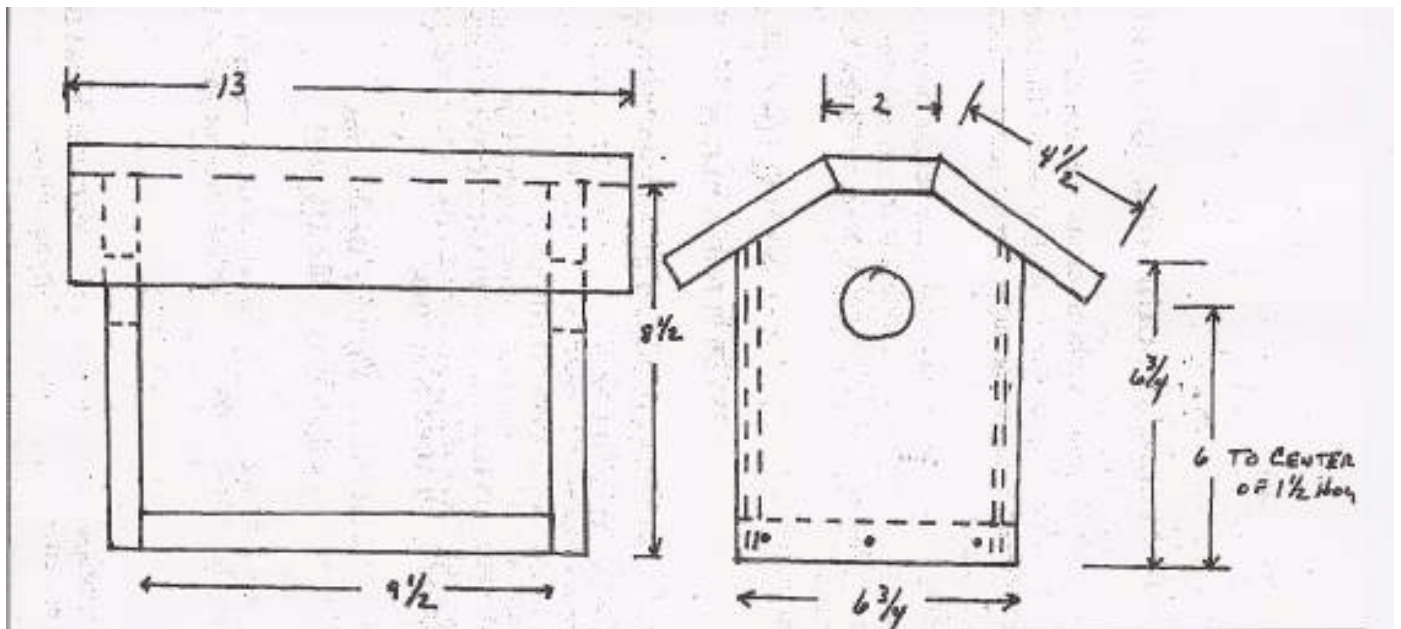
GOOD FEEDER

GOOD FOOD

GOOD RESULTS

I have used this feeder with excellent result. I initially placed only the one inch clear strip on the hinged side of the until the Bluebirds find the feeder and begin to use it regularly. Then I add the additional strip to keep out larger birds (Robins, etc.) from the feeder. You can hang the feeder from limbs or mount it on a post or pipe with a floor flange.

Chuck Bliss, Asheboro, NC



Directions: Cut pieces to size

2 Ends—6 3/4 " by 8 1/2". Cut corners off for the roof.

1 Floor—6 3/4" by 9 1/2" *

2 Roofs—4 1/2" by 13 (beveled edge)

1 top 2" x 13" (beveled edges)

2 pieces—5" by 10" by 1/8 Plexiglass or glass

2 pieces—1" by 10" by 1/8 Plexiglass or glass

* adjust 9 1/2" length based on type slot provided

Drill two entrance holes in Ends

Cut four slots in edges (3/8" deep) or nail strips in place for Plexiglass or glass to slide in.

Nail or screw and glue ends to floor making sure they are at 90 degrees.

Cut and check bevel fit of roof to top.

Nail or screw Top to Ends

Nail or screw 1 roof in place.

Hinge the other roofs in place.

Winter Pudding Recipe

Bring one quart of water and a 1/2 stick of margarine to a boil.

Stir in two cups of grits.

Add 1/2 cup crunch peanut butter. Lower heat until mixture begins to thicken.

Add 1/2 cup of raisins and other fruit or nut hearts as you wish.

Combine well and spoon into small plastic containers. Set out in yard or place in feeder.

Freeze balance for later use. Remove mix from container when placing in feeder.



(800)-322-1100

Monday-Friday

8:00am to 3:30pm PST.

Identify yourself as feeding bluebirds and receive a 10% discount on your mealworm purchase.

NABS 2007

(Continued from page 6)

Gowaty says, "The indication at this date is that it is by smell."

In addition to these speakers, researchers and their posters were available during lunch and breaks so that they could discuss their research. These included Julian Avery, Dr. Judy Guinan, Renee Carleton, Jason Lang, Brant Faircloth and Dr. Patricia Adair Gowaty.

The report above on the speakers and poster presenters at NABS 2007 was taken from the *Schedule and Abstracts* of "Bluebird Partnerships: Science and Bluebirds." No attempt was made to footnote each quotation. Anyone wanting a copy of this collection of abstracts should contact Helen Munro

(hsmunro@ac.net), (910-673-6936), or 22 Bobolink Rd., Jackson Springs, NC 27281.

Participants to NABS 2007 enjoyed meeting bluebirders from all over the continent. Twenty-three states and three provinces were represented.

Friday's field trip was to the Georgia Botanical Garden where Dr. Jim Affolter, director, and Shirl Berry, assistant director, treated everyone to a "walk in the woods" and a "walk in the garden." Crops from Georgia, succession of trees into former cotton fields

and ornamental gardens all demonstrated the botanical diversity of the Georgia landscape. The tradition of door prizes, silent and live auctions continued with NABS 2007 as everyone was given the opportunity to collect bluebird memorabilia and support the cost of putting on a convention.

The Georgia Center of the University of Georgia was the venue for NABS 2007. It was a delight to sit in a first class auditorium with plush chairs, tables to write on and the latest audiovisual equipment. Everyone could see, hear and enjoy the comfort!

Mary Janetatos was presented a NABS Lifetime Membership by Treasurer Greg Beavers. Mary was the Executive Director of NABS for nineteen years starting with its formation in 1978.



NCBS 2008

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 5, 2008. This is the date of the 2008 annual meeting. This year we return to Southern Pines, NC, and enjoy the hospitality of the Weymouth Center. This grand old house was home to the Boyd family who moved to Southern Pines at the turn of the last century. They established a tradition of hospitality that is reflected in the preservation of the house and the grounds by the Friends of Weymouth.

The plans for the meeting are tentative, but should include a PowerPoint presentation by Dan Finch of his father's slides and a visit to Weymouth Woods which Red-cockaded Woodpeckers call home. Weather permitting there will be a demonstration of misting nets and the banding of song birds as well as more information on the Red Cockaded Woodpeckers. Lunch will be provided by Talbert's Catering and served on the grounds of the Weymouth Center.



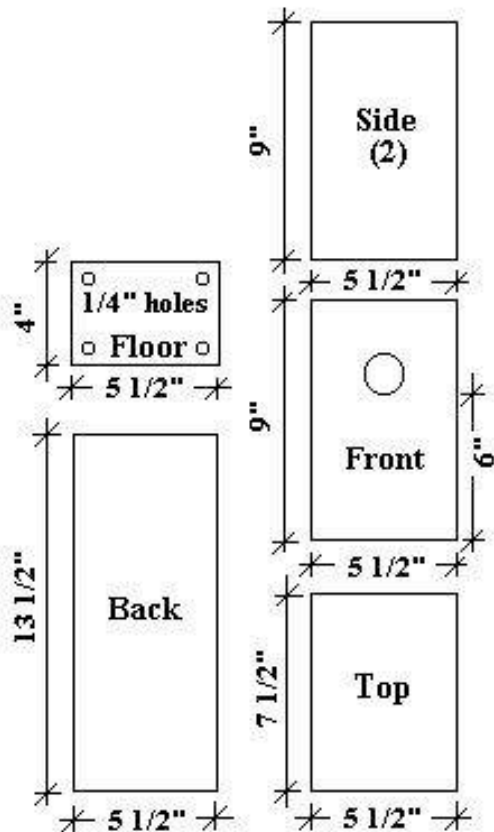
Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities
555 E Connecticut Ave
Southern Pines, NC 28387
www.weymouthcenter.org
Weymouth Woods
Sandhills Nature Preserve
1024 Fort Bragg Road
Southern Pines, NC 28387

Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Plans

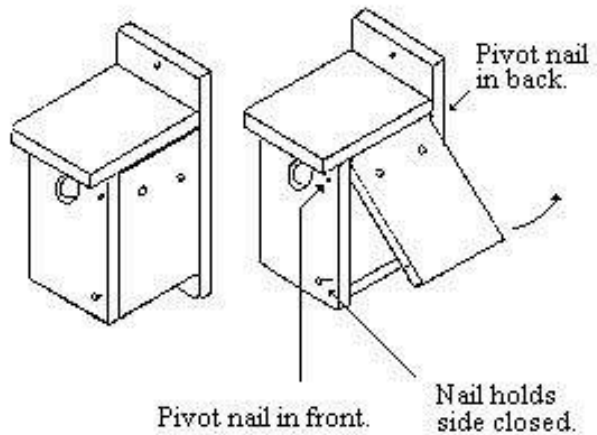
Eastern Bluebird populations declined in recent years to as low as 17 percent of their previous numbers in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Currently, Eastern Bluebird populations are increasing in some regions as the number of natural nesting sites has been augmented with artificial nesting boxes. Good bluebird habitat includes open grassy areas with little or no understory, perches for "drop-foraging," and suitable nest sites close by. Such habitat is found in orchards, clear-cuts, burned-over areas, and at the edges of upland woodlands and swamps.

Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Plans

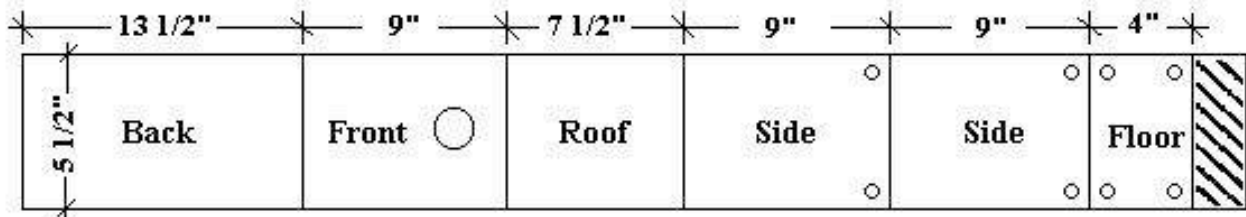
Entrance hole is 1 1/2 inch to deter starlings.



Two "pivot" nails allow side to swing out for cleaning. Use one nail at bottom to keep door closed.



Lumber: One 1" x 6" x 6'



Visit [Shaw Creek Bird Supply](http://ShawCreekBirdSupply.com) to see our selection of [Bluebird Houses](http://BluebirdHouses.com).

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For information from the internet: www.bbne.org—Information— Register Early!

NABS 2008

**Join the Migration
to Kearney, Nebraska!**

More than
10 million
waterfowl stop
in the rainwater
basin each year.

The largest
concentration of
Sandhill cranes in
the world - more
than 500,000.



**Great Plains
Sandhill Crane
& Bluebird Festival
March 6-9, 2008**

257 species of birds
have been observed
on the rainwater
basin (four threatened
or endangered).

Holiday Inn Hotel
& Convention Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Speakers include

- Julie Zickefoose
- Bill Thompson III
- Al Batt
- Kevin Berner
- Keith Radel
- Ron Cisar
- Keanna Leonard

Birding Field Trip

- Prairie Dog Village
- Prairie Chicken Leks
- Sandhill Crane viewing
- Waterfowl viewing
- Rainwater Basin

Prairie Culture Tour

- Great Archway
- Kearney Museum
- and other
- local attractions

Crane viewing blinds

Workshops



Includes the celebration of the North American Bluebird Society's 30th Anniversary

For more information, visit our Web site at: www.bbne.org, or e-mail info@bbne.org,
or write to Bluebirds Across Nebraska, P.O. Box 67157, Lincoln, NE 68506-7157

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
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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

Special Membership Offer for Members of NABS' Affiliate Organizations

In their continuing effort to align NABS closer with affiliates, the NABS Board is extending a discounted membership offer to NCBS members.

**This is a special offer only available from
1/1/2007 through 12/31/2008**

**\$15 a year for both single (\$20) and
household (\$30) memberships
Good for renewals and new memberships**

Your annual membership in NABS helps support bluebird conservation, research and education. *Thank you!*

General or specific donations of any amount are always welcome and encouraged.

North American Bluebird Society

PO Box 43

Miamiville, OH 45147

Bluebird Holiday Shopping

Greetings Bluebirders-

The North Carolina Bluebird Society has a limited store and we appreciate your support. Our first suggestion for a holiday gift is, of course, a NCBS membership, but if you are looking for a wide range of bluebird items, check out www.cafepress.com/braw. They are another bluebird society doing good things for the bluebirds.

There are two ways to pay for items: by credit card. CafePress is a secure site for credit card purchases or you can choose the items you like and record the item numbers, size, color, etc. and order by phone (1-877-809-1659) during their customer service hours: Monday – Saturday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm EST.

They have lots of new items such as men, women and kids clothing, bumper stickers, tiles, magnets and more! Many items contain bluebirds without the BRAW logo so you can show your bluebird pride in your own state. Start your holiday shopping early. Happy shopping and keep getting those Blues!

Patrick Ready
BRAW PR Guy

Julie Schroeder
BRAW Store Manager
juliem8675309@hotmail.com

Sample Items



Shirts



Mouse Pad



Tote Bag

NCBS Fall Board Meeting

Saturday, October 20, 2007, found the NCBS Board meeting at Jim Jochum's home in Greensboro. Present were Helen Munro (Interim President), Jimmy Miller (VP), Bruce Fensley (Rec. Sec.) Diane Scales (Treas.), Chuck Bliss & Virginia Pickles (Co-Chairs CC) and Directors Jim Jochum, Bill Satterwhite, Hank Moss and Ray Welch. Please contact Bruce Fensley (bfensley@embarqmail.com) if you would like a complete copy of the minutes by email.

Items discussed and voted on included:

- ◆ The website can include links to other websites of non-profit organizations, but not to commercial sites.
- ◆ There are 449 mailed newsletters and 69 people who received them on-line.
- ◆ The Treasurer reports money in a CD (\$3800) and in the regular checking account (\$3,954).
- ◆ The next board meeting is Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, in Foxfire Village, NC at the home of Helen Munro.
- ◆ The annual meeting is Saturday, April 5, 2008, in Southern Pines, NC.
- ◆ NCBS elections are held every two years. We need members interested in being Board Members and Officers. Please contact Hank Moss (910) 692-2328 or hmjr@nc.rr.com) and volunteer.
- ◆ Many of the current board has served more than ten years. We need new people with new ideas and renewed energy!

Helen S. Munro, Editor & Interim President

North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators

ALAMANCE	Fran Outhwaite	(336-226-4770)	MONTGOMERY	Don Berrier	(336-461-4457)
ANSON	Heyward McKinney	(704-694-3240)	MOORE	Helen Munro	(910-673-6936)
BLADEN	Mike Jackson	(910-863-3839)	ORANGE	Sally Freeman	(919-471-2462)
BRUNSWICK	Don Adams	(910-454-9856)	PITT	Dr. Edward Davis	(252-756-4165)
BUNCOMBE	Gladys & Sam Phillips	(828-669-1010)	POLK	Barbara Rowe	(828-863-4253)
BURKE	Karen Gilliam	(828-437-6772)	RANDOLPH	Chuck Bliss	(336-625-5423)
CABARRUS	David Silla	(704-788-3778)	ROBESON	Pete Roberts	(910-671-4702)
CARTERET	Ken Roberson	(252-728-4255)	ROCKINGHAM	Houston Pyrtle	(336-349-8311)
CASWELL	Mary Beth Moore	(919-563-2828)	ROWAN	Nancy Liggins	(704-636-8127)
CHATHAM	Lloyd Edwards	(919-837-2468)	RUTHERFORD-	Christine Ammons	(828-287-3502)
CLAY	Carol Reid	(828-837-5807)	STANLY	Richard Griffin	(704-474-4666)
CLEVELAND	Dewey Meeks	(704-734-1482)	SURRY	Bethany Shepherd	(336-352-4455)
CUMBERLAND	Tom Cain	(910-630-3970)	SWAIN	Karen Jacobs	(828-488-6202)
CURRITUCK	Heather Robbins	(252-599-7410)	UNION	Augustus Moore	(704-821-4624)
DAVIDSON	Ray Welch	(336-764-0226)	WAKE	Bill Satterwhite	(919-787-5248)
DAVIE	Steve & Lori Collier	(336-712-0720)	WARREN	Stella Rideout	(252-257-3137)
DURHAM	Jimmy Dodson	(919-796-7308)	WATAUGA	John Whitley	(828-963-1911)
EDGECOMBE	Ann Kent	(252-823-7862)	WAYNE	John Pickles	(919-658-3062)
FORSYTH	Bill Abbey	(336-766-5857)	WILKES	Randy L. Mays	(336-957-5337)
GASTON	Dana Glenn	(803-684-2300)	YADKIN	Bob Southard	(336-679-8376)
GRANVILLE	Phil Walters	(919-603-0472)	PIEDMONT, SC	David Edgerton	(864-947-5310)
GUILFORD	Paul Waldrop	(336-299-5308)	YORK, SC	Bill Hilton, Jr.	(803-684-5852)
HENDERSON	Joe Sanders	(828-651-0920)			
HYDE	Sherri Surrat	(252-926-9313)	Web-site –	Glenda Ryan	
IREDELL	Joseph R. Taylor	(704-872-7682)		glenda@nc.rr.com or (919) 266-0500	
JOHNSTON	Ethelene Allen	(919-963-3831)	Coordinator	Chairman -Virginia Pickles	
LINCOLN	Pat Probst	(704-735-5780)		(919-658-3062) or pic658@nc.rr.com	
MCDOWELL	Carol Gilliam	(828-738-0655)		Chuck Bliss	
MECKLENBURG	Doug Archer	(704-846-1019)		(336-625-5423 or cbliss@triad.rr.com)	

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