

Fall 2022

# BLUEBIRD NOTES



The fall months have arrived again! The magic of so many hues of leaves is such a visual treat for us in the upcoming days ahead. Thanks to our Buncombe County Coordinator, Russ Bauman, for this precious image of a bluebird posing so nicely in autumn scenery from a past year. Cheer, beauty, & inspiration.

## Happy Autumn 2022



We hope you have enjoyed many new songbird arrivals in 2022. We are eager to review your nesting survey data. See form on page 14 and [ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org). Stories, tips, and photos are welcome too.

We are happy to announce our Spring 2023 conference will be at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC. We have enjoyed several meetings there and are ready to visit again. More on page 4.

The Virginia Bluebird Society has a spectacular conference coming up November 11-12. See their website at [virginiabluebird.org](http://virginiabluebird.org). Contact Valerie Kenyon Gaffney via email [vbs@virginiabluebird.org](mailto:vbs@virginiabluebird.org).

We are glad to hear that bluebirds are doing well in Brasston, NC. Gabe Strand, Woodworking Coordinator at John C. Campbell Folk School, reports bluebirds are a mainstay on their campus and can be seen around town. A class titled **Building Eastern Bluebird Birdhouses** will be offered in February. Details on page 12 or [folkschool.org](http://folkschool.org). Gabe can be reached at 828-837-2775, ext. 140

## North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) Mission Statement

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds in our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS). [www.ncbluebird.org](http://www.ncbluebird.org)

**2023 Annual Conference ...** Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC. Mark your calendars: April 22, 2023. See page 4 for past times & a chance to make more great memories next year.

**Upcoming Board Meeting ...** The next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2022 at 7 pm. All members are welcome. Please contact President Bill Zitek for the Zoom link.

**County Coordinators Rule ...** The President's report on page 3 recognizes the wonderful network of folks we have across the state. Additionally, we have compiled some examples of the work being done from the mountains to the coast to help bluebirds and educate others on how to assist our songbirds. Report summaries on page 5. Snapshots of people in the field making a difference and bluebirds + nest boxes that confirm results of the efforts (page 6). Wake County report on pages 7-9, which includes article regarding the cavity-nester Purple Martin.

**Milestone Anniversaries ...** Glenda Ryan marks 15 years in her role as Webmaster this past May! She also has been publishing the newsletter for 5 years. More on page 10.

**Memoriam ...** We were sorry to learn of the passing of George Kaye, who was serving as Macon County Coordinator. We want to remember George in this edition. See page 11.

**2022 Next Box Survey Data ...** Your nest box results are very important to our bluebird conservation program. It takes our nest box report manager some time to organize and report the data you submit. Please help her by submitting your results by November 15th. Form on [ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org) and on page 14.

### Bluebird Notes

#### Vol. 37 Issue III

North Carolina Bluebird Society, Inc. publishes *Bluebird Notes* quarterly:  
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter

Your bluebird stories and photos are welcome for newsletter/online content.

Please submit to: Glenda Ryan, Editor/Webmaster/Marketing

E-mail: [editor@ncbluebird.org](mailto:editor@ncbluebird.org)  
1005 Moat Court, Knightdale, NC 27545

Printed by **Keiser Brothers Printing**, Glen Rock, PA 17327

## Board of Directors

**Dr. Bill Zitek, President**  
[president@ncbluebird.org](mailto:president@ncbluebird.org)  
828-699-7717

**Ray Welch, Past President**

**Carol Reid, Co-Vice President**  
[vicepresident@ncbluebird.org](mailto:vicepresident@ncbluebird.org)  
828-361-1220 (cell)  
828-389-0972 (land line)

**Rebekah Sandell, Co-Vice President**  
[vicepresident@ncbluebird.org](mailto:vicepresident@ncbluebird.org)  
919-414-4655

**Iris Senzig, Public Outreach**  
[irissenzig@gmail.com](mailto:irissenzig@gmail.com)  
919-270-8876

**Kay Cameron, Recording Secretary**  
[recordingsecretary@ncbluebird.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@ncbluebird.org)  
703-336-2865

**George Wesoloski**  
**Corresponding Secretary/Treasurer**  
[correspondingsecretary@ncbluebird.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@ncbluebird.org)  
910-233-0007

**Alexia Maneschi, Recording Chair**  
[recordingchair@ncbluebird.org](mailto:recordingchair@ncbluebird.org)  
919-387-9500

**Jim Burke, NABS Representative**  
[director-jb@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-jb@ncbluebird.org)  
336-763-1528

**Kay Hindsley, Eastern NC Director**  
[east@ncbluebird.org](mailto:east@ncbluebird.org)  
252-832-0737

**Lloyd Young, Coastal Region Director**  
[coast@ncbluebird.org](mailto:coast@ncbluebird.org)  
925-628-9205

**Ken Roberson, Newsletter Distribution**  
[director-kr@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-kr@ncbluebird.org)  
336-402-2752

**Donna Allred**  
[director-da@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-da@ncbluebird.org)  
336-402-1150

**Bob Warmuth**  
[director-bw@ncbluebird.org](mailto:director-bw@ncbluebird.org)  
828-322-7467

**Nest Monitoring Data Coordinator**  
**Kari Gould**  
[nestdata@ncbluebird.org](mailto:nestdata@ncbluebird.org)  
919-349-3283

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

## HAIL TO OUR COUNTY COORDINATORS

The phone rings, an email beeps, a stop on the street for a quick question—our North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators find themselves answering questions about the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds of North Carolina throughout the year. To some of us the answers may not seem that difficult. However, when we encourage someone to put up a nest box, we are introducing them to a whole new experience which will stimulate many questions. When we help someone put up a nest box and get them to join in this great bird conservation project, our mission is to see that they can do it correctly and achieve the goals we have set.

This is where the 42 County Coordinators across the state come in and why they are so important to getting our message out and getting good solid guidance to those who need it. Each of these members contributes greatly to the conservation of the Eastern Bluebird by making themselves available and unselfishly sharing their knowledge and experience with others.

Like yourselves, many County Coordinators started off seeking to join with other bluebird enthusiasts hoping, in many instances, to first attract bluebirds and then improve the success of the one or two nest boxes they put up. As they gained more experience and became more knowledgeable, they took the step to share their knowledge with others.

Our members questions come in from throughout the state. From “Why should I open my nest box?” to “There were 4 eggs in the nest on Tuesday and today they are all gone—What happened?” ... “Should I leave the nest in the nest box or take it out after the nestlings have fledged?” ... “Where do the bluebirds go when they leave the nest box?”... And County Coordinators welcome the chance to provide answers.

While many of us are well versed in bluebird natural history and effective nest box monitoring, having had the wonderful opportunity to learn from others, there are many who want to “put up a nest box” and join us. The problem is, however, that they need help in understanding what responsibility goes along with this act. This is why the North Carolina Bluebird Society was founded and where our County Coordinators come in: to guide us in the “educational, scientific and charitable pursuits that are beneficial to the prosperity and well-being of the eastern bluebird”.



They are doing a great job. Forty-six out of 100 North Carolina Counties are now served by North Carolina Bluebird Society County Coordinators. Look at the list at the end of this issue and you will see their names. In this issue, we are providing examples of their work around the state. Enjoy seeing what your colleagues are doing. See pages 5-6 for words and images demonstrating an extensive effort to help blues and other cavity-nesting songbirds in various areas of the state. Wake County, where we have the most members, has a team of three helping educate others on how to help songbirds. Their report on pages 7-9 includes information regarding the cavity-nesting Purple Martin.

While we appreciate everyone's efforts, it is especially pleasing to note some long-timers still going strong. Mike Jackson of Bladen County, Mary Beth Moore of Caswell County, Lloyd Edwards of Chatham County, Ray Welch of Davidson and Forsyth Counties, Phil Walters of Granville County, Dr. Edward Davis of Pitt County, Christine Ammons of Rutherford County, and Dana Glenn of Stanly County have served as County Coordinators at least 18 years. What dedication and commitment to Eastern Bluebird Conservation. Just think of the number of bluebirds that they have helped in their years of service.

Outstanding! Our “Hats off” to all of our County Coordinators and many thanks for their great work!

**A seed is a promise of the future! Plant native plants in your pollinator garden: Natural Bird Food**

# HAW RIVER STATE PARK: HERE WE COME AGAIN IN 2023

We have enjoyed several past meetings at Haw River State Park in Browns Summit, NC, with much positive feedback. We are pleased for the chance to offer this location for our 2023 conference. Photos below by Glenda Ryan from 2016-2017. A relaxing indoor setting while learning and sharing stories. Options of walking tours to see nest boxes or activities at the conference center geared to suit different preferences. More memories can be seen in our archives: <https://www.ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters>.



Our annual meeting planned for April 21 and 22, 2023 should be a great one at Haw River State Park. Besides the beautiful setting, Haw River will provide accommodations for an overnight stay, your meals and meeting rooms. Internationally known author, wildlife artist and bluebird enthusiast Julie Zickafoose will be our featured speaker, followed by several breakout sessions to help improve your bluebird and nest box trail knowledge. Mark your calendars to join us and share a great bluebird weekend with your fellow North Carolina Bluebird Society members and friends.

President Bill Zitek recently visited the park first-hand for himself. Photos below snapped by Bill.



# STATE-WIDE WORK: COUNTY COORDINATOR ACTION

## BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION WORK ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

**Alamance County: Bennie Catoe** Writes a Bluebird Club Column in the Burlington Bird Club Newsletter, as well as building and monitoring a nest box trail at the Burlington Valley Golf Course. She recently upgraded trails with new nest boxes from EBRG (Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group).

**Buncombe County: Russ Bauman** A premier bird photographer, Russ provides pictures to our organization as well as Audubon. A big portion of bluebird images on our website are courtesy of Russ. His photography can be seen in many of our newsletters, including the cover of this edition. We also created greeting cards and gifts with many pictures by Russ. Check out the online store from link on [nbluebird.org](http://nbluebird.org). Russ also helps with bluebird programs to local groups.

**Cleveland County: Jim Kunkle** Serving for 11 years, Jim keeps his bluebird group and county members up to date with periodic photos and notes about bluebirds and encourages their attention to good nest box monitoring. You can see his articles and pictures in many newsletter articles. A great example of tips from Jim can be found in the Fall 2020 edition.

**Craven County: Clay and Kathy Hodge** Monitor a 60 nest box trail at River Bend Golf and Country Club plus another 65 nest boxes in the area. They helped a new member, Shannon Lee, establish a new trail at an elementary school. They have been great supporters of our Grants program.

**Durham County: Peter Chauncey** Guided the Triangle Area Sustainability Group in establishing a nest box trail throughout the Research Triangle Park and provided a program on eastern bluebird natural history and trail monitoring to their Lunchtime Series group. He also provides support and guidance and helps monitor the trail, along with maintaining his own nest boxes. Peter also spoke to the Creekside Bluebird Group and helped site nest boxes for them.

**Gaston & Montgomery Counties: Jean Sprague** Devised a new method using a plastic bag to eliminate wasps from a nest. Her main trail is at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden (DSBG) in Belmont, NC. She held a day long nest box building program along with a bluebird display here, which involved children along with adults. Procuring many nest boxes from Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group) EBRG, she has been installing them throughout DSBG and selling some to raise money for the trail maintenance. Presently she is working on signage for the trail.

**Guilford County: Board Member Donna Allred** Contributed to an article about bluebirds and bluebird trails in North Carolina through WRAL. She will soon be supplying a local program along with fellow Board member Jim Burke.

**Henderson County: Joe Sanders** Drawing from 17 years of experience monitoring nest boxes, this year he is guiding new member Steen Pedersen at the local park. He also is assisting the building of a new trail in Etowah financed by a NCBS grant. Joe has been teaching Bluebird classes at the NC Arboretum and holds a second session so people can see the nestlings and learn about monitoring.

**Moore County: Dave Kilpatrick** Dove right into this new job with a presentation to the Woodlake Birds and Blooms Club in Vass, NC, where he explained good monitoring and sent along a picture of an example of labeling a nest box for identification.

**Nash County: Bill Highsmith** Helping members solve one of North Carolina's most perplexing nest box problems, snake predation of nest boxes, has been one of his priorities. His own experience brought out quite a response from members. Bill spoke at the Rocky Mount Garden Club in March.

**New Hanover: Charlie Owens** Welcome to Charlie in his new role. He monitors some golf course nest boxes and reported the presence of a Painted Bunting competing with a bluebird at a feeder.

**Polk County / Evangeline "Vange" LaMore** Spoke and provided bluebird information at the local Earth Day celebration. Vange is also a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who has written an article for our *Bluebird Notes* (see the Fall 2021 edition). She recently procured 20 EBRG (Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group) nest boxes for a trail in Tryon, NC.

**Randolph County: Ken Roberson** A past County Coordinator in Carteret County, Ken has been involved with NCBS for 14 years. Additionally, he is currently also a Board member. Ken builds nest boxes and installed new ones at the beginning of the season. He has given talks at elementary schools and likes to use the "Bluebird in the nest box" video. Ken packages, labels and sees that *Bluebird Notes* get sent out to everyone. See Fall 2020 newsletter about Ken's switch to Roberson County.

**Wake County: Joye Stephenson / Carol Reid (Co-Vice President) / Terri McLaughlin** Newcomer Terri joins forces with Joye (serving for 14 years in this area) and Carol (17 years helping various counties). They have represented the NCBS at the Raulston Arboretum, Raleigh Herb Fest with displays and the NCBS Annual Meeting at Sylvan Heights Bird Park. Terri and her husband bring some nest box experience from up north and have been setting up nest boxes and a bird friendly back yard.



**Two Happy Bluebird Customers**  
Joe Sanders's New Nest Box  
Etowah Park, Henderson County



**Joe Sanders with Trail Monitors**  
Jeff & Robin Hayes



**Wood Lake, NC Trail Nest Box**  
Guided by David Kilpatrick  
Moore County



**Russ Bauman, Buncombe County, leading a Presentation**



**Craven County Nest Box**  
Kathy & Clay Hodge



**Wasp Control 6-27-22**  
Jean Sprague  
Gaston/Montgomery Counties



**Creekside Birders Club Presentation**  
President Bill Zitek / Peter Chauncey, Durham County



**Nest Box for Polk County Members**  
Guided by Vange LaMore



**Earth Day Bluebird Booth**  
Vange LaMore, Polk County



**Nash County Nest Box with Snake Guard**  
Bill Highsmith



**New Hanover County Bluebird Snack Station**  
Photo by Charlie Ownens



**Nestlings & Blue Eggs**  
Photo by Vange 7-1-22



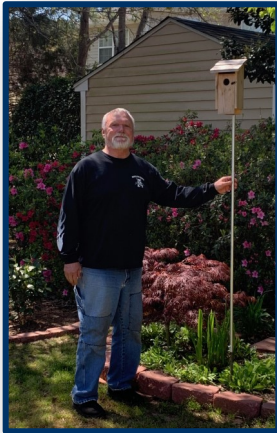
**Polk County Nest Box**  
Cheryl Gray & Vange LaMore

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WAKE COUNTY?

Wake County is a special place for our organization, with the most members from this area. Luckily, we have three County Coordinators here. Joye Stephenson, Carol Reid, and Terri McLaughlin work as a team ... getting the word out about bluebirds, answering questions, and promoting the value of nest boxes.

Terri is the newest addition and she has certainly been busy helping the Blues. First below shows her husband, Gary, posing by her nest box that was installed 4-4-22. The box did not stay empty for long. The two Blue visitors (seen in 2nd picture) seem grateful for their assistance from humans in Cary.

The third photograph is a bluebird booth at the Herb Fest in Cary being manned by Joye & Carol. The last image is Carol with the key for bluebirds: nest boxes. See Summer 2021 newsletter for more details.



### **Purple Martin Awareness — Cavity-Nester that Needs Help**

I serendipitously met Courtney Rousseau, President of The NC Purple Martin Society, at the NCSU University Club on July 13 to observe her do the next-to-last monitor of her Purple Martin colony. After hearing her “disaster story”, I thought it would be of interest to our members. After all, Purple Martins are “cavity nesters”. Following is the story shared by Courtney, as well as some relevant pictures.

Joye Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator Team

### **A Purple Martin Disaster at a Public Site: University Club in Raleigh**

It was Friday, June 17 at 6:55 pm. We had completed a hot but successful day of banding martins at Prairie Ridge Ecostation and University Club. I had just finished dinner with my kids and we were watching TV at our home in Holly Springs, NC. Outside, a violent thunderstorm with high winds had just passed overhead. I was a bit nervous when I heard the winds swirling around, and looked outside at my purple martin gourd rack and pole. It had swayed a little bit, but was undamaged. Our power flickered a few times, but stayed on. The chance of rain and storms that day had been low, so this one was a surprise.

We counted ourselves lucky and settled in for an evening of Star Trek while my husband was away. Suddenly, I got a notification on my phone from a lady we had just met at our banding event that morning. It was Andrea Miller. She was frantically messaging me that the worst possible scenario for a martin landlord had occurred: the poles at University Club in Raleigh had blown down in the storm.

## CAVITY NESTER: PURPLE MARTIN

Shocked, I asked her for a photo. Soon thereafter, I got an email from the general manager out at University Club. He, too, informed me that the poles had blown over. I felt panic rising in my stomach as I pictured gourds full of eggs and helpless young martin nestlings on the ground. I wondered how many had been hurt. I wondered what I would do with my husband and other martin volunteers out of town.

My two sons and I went to the garage to gather up materials we might need for a rescue. We started the 30 minute drive over to University Club from our house. While I was driving, I instructed my older teenage son to text the first people I could think of to help in this situation. In turn, those folks contacted others.

When we arrived at University Club, we hurried over to the martin colony site to assess the damage. My worst fears were confirmed: both poles were broken, gourds were in disarray, the house was on its side, and martin eggs and featherless young were on the ground. Upset adult martins circled above the housing. Nests had been tossed around inside gourds, and nestlings were buried under nest material. They were cold and weak. Two gourds were broken; fortunately, one of them was unoccupied at the time. All of the eggs on the ground were broken with the exception of one, which seemed to be hatching. I put it aside for a little while on a small towel, and as folks started to arrive to help, we broke into triage teams to work on individual tasks.

Some folks cut away the mangled owl caging. Others untangled gourds and set them right side up so that their occupants could be counted and checked against the nest check data sheets. Another group discussed how to put the broken poles upright again. Some folks brought personal items to help, such as flashlights, headlamps, and Hot Hands, which were used to keep featherless nestlings warm through the night.

It began to grow dark. Andrea (and then Laura Eason) moved her car over to the course and turned on the headlights so we could continue to work. Surprise helpers showed up in the form of the Hastings family from Burkes Brothers Hardware, just down the street from the University Club. They asked what they could do to help, and brought Gorilla tape, some more Hot Hands, and tools from their store. Armed with a sawzall, Mr. Hastings was able to cut off part of the damaged pole of one rack so that it could be removed and set upright again on a surviving ground stake.

The other pole on which the Lonestar house and gourd rack was mounted had a section which was completely mangled and had to be removed. The remaining length of pole was then put upright again on a pole connector. Both poles were now upright again, thanks to the lifting power of so many helpers. We then began the task of returning nestlings to their gourds and verifying the contents of all of the gourds.

I am glad that we've continued the habit of weekly nest checks at this site. Otherwise, returning martins to their correct gourds and in the correct orientation would have been impossible. I held the hatching egg in my hand during this process. As it began to warm up, the hatchling inside became more active and pushed its way out of the shell.

We tried to find a gourd in which to place it, but the gourd that had the smallest young seemed to be empty now, until John Gerwin started to comb through the nesting material. Eventually, we found the two tiny occupants of the gourd. We placed a Hot Hands packet just under their nesting material and placed the young on top of it, to keep them warm. The broken gourd with 4 feathered occupants was temporarily taped and wired closed and hung back on its proper spot on the rack.

Photo by Courtney Rousseau



Photo by Phil Doerr





## CAVITY NESTER: PURPLE MARTIN

Purple martins are very particular about their nesting spot; they remember the compass orientation of their nest cavity and will expect to see the cavity they recognize pointing in that same direction when they return, so ensuring the gourds and house were in the proper position was essential to help prevent the adults from abandoning the nest. After all gourds and house compartments were checked, we began the process of moving the wrecked owl cage and pole section debris to the side for later removal. We cleaned up our tools and headed home.

We did not realize how much time had passed; we were all there for a united purpose, which was to save these martins that depend on us for survival. I left University Club around 11:10 pm and arrived home shortly before midnight. I didn't sleep much that night, wondering if the adults would return to their nests in the morning, and if the nestlings would survive the night.

The next morning, I made my coffee extra strong and headed out the door. When I arrived, a happy sight greeted my eyes: adult martins were swooping around and feeding their hungry nestlings on shortened poles. The tiny hatchling from the previous night was snuggled with its nest mates. A passerby on the golf course had stopped to watch the martins with his young son. I explained to him what had happened the night before, and he thanked me and all the other volunteers who cared enough to save these birds. Some of these volunteers gave up their family time, and others missed their dinners that night. Their efforts were an amazing testament to what can happen when we come together to accomplish a conservation goal.

Why did this accident happen? The two inch square poles had been in place at University Club for over 15 years and had survived many storms. However, the owl cages, which were added last year out of necessity, probably overburdened the poles just a bit. We tried to keep this weight issue in mind when doing nest checks, and never raised the racks more than two thirds of the way up the pole, but it may not have been enough in this case. We will be replacing these poles for next season with stronger, larger 3 inch square poles with thick walls to better withstand storms and support owl caging.

The NC Purple Martin Society is a 501c3 registered nonprofit organization. If you would like to donate towards the repair costs of these systems, please visit our website:

<https://www.ncpurplemartin.org/donate>

Sincerely,

Courtney Rousseau, President, NCPM (North Carolina Purple Martin)



Courtney by the PUMA cage  
photo by husband Bob Rousseau



Joye snapped the photo above of John  
Connors & Courtney by the PUMA cage



PUMU cage  
photo by Courtney Rousseau

## WEBMASTER 15 YEARS / NEWSLETTER EDITOR 5 YEARS

### CONGRATULATIONS, GLENDA. WHAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS!!!

I am happy to announce some wonderful milestones for Glenda Ryan in 2022. She began with NCBS 15 years ago this past May to work on the website. Additionally, as of this fall, she has been publishing our newsletter for five years. During her time with us she has implemented so much to help NCBS grow.

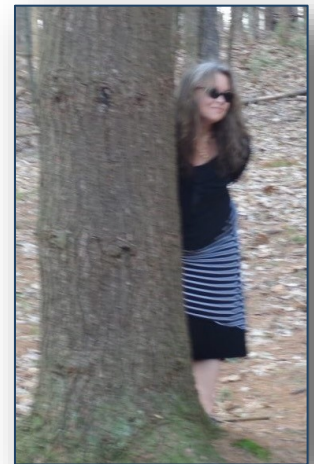
Glenda was already the Webmaster when I joined as Vice President in 2012. During my time as VP, and then President, she provided prompt accurate updates to our website. She constantly strives to improve our website to best assist our viewers and communicate information about the bluebird and the mission of NCBS. The upgrade she implemented in 2016 was a big win. A more streamlined look and it became easier for people to locate information. Another effort that she spearheaded was the Cafe Press store. She also helps with our social media as part of the team working on the NCBS Facebook.

She became our *Bluebird Notes* newsletter editor in the Summer of 2017 and consistently improved this publication with a great mix of educational and interesting articles on bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds. We are so pleased with the way the newsletter has progressed since Glenda took the reins. She has a gift with organizing the content in a manner that serves our members so well. She ensures the newsletters include articles and pictures from a variety of places across North Carolina. We have received lots of compliments on the quality of her newsletters.

Her ability to include timely and beautiful pictures associated with the subject at hand adds a delightful touch. Her idea to devote the 2020 Summer *Bluebird Notes* to Mr. Bill Satterwhite (Mr. Bluebird of Wake County), in celebration of his 100th birthday, was a spectacular way to honor Bill for his outstanding work in the NCBS, as well as provide bluebird history, tips and resources.

Another example of Glenda's creativity was sharing her first nest box activity through the eyes of her cat (Oscar) from window views! What an awesome way to share lessons, positive and negative.

Some other creations by Glenda that stand out can be found in the 2019 Summer *Bluebird Notes*. She documented learning from Wake County Bluebirder meetings and witnessing bluebirds thriving at Mordecai Historic Park in Raleigh. The bluebird sightings at this place were especially heartwarming, as results of the nest box trail implemented by the club founder and her top bluebird mentor, Bill Satterwhite, were seen soaring in the sky and flourishing. Glenda shared her bluebird pictures and thoughts to create an interesting article named *Bluebirds in the City*.



Another wonderful story, titled *Bluebird Couples*, that she brought to life in the Summer of 2019 news edition recognized three couples devoted to bluebird conservation and educated readers.

The times of 2020 was especially challenging for everyone. Glenda kept a positive tone in the newsletters, even when having to report cancelling our annual meetings twice due to the pandemic.

Glenda has a combination of technical ability, creativity, and attention to detail that is such an asset for our online and print needs. We are grateful for her loyalty to our organization and concern for bluebirds and other cavity-nesting songbirds. She continually learns new technologies and ways to better communicate our message. She is a big part of the reason our organization, and bluebirds across our state, continue to flourish. "Thank You" from all of us in the North Carolina Bluebird Society!

Ken Kernodle, Durham  
Past President

## MEMORIAM: GEORGE KAYE, MACON COUNTY

We were so sad to hear of the passing of George Kaye of Franklin, our Macon County Coordinator. George was very active in his role, as well as providing helpful news for *Bluebird Notes*. George began in 2020 serving as the NCBS representative in his county in western North Carolina. George was introduced to our readers in the Summer 2020 newsletter. Snippets of that article are provided below.



George informed this role of helping get the word out about bluebirds fit in nicely with the work he was doing at the time ... maintaining 100+ nestboxes in his beautiful county.

George shared how bluebirds became so important in his life. He started birding in Tampa, Florida after retirement in 2005. One of his field trips included visiting a bluebird trail ... and he was hooked!

He reported he and his wife spent summers in Franklin and fell in love with the mountains. They moved there full time in 2016. George thanked Bruce Thorne, NCBS Member and previous representative of this county, for informing him about the NC Bluebird Society.

George advised of a few events that contributed getting him started as a "nestboxer."

- Highlands Plateau Audubon Chapter decided to put up 150 nestboxes in Highlands, Cashiers and Franklin. He was part of the team and inherited the 22 boxes in Franklin.
- He felt blessed that Highlands Audubon later gave him double that number of boxes to add to his trails. He also received a grant from them to add 20 predator guards.
- The Franklin Greenway Board, where he was a member, also gave a grant for 20 more guards to add to the nestboxes on the Greenway.
- While hiking around Franklin, he learned of numerous neglected boxes on conservation properties. Many of the retirees and Eagle Scouts and others who put them up had moved on and forgotten the boxes. He began cleaning, repairing, replacing the neglected boxes, and adding to the boxes for the past several years.

His first community project as Macon County Coordinator involved advising 4-H kids on installing and monitoring bluebird boxes. This effort was very successful, as bird customers moved in right away. He advised of more projects planned, but then the virus epidemic hit, and everything came to a halt. He reminded that the birds didn't stopped raising young, and he continued working for them on his nestbox trails. He focused on the rewarding and fascinating experience of helping bluebirds.



During George's time with our organization his presence was strong. His devotion to helping bluebirds was clear, with examples in our newsletter archives. See story titled *Bluebirds of Macon County Get New Nest Box Roofs* he provided in Spring 2021 edition. This article describes an effort he steered to repair 25 boxes at Greenway and Mainspring properties in his area. He was fortunate for a new neighbor, Ken, who had a wood shop and love of birds. The two teamed up for a winter project that had the refurbished boxes ready by Spring for the arrival of Blues.

George will be missed, but we are grateful for the time he spent with us and his extensive help for bluebirds. Some good advice to keep in mind from George's words in one of his articles "If you have a nestbox, clean it out. If you don't have any, put up a couple. The birds will thank you."

# GREAT BLUEBIRD REPORTS / NEST BOX TIDBITS

## CHEROKEE COUNTY GARDEN CLUB PROMOTING NEST BOXES

In 2021 the Andrews Garden Club received a \$200 grant from the society. We put up bluebird houses in two different parks and a local cemetery. We are very pleased at how successful this past year has been for our parks. The Valley River Park had 23 bluebirds to fledge and Heritage Park had 19 bluebirds and 6 tree swallows to fledge.

Each year we are learning more and we think next year will even be more successful. To the right is a picture of one of our bluebird houses at Valley River Park. Pictured left to right are Elizabeth Hay, President and Patty Cook, Treasurer of the Andrew Garden Club.

Elizabeth Hay  
President Andrews Garden Club



## BLUEBIRD POPULATION INCREASING IN CLAY COUNTY

Gabe Strand, Woodworking Coordinator at John C. Campbell Folk School, reports the Eastern Bluebird is a mainstay on the campus. Furthermore, there is a strong population of the blues living in nesting boxes scattered throughout their town of Brasstown. This happy news has promoted an interest in building fresh bluebird houses to support these members of Brasstown's extraordinary and fragile ecological community.

**An upcoming weekend-long bluebird box building class is planned for February 17-19, 2023.** This indoor/outdoor class will give students the chance to observe the Folk School's winter birdlife while learning basic principles of green woodworking and carpentry. They will have the opportunity to construct a variety of cozy homes designed specifically for their resident bluebirds (and take a few home, as well). The course will include some time to look at the current boxes installed around campus while observing bluebirds and focus on how to maintain/repair boxes. Students will leave with knowledge regarding the requirements for maintaining a useful bluebird nesting box.

See [folkschool.org](http://folkschool.org), where you can also register. Gabe Strand can be reached at 828.837.2775, ext. 140

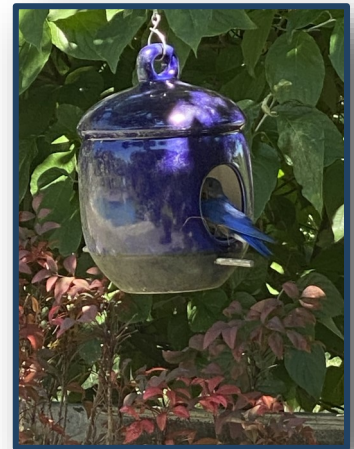


## ROCKINGHAM COUNTY GREETINGS

### UNBELIEVABLE NESTING BOX

These pictures were taken Monday 7/11/22. This ceramic feeder is hanging inside my pool area at my home. I have never seen a bluebird build in such a thing. This is photos of mom and dad at work! Beautiful to watch. I also have a video. We have 3 babies birds and I'm so excited!

Pam McCollum, Reidsville

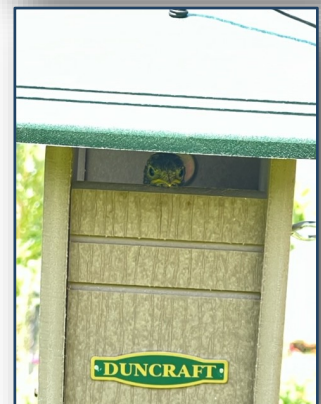


## HELLO FROM IREDELL COUNTY BLUEBIRD

This picture was taken this morning of one of our baby blues peeping out into the world.

Taken in Statesville, NC.

Dianne Wilson. 7/26/2022



# 2022 NEST BOX SURVEY DATA FORM

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nest Box/Trail Location (county, city, state) \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of nest boxes monitored at this site: \_\_\_\_\_

**Field Record Observation Notes Summary**

Date of first egg laid (start of season); also indicate species \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of nest boxes monitored at this site \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of **bluebird** eggs laid \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of **bluebird** eggs hatched \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of **bluebird** fledglings \_\_\_\_\_

**For Other Cavity Nesters, please break out by species.** *Example for eggs laid: Carolina Chickadee – 5; Brown-headed Nuthatch – 3; House Wren – 8; Carolina Wren – 4; Unknown – 2;*

Total number of **other cavity nester** eggs laid \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of **other cavity nester** eggs hatched \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of **other cavity nester** fledglings \_\_\_\_\_

Date of end of season's last fledglings; also indicate species \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Use additional sheets of paper if necessary. Please use a separate data form for each site you monitor. Thank you so much for monitoring and reporting the data to help track bluebirds and other cavity nesters!

**Please return by November 15, 2022** via email or postal address, per information below. *If you use email, please confirm with Kari that your data was received!*

Kari Gould, NCBS Board of Directors, 702 Hillandale Lane, Garner, NC 27529

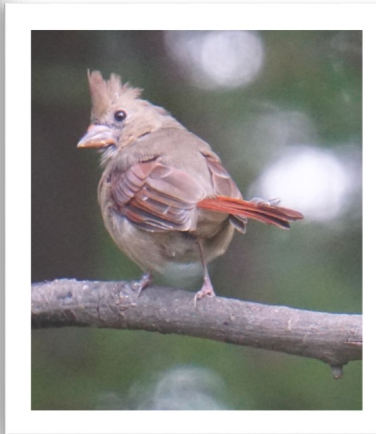
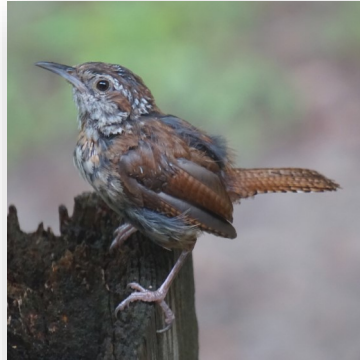
Email: [nestdata@ncbluebird.org](mailto:nestdata@ncbluebird.org)

Telephone number for questions: (919) 349-3283

# FEATHERED FRIENDS

# NCBS MEMBERSHIP

## Bird Picture Gallery from Oscar's Window View

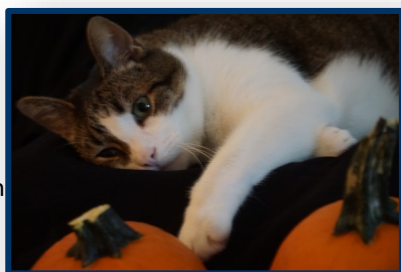


Fall Greetings from Oscar, your Bird-Friendly Feline. As you can see from the photos above, the view from my windows is colorful. We have seen a lot of titmice, chickadees, and wrens. It is especially nice to see some little birds ... Carolina Wren and Cardinal. It is entertaining for me to watch the birds ... while I am inside my house. Keeping kitties in homes is important for their safety, as well as the feathered friends.

We are looking for ways to improve our backyard landscaping to help more birds. Some resources we know about are [nbluebird.org](http://nbluebird.org) and [nbluebirdsociety.org](http://nbluebirdsociety.org). If you have any tips to share, please let us know. Hope you enjoy the 2022 autumn months.

Oscar, Knightdale, NC  
[felinegreetings.com](http://felinegreetings.com)

Photos/writing help from  
his caretaker, Glenda Ryan  
[websitebloom.com](http://websitebloom.com)



## NCBS membership options: 1 year (\$15) or 3 years (\$40)

Memberships are effective when started until June 30 after a full year. Thereafter, memberships will run July 1— June 30.  
Questions: Alexia Maneschi at 919-387-9500

Gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_ to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

A member's email address will be used only for NCBS official business and considered private and confidential.

Yes, I'd like to help NCBS save costs by receiving the quarterly newsletter *Bluebird Notes* electronically (Email needed for this option)

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

**North Carolina Bluebird Society**  
**4600 Chandler Grove Court**  
**Raleigh, NC 27612**

Additional tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership

Renewal

Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you also have an interest 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
- Monitoring a nestbox trail
- Other (please explain)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# COUNTY COORDINATORS

<b>Alamance</b>	Bennie Catoe	bbcatoe9@gmail.com	336-584-1662
<b>Anson</b>	Sharon & Dave Edwards	david.edwards.de33@gmail.com	704-695-4002
<b>Ashe</b>	Juanna Wooten	bobbyjuanna@gmail.com	336-462-2110
<b>Beaufort</b>	Sandy Rhodes	srhodes7@hotmail.com	252-943-8822
<b>Bladen</b>	Mike Jackson	mjjackson81@embarqmail.com	910-874-2894
<b>Brunswick</b>	Nancy Schiffman	nanschiffman@gmail.com	910-833-7011
<b>Buncombe</b>	Russ Bauman	susie.russ@att.net	828-667-9007
<b>Caldwell</b>	Sue Harrell	sueharrell@yahoo.com	772-475-5632
<b>Caswell</b>	Mary Beth Moore	mbandtm@triad.rr.com	336-214-8283
<b>Catawba</b>	Kristin Dzimitrowicz	kbdipad@gmail.com	828-781-8517
<b>Chatham</b>	Lloyd Edwards	geobruddah@gmail.com	919-548-3438
<b>Cherokee / Clay / Graham</b>	Patty Cook	ppcook@yahoo.com	828-361-5019
<b>Cleveland</b>	Jim M. Kunkle	James.Kunkle65@twc.com	704-560-6602
<b>Craven</b>	Clay & Kathy Hodge	KSLong1@msn.com	910-818-0785
<b>Cumberland</b>	Timothy K. Carroll	Timothy.K.Carroll@Chemours.com	910-678-1650
<b>Davidson &amp; Forsyth</b>	Ray Welch	thanks32424@att.net	336-764-0226
<b>Durham</b>	Peter Chauncey	chaunceypw@gmail.com	919-475-5450
<b>Edgecombe</b>	David Hindsley	jhindsley@embarqmail.com	252-823-0737
<b>Gaston &amp; Mecklenburg</b>	Jean Sprague	jalices@hotmail.com	704-215-0201
<b>Granville</b>	Phil Walters	walte011011@aol.com	919-482-5582
<b>Guilford</b>	Donna Allred	director-da@ncbluebird.org	336-402-1150
<b>Halifax &amp; Warren</b>	Stella Rideout	director-sr@ncbluebird.org	252-257-3137
<b>Haywood</b>	Richard Gould	thisiscom@comcast.net	239-560-2975
<b>Henderson</b>	Joe Sanders	joesanders0522@gmail.com	828-243-6732
<b>Johnston</b>	Mike Nolan	MNoln@hotmail.com	518-281-6236
<b>Lincoln</b>	Pat Propst	patp1949@gmail.com	704-735-5780
<b>Madison &amp; Yancey</b>	Chuck Arthur	whalechuk@gmail.com	808-554-9944
<b>Moore</b>	David Kilpatrick	dkilpatrick@icloud.com	910-624-3793
<b>Nash</b>	Bill Highsmith	billhighsmith@gmail.com	252-399-9602
<b>New Hanover</b>	Charlie Owens	chazbo1950@icloud.com	910-520-0222
<b>Orange</b>	Chuck Brewer	wbuchapelhill@gmail.com	919-387-4673
<b>Pitt</b>	Dr. Edward Davis	gedward.davis@gmail.com	252-756-4165
<b>Polk</b>	Vange LaMore	vardis2s@aol.com	828-863-4248
<b>Randolph</b>	Ken F. Roberson	kenmikecl@aol.com	336-402-2752
<b>Richmond</b>	Matthew Grant	matt_grant@bellsouth.net	910-331-6533
<b>Rutherford</b>	Christine Ammons	cbammons@gmail.com	828-748-2669
<b>Stanly</b>	Dana Glenn	bluebirdsinsc@yahoo.com	704-616-1742
<b>Surry</b>	Scott Wallace	scottwallace@gmail.com	763-498-4597
<b>Wake</b>	Joye Stephenson	jbluebirds@gmail.com	919-632-0736
<b>Wake</b>	Carol Reid	carolreid136@gmail.com	828-361-1220
<b>Wake</b>	Terri McLaughlin	ksgrammie3@gmail.com	919-741-9858
<b>Wayne</b>	Virginia Pickles	pic658@nc.rr.com	919-658-3062
<b>Wilkes</b>	Kathryn Charles	kathryndcharles@gmail.com	336-984-6102

BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY  
NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY  
4600 Chandler Grove Court  
Raleigh, NC 27612

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
P.A.I.D.  
Greensboro, NC  
Permit # 15

## BLUEBIRD GREETINGS FROM PITT COUNTY



These splendid snapshots are courtesy of Dr. Edward Davis of Greenville. Mr. Davis has been a representative for NCBS in his county since 1999. He has acquired a wealth of experience with bluebirding over 45 + years. He has installed numerous nest boxes on golf courses, in pastures, and at homesites of friends. He was fortunate to have a first nesting in his own yard this summer, which allowed him to photograph these Blues and other great closeups. Fantastic pictures!



The bluebirds are posing so nicely and are very grateful for their homes. These images

are a perfect reminder of the importance of nest boxes for our precious Blues. These man-made shelters have been key to the comeback of the bluebirds, after vast reductions in their natural nesting areas. Nest boxes are critical to their future. If you have nest data to report, please do so by November 15, 2022. Learn more about how nest boxes and other ways you can help our precious bluebirds at our website, [ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org), or [nabluebirdsociety.org](http://nabluebirdsociety.org), the site for North American Bluebird Society (NABS).

We hope this newsletter provided insight on the value of bluebirds and their presence. May you enjoy lots of sunshine in the upcoming months and embrace positive energy from nature's autumn color show. Sending Happy Thoughts & Wishes for a Fun Halloween, Nice Veterans Day, and Blessed Thanksgiving.