



North Carolina Bluebird Society
4600 Chandler Grove Court
Raleigh, NC 27613

Established 1986 to promote a resurgence of Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesters in NC

2023 Annual President's Report

The North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization which was incorporated in 1986 with 48 members. Several of our founders had been caring for bluebirds since the mid-1970s.

Our members are all volunteers who dedicate their time, energy, and resources to providing safe proper nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds and other cavity nesters as well as providing current accurate educational information about the proper care and monitoring of those nest boxes.

Membership

At year-end NCBS had 525 members located in 56 NC counties.

We mailed 180 new member Welcome Packets since August.

Our membership year was revised to run from July 1 to June 30 in 2023. During this transition NCBS had over 100 memberships that were not renewed. These individuals have been notified and reminded resulting in our 525 active members in December.

A new membership level was approved for Lifetime Member with onetime dues set at \$400.

We have now received three Lifetime Members - _Elke Hoffman, Catherine Betts and ?

How do 525 NCBS individuals work to become one voice?

We work through a 13- member Board of Directors, 3 Area Coordinators and 45 County Coordinators.

The three Area County Coordinators (CC) are: Patty Cook-Western area; Bill Zitek-Piedmont area; Bill Highsmith- Coastal area, guide 45 County Coordinators who serve 49 of the 100 counties in N.C.

Of the 526 members listed as of 12-31-23; 88% of these members reside in 49 counties. There are 17 counties with members but no CC. Eighty-four percent of data reports received in 2023 were from counties with CCs.

The addition of a new county coordinator for Randolph County was countered by the loss of our CC. from Cleveland County who moved out of state.

Our County Coordinators continue to respond to members' and non-members' phone calls and emails, answering questions and giving advice. Besides aiding in staffing NCBS booths at festivals, our CC's have been giving programs to groups who monitor nest box trails, senior citizens meetings, a Rotary club, a sustainability group, Wild Birds Unlimited, educating and promoting native plant propagation in gardens and yards in conjunction with the NC Agricultural Extension service. They become the community voice of NCBS.

Public Outreach

Our 2024 Annual Conference is set to be held April 12-14 at Haw River Conference Center. Notices are going out. Our Conference theme will be "Happy Bluebird Trails."

NCBS gained two Business Affiliates in December: the NC State Parks Department as well as the NC Environmental Education Department. NC State Parks and NCBS will work jointly with developing bluebird trails in designated State Parks. This project will offer teachers and other environmental educators training in how, what, where and why we create bluebird trails. This project is intended to help build our membership with educators who teach their students to love the outdoors.

The Environmental Educators project will allow our programs to offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for teachers and other educators. CEUs are required by the state for certain science courses and usually teachers need 20-30 CEUs per year to keep licenses current.

Our Education Committee developed a new program "Bluebirds In the Schoolyard" to offer teachers of public, private or home schools a way to bring an outdoor classroom to their students. Teachers and students will receive training, information and support in caring for bluebirds on their campus. Currently we have two schools and one Outdoor Park using this program.

Expanding our Voice with IT

THE NCBS website is being updated with a new Platform, Squarespace. And our Facebook is growing.

North American Bluebird Society

We have 77 NCBS members who are also members of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS). Eighteen joined in 2023. NABS provides the most current bluebird information available from the best educational materials and handouts along with best practices and research.

Nest Box Availability

Nest boxes may be obtained from the following sources:

- Alexia Maneschi, Raleigh, NC Email: asmaneschi@gmail.com
- Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group, Warrenton, NC 252-257-4427 Email: NCwildlife@hotmail.com
- Charlie Gray, Fuquay-Varina, NC 919 810-2217 Email: cgraycta@gmail.com
- Call your County Coordinator

NCBS Store

The NCBS Store was renamed **Bluebird Haven** and several new items have been added.

Decorative bluebird pillow covers with NCBS logo on back. 14" square. Washable.

Cup Cozies with BB photo and logo and Car cup holders.

Data Management

According to our current data for 2023

NC monitored 1500 nest boxes.

53 reports were submitted which is 10% of our members.

25 of 100 counties or 25% reported.

Bluebird hatch rate 77% Other Species hatch rate 76%

BB eggs per NB 7.57 Other Species eggs per NB 5.3

The recent nest box survey revealed that of the 1509 nest boxes reported this year in NC, 1273 were reported from counties with county coordinators.

Grants

March, 2023	Town of Nashville, NC request for predator guards for the town's bluebird trail	Contact is Ashley Hamlet	\$200.00
May, 2023	Horizons Park in Forsyth County requested four new nest boxes	Contact is Jo Ann Freeman	\$200.00
December, 2023	Moore Magnet Elementary School in Winston Salem, NC requested 10 nest boxes.	Contact is Jonathan Thull	\$500.00

Author: Iris J. Senzig 2-4-24