

Spring 2023

BLUEBIRD NOTES



Welcome to the Season of Renewal 2023 & Arrival of New Feathered Friends

It is time again to look forward the arrival of new Baby Blues & other Cavity-Nesting Songbirds Native to North Carolina. We wish you cheer, joy, & inspiration that the sights & sounds of Spring & our Singing Songbirds are sure to provide. The outstanding event on the horizon is our Annual Meeting at Haw River State Park — April 21 & 22. A day of fun, learning, and time sharing stories with other Bluebirders is on the agenda. See more about our featured speaker, Julie Zickefoose, on page four.

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

President's Report ... We are so excited for our upcoming visit to Haw River State Park. Hope to see you at this fabulous event that includes learning & fun in a magical place. Page 3.

Annual Meeting Featured Speaker... Julie Zickefoose, Bluebird Expert/Author. Page 4.

Brown-Headed Nuthatch ... Tiny cavity-nester that needs our help. Page 5.

Our Tree & Our Bluebirds ... Storm takes down huge oak tree with bluebird nest, but the Blues will survive. Page 6.

Welcome Center Welcomes Blues ... Madison/Yancey County Coordinator Chuck Arthur started great project. Page 7.

Wake County ... Presentations at Garden Clubs in Raleigh and Wake Forest & Knightdale Library. Pages 8-9.

Bluebirds Across NC ... Photo gallery from several counties: Buncombe, Catawba, Durham, Forsyth, Henderson, Wake. Images of bluebirds flourishing statewide. Pages 9-11.

Woodworking for Bluebirds ... Nest box project at Folk Art School in southwestern town of Brasstown. Page 12.

Nest Boxes ... We are assembling some 2022 survey data that was overlooked in our last edition...expected in Summer edition.

County Coordinator Area Coordinators ... If you are unable to reach a County Coordinator near you, additional resources are now available to help answer questions.

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Piedmont Region: Bill Zitek, 828-699-7717

Eastern Region: Bill Highsmith, 925-628-9205

Bluebird Notes

Vol. 38 Issue I

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Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well, here we are folks—just a few weeks from our Annual Meeting at Haw River State Park. And listen to this wonderful news!!

The North Carolina Bluebird Society is to be honored by the North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) both at our meeting in Haw River on April 21st and at their State Conference in Raleigh on April 29th. Larry Hines, the State NCDAR Awards Chairman, will be presenting us with their NCDAR Community Service Award. This award expresses their appreciation for the NCBS' contribution to the greater community of North Carolina in its programs and efforts for the restoration of the Eastern Bluebird population. The NCBS is very honored to be considered for and to receive this award.

Your annual meeting committee is working hard to put the final touches in an effort to bring great programs to the members: a world class speaker, Julie Zickefoose, who will certainly hold your interest as she describes her experiences with birds—including our bluebirds. Read one of her books and you will be "hooked". See more on page 4.

Afternoon sessions on topics you have asked for will allow you to learn and contribute to the conversation: your ideas and concerns for the betterment of what we do.

Haw River State Park itself is such a beautiful site to hold a meeting. Some of the nest boxes previously put up by members of this society still stand around the edges of the meadows that define the boundaries of the lake. A quiet walk around the lake always has you close to the buildings which will not only supply our meeting and meals spaces but where you will find your overnight rooms.

Meeting together and sharing the workings of our organization is also an important aspect of being a member. Participating with your fellow members and friends will open you to the latest ideas and experiences. I look forward to seeing you at Haw River. AND --- Make sure that you look at Yancey County Coordinator Chuck Arthur's article on the great program he has initiated with the North Carolina Department of Transportation. This project demonstrates and combines ingenuity and education and resulted in a wonderful association between the NCBS and the State of North Carolina. See page 7. Projects like this get into *Bluebird Notes* because people take the time to report them but, many fine efforts may go un-noticed because they are not brought our attention.

If you have something to "crow" about, let us know. We can even help you get the idea across. Two retiring County Coordinators deserve a tip of our hats and a big thanks for their outstanding efforts for the North Carolina Bluebird Society.

Nancy Schiffman, of Leland, NC, has served Brunswick County as the NCBS County Coordinator for nine years and is now retiring from that position. Nancy has been very active for the NCBS during her tenure. She brought with her knowledge of the Eastern Bluebird from over 40 years monitoring nest boxes in Virginia. She is still working with her community monitoring their nest boxes. Besides answering the many questions of the members in Brunswick County, she has given many programs, including speaking at schools and to the ornithology class at UNC Wilmington. She has put together packets of bluebird/nest box information and gotten them out to those in need of more information. Thank you, Nancy, for stepping up and serving the North Carolina Bluebird Society so well as a County Coordinator, giving so much of your time to further Bluebird conservation. We welcome Lloyd Young who has taken the position of Brunswick County Coordinator.

Lloyd Edwards, of Siler City, NC, has served as the NCBS Chatham County Coordinator for close to 18 years. Lloyd's tenure as Chatham County Coordinator complements his involvement with wildlife for over 30 years. Lloyd has worked with many projects on behalf of the NC Bluebird Society including, in recent years, helping a Boy Scout troop learn about bluebirds and establish a nest box trail. Thank you, Lloyd, for your good work in furthering the mission of the North Carolina Bluebird Society. Both the bluebirds and those you served will miss you.

Bill Zitek, President

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Our featured Speaker at our 2023 North Carolina Bluebird Society Annual Meeting on April 22, 2023 will be Julie Zickefoose, well known author and wildlife artist. She is a wild bird rehabilitator who has cared for many species, but she takes Bluebirds to heart just as we do. Julie’s message will be titled “Have You Ever Wondered? What I’ve Learned in 40 Years of Bluebirding?”

Odd, arcane, and occasionally astonishing, this show is full of remarkable video clips and hard-won bluebird wisdom. This is your chance to acquire knowledge from someone who faithfully monitors and manages, experiments, and by doing things wrong, figures out the right way to do them.

Julie lives and works quietly on an 80 acre wildlife sanctuary in the back country of Whipple, Ohio. She is a prolific writer and painter and Advising Editor of *Bird Watcher’s Digest*.



Her heavily illustrated books include:

- *The Bluebird Effect*
- *Natural Gardening for Birds*
- *Letters from Eden*
- *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest*
- *Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-luck Jay*
(her newest book...the intimate story of how an orphaned bird can save a soul)



Her presentation will be a highlight of our 2023 meeting. Julie’s talk will really brighten your day and our conference!

Notice of Election of Officers and Directors—2023

The Nominating Committee of the North Carolina Bluebird Society submits the following slate of Officers and Directors to be voted upon. All candidates are members in good standing of this Society and have agreed to serve if elected. The names of the continuing officers may be found in the current *Bluebird Notes*.

Office	Candidate	Term
President	Iris Senzig	2 years
Vice President	Lloyd Young	2 years
Director	Carol Reid	2 years
Director of Education	Randy Senzig	2 years
Immediate Past President	William Zitek	

This slate of officers and Directors will be voted on at the Annual Meeting at Haw River State Park on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Carol Reid, Chairman of the Nominating Committee

Notice to Membership: By-laws change:

The NCBS is also making a change to the By-Laws which would add a Life Membership class to the present General Membership class. To this point there has been only one class of membership to which everyone subscribes. This action merely adds a class of membership.

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH: SITTA PUSILLA

This “common” southeastern cavity nesting bird is finding its population in decline. Due to loss of habitat the Brown-headed Nuthatch numbers are down 24% between 1966 and 2015, as reported by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch inhabits the mature pine forests (loblolly, shortleaf, longleaf, slash) of the Southeast and will use the same territory over and over each year with the same mate. Rampant logging practices and housing development are drastically reducing its habitat.

A small bird about 4 inches long, it usually nests in a cavity selected by the male from 10 - 80 feet above the forest floor and may use the nest cavity overnight as well as in the winter. The breeding season occurs from early March or April. The nest, in a pine tree cavity, is made of feathers, cotton, pine seed, wings, and bark strips. The 5-10” deep nest is built over 1-6 weeks.

Raising one brood a year, the Brown-headed Nuthatch lays 3-7 eggs (the clutch). The eggs are cream colored with red-brown dots. The female lays one egg a day until the clutch is finished. The eggs hatch in 13-15 days (the incubation period) and the young are born naked with very little down. (Altricial).

The nestlings eyes open at seven days of age at the same time their feathers break through their sheaths. Eighteen to nineteen (18-19) days after hatching the nestlings fledge (leave the nest) and over a period of 24-26 days the parents feed them outside of the nest as they learn to procure food themselves.

What does a Brown-headed nuthatch eat? Bark dwelling insects, spiders, other insects, and pine seeds.

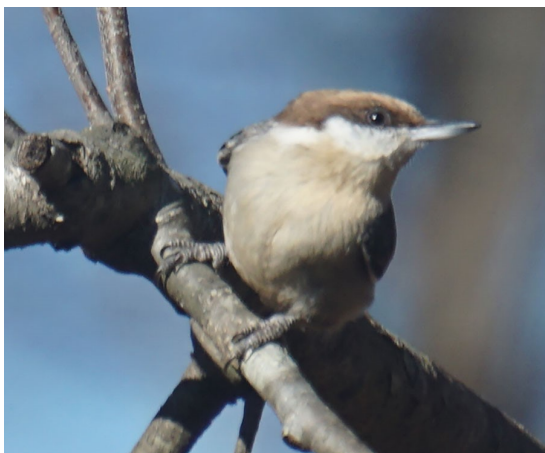
You can put out a nest box to assist this little songbird overcome challenges finding nesting sites.

The nest box is similar in size to that of the bluebird nesting box except that the entry hole is 1 1/8” in diameter. Since it is an inhabitant of mature pine forests, your nest box would have to be near this type of habitat. But they can use our help. So, if you are in proper habitat, put up a nest box!

Bill Zitek, President



Photo of Brown-headed Nuthatch nest with eggs taken by Joye Stephenson at White Deer Park in Garner



Brown-headed Nuthatch photos above by Glenda Ryan in Knightdale. See more pictures & story on page 13

OUR TREE AND OUR BLUES

On May 20, 2022 we were hit with a once in a lifetime storm overnight in Wake County – with 80 mph straight line winds – about 1 mile wide (North to South) and a few miles long moving West to East. We heard very loud whishing of trees blowing around, thunder, that went on for over an hour. However, even though I heard those sounds I managed to sleep until 8:00 am. Randy was up and trolling through the house scoping the damage through 21 of our windows. I managed to check out a few windows near the driveway on my walk to the coffeepot. I remember saying – "I'm so thankful Lord there wasn't worse damage than this."

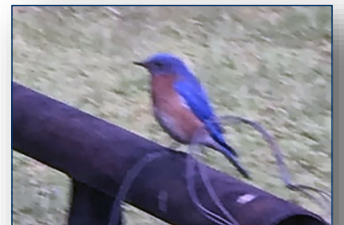


But WAIT – there's more. Randy heard me and said "Honey look out the front door." What I saw was one of our twin huge white oak trees prostrate across the driveway and covering our front side yard – This tree we calculated to be over 160 years old. It was a seriously big tree in 1927 when my great grandfather brought his equipment and started to build a bungalow style house.

Our hearts were practically stopped, immediately filled with not just sadness, but the sadness you feel when a dear family member passes away. We hardly could speak. I ran with my camera.

There are two bluebird nest boxes each within 50 yards of this beacon. Our

Blues frequented this tree daily. We noticed several were flitting from nest box to tree, tree to the other big twin and back ... sitting in amazement just as we were. For days all we could do was mourn and cry and offer thankfulness.



Mr. Bluebird pondering how life changes in a Moment.

We were able to donate most of the white oak wood to four artisans who create furniture, keepsakes, etc. in exchange for some furniture pieces for us, our two children and five grandchildren. Smaller limbs and pieces we had cut and gave away for firewood, only keeping enough for a few seasons.

An Alaskan sawmill and a chain saw with a six foot long blade, along with a huge yellow front-end loader, became our new neighbors. When the big limbs and leaves were missing, our Blues would still sit on the big trunk pieces and the huge stump high in the air.



Other bird friends were also a part of this saga as well: Cardinals, Wrens, Chickadees, Titmice.

Finally in October of last year, nothing was left in the yard except that STUMP high in the air and saw dust scattered over both front and side yards. Somehow we have managed to move past serious mourning and we look forward to see what will grow on the STUMP and how our bluebirds will adapt to enjoy a new cycle of life.



- Interesting there is a star showing in the center of the white oak wood.
- Will take as a good omen that the bluebirds will overcome this ordeal & prosper.
- Adapting & making the best of challenging situations — that is what the bluebirds do.



Iris Senzig, Public Outreach

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

If it's true that birds of a feather flock together, the same might be said of like-minded humans. At my first bluebird presentation, as Yancey and Madison Counties area NCBS representative, I became familiar with Steve Wilcox.

Steve, a member of an adjoining neighborhood board and a volunteer for various conservation and environmental organizations, approached me after the presentation and expressed interest in establishing a bluebird trail in our development. Steve and I quickly became friends and began collaborating on the trail as well as the building of bluebird houses. Little did I know at that time, that I would be woodworking with a retired framing conservator for The National Gallery of Art. This chance encounter led to another presentation and subsequent valued contacts.

The second presentation was at Steve's HOA where I opened with the NCBS bluebird slide show, followed by a hands-on bluebird house building course led by Steve. We provided precut wood, hardware, and tools. Twelve enthusiastic participants provided the labor, which resulted in twelve completed birdhouses for the neighborhood's bluebird trail.

Steve's involvement with the Safe Passage organization led to my acquaintance with Vickie Sealock. Vickie is the manager for the I-26 West North Carolina Welcome Center. I reached out to Vickie inquiring about the possibility of a bluebird awareness display at the Center and she was in whole-heartedly. After obtaining clearance to proceed, my wife, Brenda, began designing the poster and Steve began constructing a birdhouse model and brochure stand. The verbiage and overall poster design was vetted through NCBS President, Bill Zitek. The poster, bluebird box model and brochure stand are now prominently displayed in the Center's lobby.

Additionally, Vickie expressed interest in incorporating a bluebird trail on the Welcome Center grounds, which we were thrilled to hear and eager to assist with.

She then worked on securing approval from the Welcome Center's host organization, NC Department of Transportation (which own's the land that the Welcome Center sits on) for the bluebird trail.

We have just installed four bluebird/cavity nester boxes on the grounds of the Welcome Center.

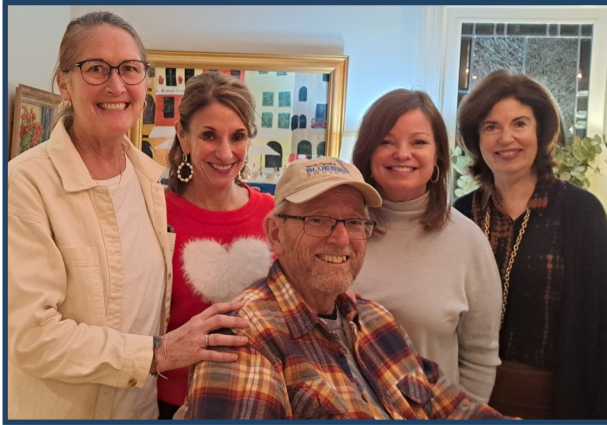
I have provided guidance and materials to Vickie and her team who have graciously volunteered to monitor the trail. In fact, she showed me a staff schedule today which is dedicated to monitoring the boxes!



The Welcome Center tallies approximately 300,000 vehicles visiting their facility each year. Through the concerted efforts of everyone involved, it is our hope that we can expand this relationship to include other Welcome Centers throughout our state.

Chuck Arthur
Representative for Madison and Yancey Counties

Enjoyable Time with Raleigh Garden Club



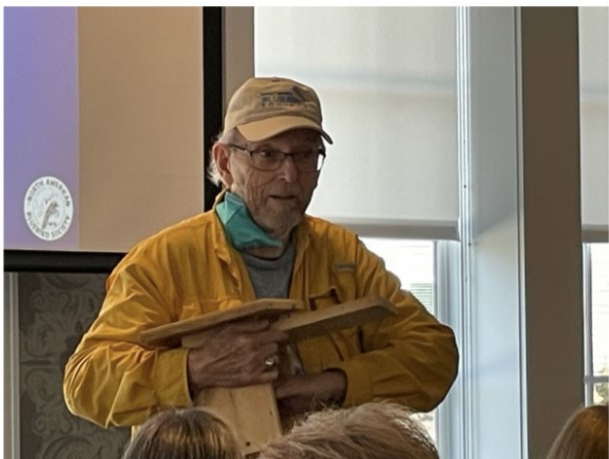
Allison Northcutt from The Bloomsbury Garden Club of Raleigh reached out to NCBS for a speaker for their February 8th meeting and we answered the call. Randy Senzig and I met with the enthusiastic and friendly group; Randy discussed “Bluebirds in the Schoolyard”, Blues in general, and we answered many questions. We were treated to a delicious home cooked dinner and continued our conversations. We received a compliment from a member after the meeting "This was the best meeting in my 27 years as a member". Thank you!!

The group generously donated \$75 to NCBS! It was a fun and successful evening.

Submitted by Joye Stephenson, Wake County Co-Coordinator

An Intro to Bluebirds for Green Thumb Garden Club in Wake Forest

Randy Senzig, our closest known bluebird expert, made bluebirding fun in his presentation on February 10, 2023 in Wake Forest at the Wake County for the Green Thumb Garden Club. We arrived early with our equipment and give aways only to find 46 garden club members and friends sitting in this lovely conference room with windows all around providing the happy sunshine. Quiet. What to do? Randy just immediately went into teacher mode with his loud joyous voice and began. I quietly set up our display table and was pleased to find their overhead projector just plugged right into our laptop – and there was our huge Mr. Bluebird.



Teaching is always best when it's hands-on



46 club members and guests were enthralled learning the joys of caring for bluebirds



A flurry of excellent questions and discussion continued

There were many exchanges with questions. People were very interested and our presentation went a bit beyond the scheduled time. But the talk was all bluebirds.

I had a few minutes to introduce the NCBS and speak about our annual conference. Several took the handouts including *Bluebird Tips*.

I heard the next week that several are driving to Warrenton to purchase their boxes and install right away.

Iris Senzig, Public Outreach

Fantastic Bluebird Presentation at East Regional Library in Knightdale

Randy and Iris Senzig presented a program “Intro to Bluebirds” on March 4 to 22 attentive interested folks at the East Regional Library in Knightdale. There was lively discussion & good questions. The nest boxes given in a drawing were designed and made by a Duke University Engineering class. Donated to us by Ken Kernodle.

Nest Box Winners:

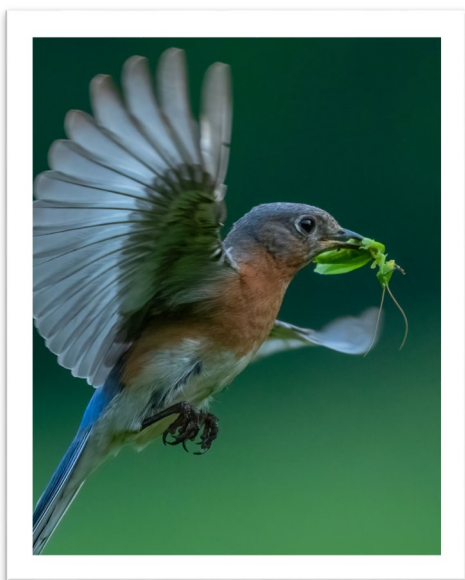
- Teresa Hayes – She’s happy to get another box
- Tucker Andrews – He will share his information with his homeschool friends

BUT a seriously interesting thing was that they had Julie Zickefoose’s book *Baby Birds*.

Iris Senzig, Public Outreach

BLUEBIRD PHOTO GALLERY

Forsyth County Blues: Ray Fitzgerald provided great bluebird pictures from May 2021 at Reynolda Gardens in Winston-Salem. See the Winter 2022 edition of *Bluebird Notes* in online newsletter archives of ncbluebird.org for some of his previous photos at this location. Thanks, Ray, for sharing your awesome snapshots and for your concern for bluebird conservation.



Raleigh Area Bluebirds: Robert Bos, who lives outside of Raleigh, submitted these wonderful pictures from 2022. Robert advised he has been a Bluebirder for years and recently joined NCBS. Welcome aboard, Robert, and thanks a bunch. The Baby Blues are adorable and a nice reminder of the beauty, cheer & joy we have to look forward to in the upcoming months of 2023.



Nestbox Visitors in Durham County: Kevin Biss of Durham sent some fantastic snapshots taken in a nest box with a camera mounted in the top from 2022. We are sharing a couple now, but look forward to seeing more in future editions. Thanks so much Kevin. These are awesome! Great way to capture the beauty of these feathered friends. And what an inspiration & reward providing nest boxes brings!



Northern Durham County Blue Report & Mockingbird Question: Elke Hoffman, Bahama, submitted picture below of a handsome bluebird from Bahama. She advised of the first nest build in one of her five nest boxes and voiced a concern about a Mockingbird harassing her Blues near their feeder.

Response to Elke's inquiry from President Bill Zitek: Mockingbirds can be a problem if they suddenly decide to take over a yard as their territory. Some things I find helpful in fending them off:



If they are landing on the nest box or other flat surface from which they launch their attack, placing Nixalite - a set of stiff wires which sit on top of the nest box and deter the Mockingbird from landing. My bluebirds did land next to it ok. Look it up online.

Mockingbirds often fly straight at or into a group of birds - in attack mode. Figure out which way they usually come from and put up something like a piece of arbor or hanging item that breaks up the straight flight path and doesn't let them go straight to their target.

Stop feeding in the area of the nest box so the Mockingbird doesn't have food to attract him.

Hello from Bluebirds of Western North Carolina



Mom Strikes a Proud Pose May 18, 2022

Catawba County Blues:

Thanks to Joel Miller, who sent in these cool pictures from his backyard in Hickory. Awesome snapshots!

1st: Female eastern bluebird proudly poses on the nest box roof

2nd: Both parents show up at the same time with a colorful grub for the hatchlings



Colorful Grub(s) ... May 26, 2021



Photo By Nick Ponzio
Photo Taken July 12, 2022

Henderson County Bluebirds:

Nick Ponzio submitted these fabulous pictures taken in his backyard in 2022.

Nick also has photos & a cool story in the Winter 2021 edition of *Bluebird Notes*. Check it out @ ncbluebird.org - in the online newsletter section. We appreciate Nick's continued contributions & help for our precious Blues.



Photo By Nick Ponzio
Photo Taken July 12, 2022

Biltmore Lake Bluebirds: Russ Bauman, Buncombe County Coordinator, has provided a wealth of fantastic photos consistently over many years. He sent more great ones recently that are breathtaking. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, Russ, for these splendid pictures, as well as the countless others found on ncbluebird.org, *Bluebird Notes*, NCBS Facebook, and also on products in our online store.



Woodworking for Wildlife: Building Nesting Boxes



This past February, a group of nine brand-new carpentry students spent the weekend learning basic woodworking skills while building new nesting boxes at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown. Located in the far southwestern mountains of North Carolina, the Folk School offers classes in many areas of craft year-round. But this class was held just in time for our resident population of Eastern Bluebirds to begin choosing their summer homes.

Instructor Gabe Strand guided the students through reading plans, choosing and using hand and power tools, and assembling their nest boxes. Assistant instructor Branda Hall, a retired ornithologist and amateur woodworker, led the class on a bird walk around the 250+ acre Folk School campus, where students observed male bluebirds checking out nesting boxes, as well as cardinals, meadowlarks, and downy woodpeckers.

After a rainy Saturday of building boxes with donated 1 x 6 inch wood planks, the students returned on Sunday morning to install four new nesting boxes under a clear blue sky. These were added to an already healthy population of boxes sprinkled throughout the Folk School campus and hamlet of Brasstown.

The new boxes were placed on the edges of large east-facing meadows in an effort to make them desirable nesting locations for bluebird pairs for years to come. Students, who came from as close as North Georgia and as far away as Alaska (!) also took more nesting boxes home to install in their own neighborhoods.

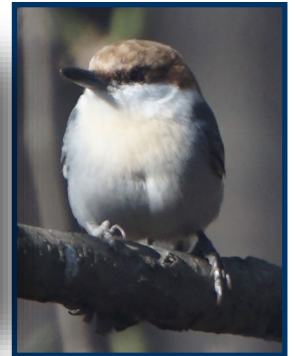
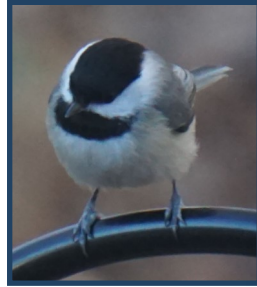
Building nesting boxes proved to be a perfect project for first-time woodworkers, who were thrilled to learn new skills while benefiting the local ecology of such a special place as the Folk School.

Instructor Gabe hopes to offer similar classes that join nature studies with woodworking in the future, either as multi-day Folk School classes or as one day workshops. Some may be held at local business in Murphy—Olive's Porch. See more at folkschool.org or call Gabe at 828-837-2775 ext. 140.

These nesting boxes carry on the bluebird conservation spirit of Ethelene Allen, as the wood for this class originated from Ethelene's family. Ethelene was passionate about bluebirds and served as the NCBS representative in Johnston County for a great number of years. See a tribute to her dedication in the Summer 2019 *Bluebird Notes* in our online newsletter archives at ncbluebird.org. Ethelene's daughter, Patricia Rogers, NCBS member, continues the legacy of her mother's work in Johnston County. She made sure the wood was put to good use to help bluebirds: she donated to NCBS member Ed Reid, who forwarded to the Folk School.

OSCAR'S WINDOW VIEWS: SPRING 2023 REPORT

Greetings from an indoor kitty who loves bird-watching from my window sills. My first article, in the Summer 2021 *Bluebird Notes*, was the start of my reports for you. I continue to tell what I see & learn. We now have two Shepherd's hooks with bird feeders. We have been supplying black-oil sunflower seeds and Bluebird nuggets. Some regular visitors include little gray-blue and black & white songbirds, that humans call Titmice & Chickadees. A small brown bird with a white stripe on its head has also been a frequent guest at our bird picnic area. I found out this is known as a Carolina Wren. I have enjoyed some recent visits by some tiny brown-white-gray songbirds. I hear they are called Brown-headed Nuthatches and it is special that they came to our yard. In addition to providing snacks they like, there are pine trees behind our house, where I hear they prefer to reside. Dr. Zitek is providing some helpful facts about the Brown-headed nuthatches --see page 5. Below are photos of a Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. They are all cavity-nesting songbirds supported by the mission of NCBS.



I hope you enjoy bird-watching as much as I do in the upcoming months. The colorful sights help keep my days interesting. Of course, my favorite is the bluebird. A couple of recent snapshots are shown below.



To learn more about how you can help bluebirds, check out the following websites:

- nabluebirdsociety.org
- ncbluebird.org
- sialis.org



I would like to pay a tribute to one of my best friends who crossed over the Rainbow Bridge in March. Sherbie Smith was an orange Tabby who lived in Apex for 16 years. Like me, he enjoyed much lounge time by sunny windows and watching the birds fly by. Similar to me, he was rescued as a kitten and fortunate enough to live in an indoor home. The Winter 2021 edition of *Bluebird Notes* featured the feathered friends in Sherbie's backyard in an article titled *Songbirds of Apex*. This story can be found in the online newsletter section on ncbluebird.org.



Please honor Sherbie's memory and take my advice by keeping your kitties inside. It is the best option for the mutual safety of felines and birds. Cats roaming outside risk so much, including injuries from traffic, inclement weather, harmful substances, and other animals. I am grateful that I can sleep peacefully anytime I want in a cozy bed at night, or nap during the day with the sun streaming in thru the windows, without worrying about being hurt. I am glad Sherbie was able to live a great life with humans that care for cats and birds alike, and he also enjoyed watching birds from his windows.

A Tabby Named Oscar, Knightdale: Photos/writing assistance from Oscar's caretaker, Glenda Ryan (your Newsletter Editor/Webmaster)

Glenda's website: websitebloom.com / more about Oscar: felinegreetings.com

INSPIRATIONAL ITEMS

NCBS MEMBERSHIP

BLUEBIRD DRAWING



Owen Edward Peters, age 6, drew a bluebird for his Grand parents, Ed and Carol Reid.

BLUEBIRD WALTZ

Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Bluebird

For letting me share your waltz
with Life.

Your pretty blue eggs one, two,
three and four and sometimes
five or six.

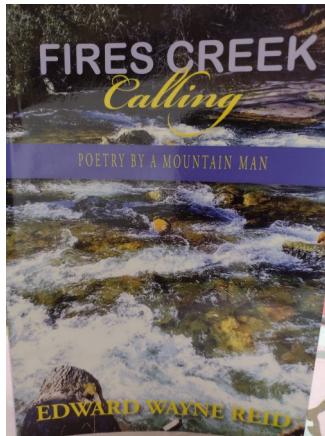
Wow!

Then come your chicks, mouths
wide open till they all get fed.

Then all get settled down to bed.

Ed Reid, Bluebirder from Clay County, included a bluebird poem in his new book *FIRES CREEK Calling*.

If you would like to order a \$15 book with seventy poems, please send a check to
Ed Reid, 723 Hillandale Lane, Garner, NC 27529
Free shipping. Enjoy and thanks.



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 \$ _____

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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)

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BAHAMA BLUEBIRD SENDS SPRING GREETINGS

Elke Hoffmann of Bahama consistently submits wonderful snapshots of bluebirds and songbirds of Bahama. See another bluebird from Elke & another Durham County Bluebirder on page 10. We hope the cute Blue below will brighten your day and provide inspiration to help these precious songbirds continue to flourish.

