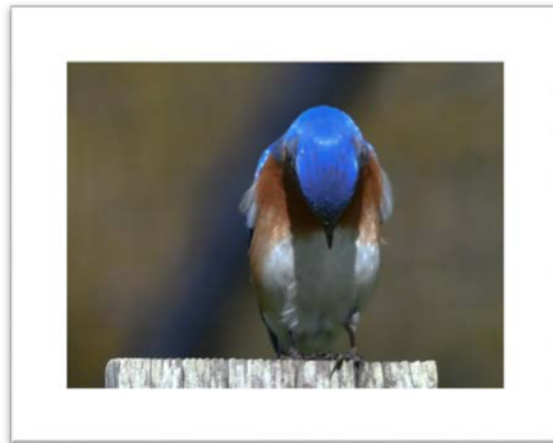


BLUEBIRD NOTES

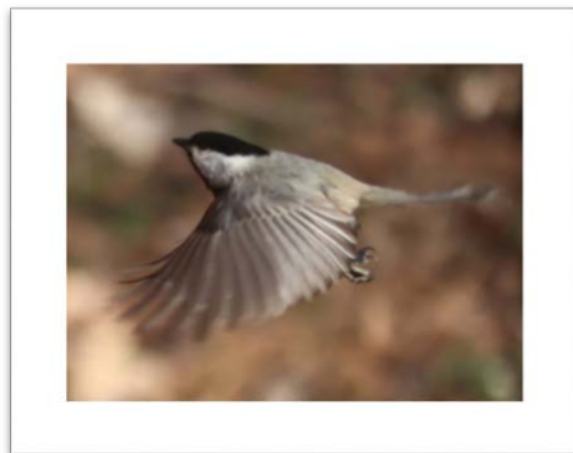
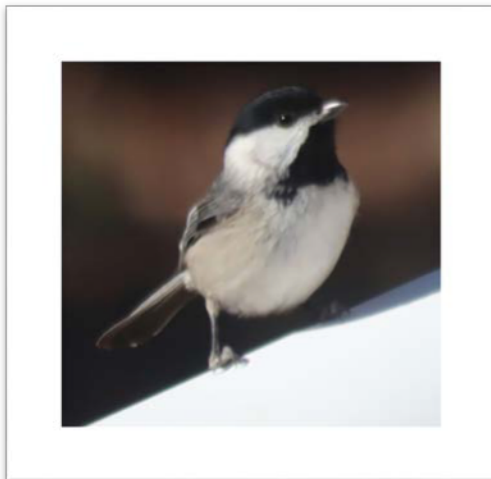
BLUEBIRDS WELCOME YOU TO THE SUMMER OF 2021

There are a lot of positive tidbits to report in this edition. The Baby Blues of 2021 are arriving, new folks have recently joined our Board and County Coordinator effort, and our membership numbers continue to increase. We hope this newsletter brings you education, inspiration, and helpful tips.

The two photos below will certainly bring cheer to your day. Thanks to Elke Hoffmann of Bahama for sharing these snapshots taken in her yard in northern Durham County in April. Elke continues to provide us with wonderful pictures and reports. The bluebirds on her property are fortunate indeed.



We are spotlighting another cavity-nesting songbird in this newsletter, the chickadee. See pages 4-5 for detailed discussion regarding chickadees from an experienced birder and pages 6-7 for notes from a nest box newbie. Chickadee photos below are from Glenda Ryan taken in her Knightdale backyard.



We strive to continue to help you help bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting songbirds in our home area. Our website, ncbluebird.org, and nabluebirdsociety.org, the North American Bluebird Society's website, are great online resources you can turn to for a wealth of information. If you need further assistance, consult the representative in your county, or Past President, Ray Welch.

North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) Mission Statement

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

Report from NCBS Immediate Past President

I am saying goodbye as the Immediate Past President of the NCBS, but certainly not to each of you, the NCBS, or our bluebirds. It's just time for me to focus more on my family and my farm operation in Guilford County.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board, which involved meeting so many wonderful people who care about the Blues. I am so grateful for all of the bluebirds that have received a fair chance from the help all bluebirders have been giving. One point I can't stress enough is the importance of continuing to provide and monitor nest boxes to help ensure the future of the bluebirds.

I am excited to report that the NCBS is continuing to grow, as have the responsibilities of the President. Thanks to the excellent work of our nominating committee chaired by Ray Welch, I am pleased to announce there will be a team of two serving as President for 2021-2023. Please join me in welcoming Martha (Marti) Kane and Dr. Bill Zitek as the new Co-Presidents. Read more about these two on page 3. They both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table.

I will still be around and helping the bluebirds, so please stay in touch.

Best Wishes for a wonderful 2021.

Ken



Bluebird Notes

Vol. 36 Issue II

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NEW NCBS PRESIDENTIAL TEAM

Marti (Martha) Kane was born and raised in Massachusetts. She moved to North Carolina in 1980 and has been living and working here ever since. Marti retired in September 2019 from the City of Raleigh's Parks and Recreation Department, where she was the manager of Wilkerson Nature Preserve. Before this, she was the director of a wildlife education center run by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Marti was also the head of interpretation and education for the North Carolina State Parks System for 12 years. Marti has been working with bluebird nest boxes for 15 years – in the various parks/centers she has managed and in her own backyard.

Currently she monitors 25 boxes in Wake County at the Wil-Mar Golf Course and Turnipseed Nature Preserve. She is a consultant on the bluebird trails at Durant Nature Preserve, Horseshoe Farm Nature Preserve, Mordecai Historic Park, Blue Jay Point Park, and Forest Ridge Park, all in Wake County.

Marti has been a member of Wake Audubon Society for many years, and only recently joined the North Carolina Bluebird Society. She hopes to encourage more people to join NCBS and participate in setting up and monitoring bluebird trails. She is a big fan of citizen science and enters all her nest box data into NestWatch, an online database through the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She does regular eBird counts in local parks and monitors a section of Wake County for bluebirds as part of National Audubon's Climate Watch program.



Dr. William E. Zitek is a retired veterinarian from New York State. A graduate of the New York State colleges of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, he and his wife, Mariel, and family lived in Southold, NY, where he practiced for 39 years and during which time, he treated many wildlife species.



In retirement he and Mariel moved to Shelter Island where he served as a Trustee on the board of Mashomack Preserve, a 2039-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve, and as chairman of their Science and Wildlife committee, where habitat preservation and restoration along with species diversity were regarded as critical to the conservation of any species. While there he helped establish and, for 17 years, monitor a 60-nest box eastern bluebird trail.

Tree swallows also nested on the preserve and in 2014 he started a purple martin colony which flourishes today. During this time, Bill banded both nestling eastern bluebirds and purple martins each year. Cameras kept on the active nest boxes helped keep track of after-hours activity of bluebird pairs, tree swallows and predators.

Bill and Mariel have been members of the New York State Bluebird Society since 2004. They moved to Cary, NC in 2019 to be near their 2 daughters and their families while his son still resides in Jamesport, NY. Bill is pleased to be able to serve the North Carolina Bluebird Society along with Marti Kane and the many officers and members who carry out its mission.

CAROLINA CHICKADEES ON THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL

There is nothing cuter than a Carolina Chickadee, except maybe a Brown-headed Nuthatch. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, Carolina Chickadee populations declined by 17% between 1966 and 2015. So these small cavity-nesters can truly use our help. Bluebirds frequently outcompete chickadees for the nest boxes on my bluebird trails in Wake County. I have learned a few ways to help chickadees be more successful and I share them with you here. Please write to our editor (editor@nbluebird.org) if you have other ideas and suggestions that have worked for you. We will pass them along in a future newsletter.

Chickadee Boxes: If you have extra boxes, you can put up “chickadee” boxes on your bluebird trail or in your backyard. I simply remove the portal protector (metal plate covering entrance hole) on a standard bluebird box and screw on a portal protector designed for chickadees, which has an entrance hole diameter of 1 and 1/8 inch. Portal protectors can be purchased online from companies such as Duncraft, or you might find them in your local Wild Birds Unlimited store. The smaller entrance hole will ensure that the bluebirds cannot enter the box and bother the chickadees. When siting a box for chickadees, remember they are forest birds so they like their homes closer to trees and less in the open. My backyard chickadee box is at least 30 feet away from my bluebird box.

Quick Fix with Portal Protectors: What do you do if you don't have extra boxes or if a chickadee decides to nest in a bluebird box? I carry several portal protectors in my tool bag all the time. When I see a chickadee nest (usually lined with moss and fur) in a bluebird box, I use strips of duct tape to secure the 1 and 1/8 inch-diameter portal protector over the entrance hole. This is the fastest way to apply the portal protector and least disturbing to the birds. Make sure there are no sticky edges of duct tape that could catch on the bird's feathers; check the tape whenever you do a box check to make sure the portal protector is secure.



Monitoring Cups Should Fit Snugly: If you use a monitoring cup inside your bird box, make sure it fits snugly with no gaps between the sides of the cup and the walls of the box. A chickadee nestling can easily get caught in these gaps and die. Unfortunately, I had to learn this the hard way.



Monitor Frequently for Pests: Check your boxes every three to four days so you can catch any pest problems early. Chickadee nesting is easily disrupted by wasps, ants and bees. In a short amount of time, mud daubers, paper wasps or ants can make their nests and take over a box from these tiny birds.

Most bluebirders know to coat the ceiling and walls of their boxes with ivory soap to prevent wasp nests. Sometimes you have to “soap” a box more than once. Diatomaceous earth can be used at the base of the bird box pole to discourage ants. (I also sprinkle some on the floor of the nest box if needed. I use monitoring cups in my box; therefore the nest never comes into contact with the diatomaceous earth.)

.(continued on next page)

CAROLINA CHICKADEES ON THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL

Note: Bumblebees love chickadee nests, especially if the mother chickadee has brought in a large amount of moss and fur for her nest. If you hear buzzing in a chickadee nest, push aside some moss and you'll probably find mother bumblebee making her comb in the chickadee nest material. My experience has been that even if I remove the bumblebee comb and chase away the bee, the chickadees do not return. If I find a bumblebee in a chickadee nest, I let the bee have the box, and if possible, put up another box nearby for the chickadees.

Monitor Carefully to Minimize Disturbance: If you aren't using a monitoring cup, use a mirror on a stick to view the nestlings. Follow your standard bluebird protocols of not opening the box after the nestlings are 13 days old. The chickadee nestlings usually fledge when they are 17 days old. Since chickadees nest in the spring when it is cooler, I am careful to monitor quickly in mid-day. Give the mother chickadee time to get back to brooding her eggs or chicks before nightfall.

I had a neighbor who let her dog run loose at night before she put him to bed. This dog liked to come into my yard and bark at my nest box for some reason. He frightened mother chickadee out of the box one night and all her eggs froze. I had a nest of young chickadees on Centennial Campus (NC State) one year. Some students were boisterous one night and scared mother chickadee out of her box. All six of the nestlings died of hypothermia. I share these stories to emphasize that these little birds are vulnerable to disturbance.

Check Your Baffle for Any Gaps: If you use a stovepipe baffle or a cone baffle make sure there are no small gaps where the baffle connects to the bird box pole. I lost all my chickadees in early April one year when a juvenile rat snake was able to climb the pole and slip through a small gap between the baffle and pole. Yes, rat snakes are active even in cooler temperatures, so don't take any chances with your pole protection.

After the chickadees have fledged, you can easily remove the portal protector so that bluebirds can use the box for their second or third broods. Chickadees usually have just one brood in the spring. Warning: If you don't protect the chickadees from the bluebirds, be prepared for some sad happenings. On one of my trails, a pair of bluebirds scared off the chickadee parents in a nest box that the bluebirds wanted. The bluebirds put their nesting material on top of the chickadee nestlings. All of them died about 7 days prior to fledging. The nest box was a mess and I learned the lesson to always protect the chickadees (and nuthatches) on my bluebird trails. Bluebirds aren't as bad as house wrens or house sparrows, but some pairs can be aggressive and completely disrupt the nesting attempts of smaller birds.

I wish you success with your efforts to help the Carolina Chickadees. With so many older trees being removed or trimmed, especially in our growing metropolitan areas, the chickadees are losing nesting cavities every year. They have to compete for any existing cavities with bluebirds, titmice, woodpeckers and other cavity nesters. Let's give them a helping hand.

Marti Kane, President Team, Youngsville

THE VIEW FROM OSCAR'S WINDOWS

Knightsdale Songbird Activity Report by Oscar, a Bird-Friendly Feline



I am a kitty cat who is not allowed outdoors unsupervised, but I have windows that overlook a scenic yard surrounded by a small forest. My caretaker/staff, Glenda Ryan (your Webmaster/Newsletter Editor), got her first nest box put up by Ken Kernodle (your Immediate Past President) on February 28. Time was taken to select an optimal location to allow songbirds their best unobstructed flight path. It faces East, is near the woods, and has at least a six foot diameter clearing. Since that box on a silver pole went up in my backyard I have noticed a lot more birds flying around. That very day while Ken was installing the tall metal pole contraption, blue ones with white & rust bellies were watching intently from the trees. I heard the humans call them bluebirds and Glenda took some pictures.

After the little house was placed on top of the pole securely, Ken lined the inside with ivory soap and advised this will help deter wasps. He also explained some features of this model and informed how it is geared toward the needs of cavity-nesting songbirds native to North Carolina. The house made of red cedar wood with an engineered PVC white top is a long lasting box that can offer a suitable home for these feathered friends. The metal pole consist of half an inch EMT (Electrical Metallic Tubing) conduit supported by 1/2 inch rebar.

A recent utility map was marked in bright colors on our property, so Ken knew a good spot to drive the pole two feet in the ground without knocking out power, cable, or hitting a gas or water line. The next step involved fitting the rebar with a metal wildlife deterrent. This will help keep wildlife such as raccoons, squirrels, and snakes out of the bird house. I heard that the black rat snake is especially a concern of danger to bluebird eggs and babies. Snakes will have a difficult time climbing this particular pole, as it is hard for them to grip metal like they do bark to climb trees. Even if they do start climbing the pole, the guard will add extra protection for the box inhabitants, as it will be very challenging for the snake to get past.

So, I understand that the cavity-nesting songbirds at this location have a fairly good snake repellent. We learned a lot from Ken. Glenda also checks out nabluebirdsociety.org for information to help bluebirds and other birds. Glenda manages ncbluebird.org and helps Kristin Dzimitrowicz, Catawba County Coordinator, with the NCBS Facebook. Maybe these digital resources can help you get some tips to help songbirds.

It is entertainment for me to see these winged friends flying around in the trees and inspecting all aspects of the wooden box, its roof, the metal pole, and the entrance. The bluebirds and the little white and black guys (I heard them called chickadees) really found that place interesting. I guess they know it will provide good shelter for their eggs and babies.



Glenda keeps her camera handy by the window and starts snapping when she sees a bird. Bluebirds were visiting March 14. On March 22 bluebirds, chickadees, and another songbird called a titmouse, were all seen checking out the nest box in a matter of minutes. The chickadees and bluebirds continued stopping by the nest box often. I eavesdrop when Glenda talks on the phone and learned that bluebirds and chickadees seemed to be in a contest of who would get to occupy that nest house.



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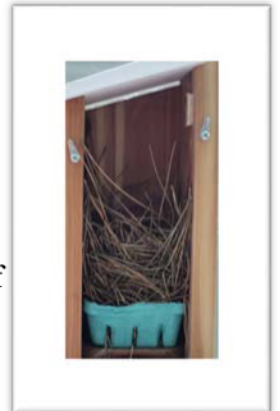
THE VIEW FROM OSCAR'S WINDOWS

I heard Glenda telling Ken that a nest with a foundation of moss, peppered with feathers, straw, and fur was discovered on March 27. She confirmed with Ken by a photo that this was built by a chickadee. I also heard Glenda telling Betsy Welch (longtime bluebirder and wife of your Past President, Ray Welch) about the nest box saga and how the chickadees won this round! Then on April 13 -- there were 5 tiny white eggs with pink specs. On April 20 I heard the exciting news that Glenda saw baby chickadees. I have noticed Mr. & Mrs. Chickadee picking up worms and bugs many times and taking them to their house. Seeing them flitting about and hearing their chirps definitely gets my attention. It is very enjoyable to watch them.

Glenda monitored the bird house activity. The last time she saw baby chickadees in the nest was May 6. On May 8 she informed Ken the babies were gone. She said it was bittersweet, but Ken said that is what they are supposed to do — fledge.



Glenda cleaned out the nest box per guidelines from Ken. The bluebirds began checking out the house again. They began carrying pinestraw to the place constantly. The nest was completed very quickly. They had a chance to occupy the box for the second nesting of the season and were not wasting any time. Glenda kept in touch with Ken and also reported to the new Presidents, Bill Zitek and Marti Kane, of the monitoring progress. On May 23 she noted two blue eggs. Then, after that, for three days in a row another blue egg would appear. The expected hatch time for the babies from these five eggs is June 9-10, 13-14 days from when incubation begins.



As an added bonus — on Sunday, May 30 we saw a young bluebird perching on the nest box and flying around with adult bluebirds. We heard it is likely from a natural nesting spot in the woods behind our house. It may be a baby from the same Mama & Papa that now have 5 bluebird eggs in the box. Who knows? At any rate, we are seeing more bluebirds! The view from my windows has been extra special this Spring. Tune in to the next newsletter to learn what else happens in this nest box.



Thank you listening to my story. I am happy to share what has occurred from my window observations. And I am glad I am not allowed outdoors unsupervised. There was a big critter Glenda called a Coyote out in the yard that really scared me — thankfully it could not hurt me from my indoor window perch. Also, I don't have to worry about getting lost, being hit by cars, dealing with adverse weather conditions, or risking so many other dangers a cat outdoors faces. I am living where I am loved and protected inside a home by someone who cares about both felines and songbirds. I have had fun watching birds & nature from my window sills to create this report for you.

I am counting my blessings & sending wishes for you to have a fantastic Summer.

Learn more about me at felinegreetings.com. Glenda's website can be seen at websitebloom.com.

A Tabby named Oscar, Knightdale / photos & article assistance by Glenda Ryan



ACTIVITY IN WESTERN PART OF OUR STATE: 1 OF 3

Macon County Coordinator Joins NCBS Board

I look forward to serving as a director with NCBS. I have been county coordinator for Macon County for over a year. I have been slowed down in carrying out activities for NCBS due to the pandemic, but hope to be more active as our country opens up.

I have not been slowed down, however, in my nestbox maintenance. My 115 boxes in Macon County have provided me with a lot of pleasure over the last year. I am presently cleaning out nestboxes in which birds have raised their first broods.

The 2 bird clubs I belong to here have started field trips in the last 2 weeks after a year on hold. I am on the board of Highlands Audubon club. We presently hold our board meetings by Zoom, just like NCBS. As I get out with other birders, I will spread the word about NCBS.

One activity of which I am proud is a virtual presentation on nestboxes that I did for the World Migratory Bird Fest. I would enjoy it if some of you would watch it and give me feedback on it. Type the words "Mainspring Conservation Trust Facebook" in Google to locate. Scroll down to May 4 at the 10:03 am Facebook entry and you should see my video. It is only 6 minutes long. I won't bore you with any more personal information. If you want to see more of my background, I wrote an article for the Fall 2020 newsletter when I first became a county coordinator. Meanwhile, get out and go birding!

George Kaye, Macon County Coordinator / Director

Chuck Arthur takes on both Madison & Yancey Counties



Aloha fellow bluebird lovers. I am the new county coordinator for Yancey and Madison counties. I was born and raised in Candler, NC. I graduated from Enka High School and went on to get a B.S. in Biological Sciences from NC State University, as well as an ROTC commission in the US Air Force.

After several combat tours in the Vietnam theater, I left the Air Force and eventually ended up with a major airline as a pilot/manager in Los Angeles and Denver.

I eventually retired from my last base in Honolulu. My Hawaiian born wife, Brenda, (retired from The Nature Conservancy) fell in love with Western North Carolina on a trip to visit my birthplace, so here we are - near Burnsville NC.

One of my many life gifts was to be raised in a nature loving, outdoor family. It would be difficult to find a more avid bluebird/cardinal fan than my Mom. Among my fondest memories is a picture of a beautiful puffed up bluebird on the kitchen wall just beside the window that looked out on our always busy bird feeder.

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ACTIVITY IN WESTERN PART OF OUR STATE: 2 OF 3



I was fortunate to pick back up on that theme after retirement and volunteer as a docent at Honolulu Botanical Gardens and the Waikiki Aquarium between surfing sessions and kayaking with humpback whales. It is a great gift to be able to share the wonder of nature. I hope that I can contribute that to NCBS. I share a story below about bluebird concerns from bears.

Bluebirds and Black Bears

I am being "taken to school" by an apparent black bear raid. We live in a very forested mountain environment and were fortunate to watch a pair of bluebirds fledge a clutch of four babies last year from a box very similar to the NABS box which I placed on a tree. Yes, I know - big mistake. (If you learn from your mistakes I SHOULD be the smartest man in the world.) I'm convinced after much research that no system will stop predators when boxes are mounted on trees. As you probably have guessed, the second brood did not fare so well.

After the heartbreak of that rookie mistake, I got serious, and with Ray Welch's help and guidance, put up a box mounted on an iron pole with a stove pipe baffle this year. A pair ("our" pair?) of birds returned in early May and began building in the new box. Soon there were five beautiful eggs and the female began brooding.

Unfortunately, two mornings before the first possible day of hatching, I was greeted by the sight of 1 of our metal bird feeder poles bent about 30 degrees. As I went out to investigate, I noticed about 50 feet further from our back porch, the bluebird house turned 90 degrees from its original orientation. Running to the box I was sickened to find a shambles. A 1 inch strip was torn from the inspection door, the screw that held the top of the door was bent 45 degrees and the eye bolt used to secure the bottom after inspection was ripped from its hole. The nest was turned on its side and all the eggs were gone. A nearby tree stump was ripped open with grub tracks exposed.

I put up a replacement house as quickly as possible without the nest. We heard and saw the male bird for the next three days exhibiting classic pre-nesting behavior, even landing on the box and looking inside, but no female. We always take ALL bird feeders inside at night, but the night before this incident, I overlooked some new (for us) black soldier fly larvae on a tray on the pole that was bent.

Since all signs point to a black bear, I dug into the internet and on the sialis.org website found a gentleman who lost over 20 boxes to bears. (I would be a total wreck after that!) His solution is a large jar of cheap peanut butter mixed with 2 cups cayenne pepper and 1 cup red pepper flakes. The frozen balls are left on the ground near boxes when they are occupied. I intend to give that a try unless I find a better solution.

It is my hope in writing this that we will get input from those who have had a similar experience. Hopefully it will also help someone prevent a repeat.

Chuck Arthur, Representative for Madison and Yancey Counties

We send a shout out to George and Chuck for taking on dual-roles with our organization. George will be serving in Macon County and on the Board. Chuck is taking on the responsibility to represent two counties and dealing with defending bluebird eggs from bears. Your dedication is appreciated, gentlemen.

ACTIVITY IN WESTERN PART OF OUR STATE: 3 OF 3



Bluebirds Can Live Anywhere

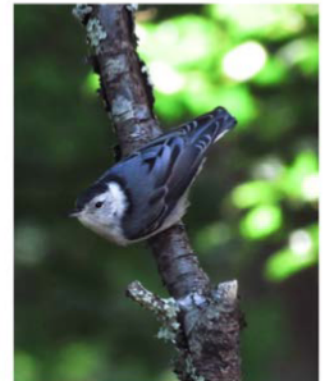
For the past two weeks workmen have been making repairs to the dam at Catawba Springs Golf Course. One of my boxes that I monitor is located on the top of the dam. I was aware through my monitoring that I had activity in the box.

Thursday when I was monitoring, I talked with some of the workmen about the bluebirds. They told me that they had been enjoying watching the birds bring insects to the box for the babies. Where there is a will there is a way!!!

Bob Warmuth, Director

Bluebirds and White-breasted Nuthatch of Lake Biltmore

Russ Bauman, Buncombe County Coordinator, submitted a really nice shot of a bluebird parent flying into the nest house (left photo below) and a photo of his first bluebird brood (center) this year in April. He also sent an excellent snapshot of a White-breasted Nuthatch (right photo below), which is a cavity-nesting songbird native to our area that the mission of NCBS supports.



Russ has provided the bulk of the photos for our website and online store. Additionally, many of his pictures can be seen in past newsletters, as well as throughout our Facebook page. Russ also has given presentations involving his photography that have brought people to happy tears.

We have some fantastic merchandise with the NCBS logo or bluebird pictures by Russ. You can find some great gifts that the bluebirders, bird watchers, and nature lovers on your list will appreciate. Links to the online can be found from our website, ncbluebird.org. You can also get to the store directly with the following link: <https://www.cafepress.com/northcarolinabluebirdsociety>.

The NCBS Team in the mountain area have been very busy and we are grateful. We want to recognize the extensive bluebird conservation efforts of both Bob Warmuth and Russ Bauman for many years and still going strong. Please join us and the bluebirds in their area in saying thanks Bob & Russ.

INSPIRATION & CELEBRATION

To honor the passing of a lifelong friend this bluebird nestbox was erected the day after her passing. Bluebirds found the box the next day. What a heartwarming feeling to watch new life enjoying this nestbox in her honor.

Carol Reid, Vice President



What a great idea on how people can honor loved ones and help with our bluebird conservation efforts. Very inspirational! Thanks for sharing, Carol.

Glenda Ryan's 14 Year Anniversary with NCBS as Webmaster

I have known Glenda for several years, but she has been helping the Bluebird Society long before I joined the Board. Glenda began as the Webmaster for the North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS) May 2007. At that time she also took on the website for the Bluebirders of Wake County. She is able to help bluebirds by giving them a voice online and promote awareness of how people can help them survive.

Glenda has upgraded *nbluebird.org* and *bluebirdersofwake.org* to improve the design and structure and make it easier for visitors to navigate and find information. She continues to maintain both websites. She was also the driving force to implement our online store, which can be found from link on our website. Additionally, she has helped with our Facebook page and set up a microsite for our annual meeting.

She has been serving as the Newsletter Editor since the Summer 2017 edition. She assembles content from various sources (such as your news and photo submissions and *nbluebirdsociety.org*) to make the *Bluebird Notes* publication a fun and creative way to help get the word out about bluebird conservation.

The Summer 2020 edition was a newsletter she was especially proud to publish. This issue was dedicated to Mr. Bill Satterwhite, long-time devoted bluebird supporter, during his 100th year. Mr. Satterwhite, Raleigh, is now 101. Read more about this man who provides so much hope and inspiration in that issue. I share Glenda's thoughts of being blessed to have had the opportunity to learn from Bill for many years.

Bluebird Conservation Couples (Spring 2019) and *Bluebirds in the City* (Summer 2019) stand out as other interesting story ideas Glenda generated and brought to life. You can see these and other past newsletters in our archives on *nbluebird.org*.

I set up a nest box in Glenda's backyard in February of this year. I am thrilled for the success this nest box has produced in such a short time. It is wonderful to hear that both a chickadee and bluebird family have benefited from this bird shelter in the last few months. I appreciated the story she created to present her nest box learning experience in a unique manner — from the viewpoint of her cat, Oscar.

Thank You, Glenda!!!

Ken Kernodle, Immediate Past President



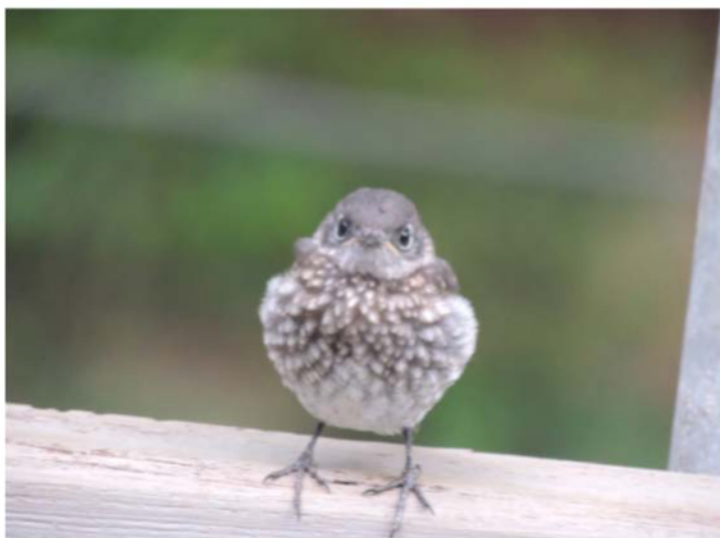
CUTE LITTLE FELLAS FROM CLEVELAND COUNTY



Welcome New Residents of Shelby, NC

The babies from a clutch of 5 have started coming into my bluebird feeder now. I saw the parents feeding them dried mealworms out of the feeder. I snapped pictures of the babies sitting on the handrail waiting on the parents to feed them and one on the feeder.

They didn't stay around too long posing for the camera, but I am thankful to capture a few good images. The babies are of course cute with their dotted/speckled breasts. At the time of this writing there were 4 new eggs in the same box, but new nest. Hopefully they will also successfully fledge.



Here's hoping that you are having some good experiences with your bluebirds also. I have received some great comments from some of you recently.

Always glad to hear from you, especially to talk about our feathered friends!

Jim Kunkle, Cleveland County Coordinator



The Board appreciates the long-time consistent effort of Jim toward bluebird conservation and his devotion to our mission. He serves the Cleveland County Blues very well. He often submits great photos and articles to share with you. Thank you, Jim, from NCBS and the bluebirds. These baby pictures are just precious.

CAVITY-NESTING SONGBIRD PHOTO SHOW

Thanks to Brad Turnage, Durham, for some more fantastic photos of his backyard birds posing so nicely for the camera. Brad has generously given us numerous snapshots of bluebirds and other cavity-nesting songbirds native to our area. He must be doing something right to have so many feathered friends visiting his place so often. We know these pictures are sure to brighten your day and inspire you to keep helping these songbirds.

Check out nabluebirdsociety.org, website for the North American Bluebird Society (NABS), and our website, ncbluebird.org, for tips to help attract bluebirds and other songbirds to your yard.



Adult Eastern Bluebird feeds baby



Tuffed Titmouse gets snack from feeder



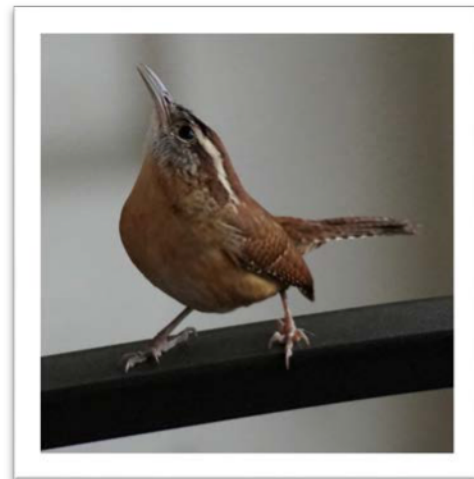
Carolina Chickadee strikes sassy pose



Carolina Chickadee takes a break



Red-breasted Nuthatch visits us in winter



Carolina Wren enjoys the sunshine

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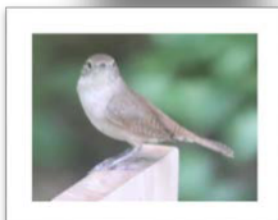
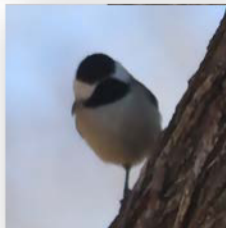
EVENTS / NEWS ITEMS

The Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts, The City of Raleigh, and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance sponsored "The Birds and the Bees" informational events in May. Products and education for supporting and sustaining these two important species were featured at these programs. Bill Zitek, Co-President, and Recording Chair, Alexia Maneschi, set up and manned a booth for NCBS for the bird session, the "Perch Market", on May 15th.



NCBS welcomes the chance to help with bluebird presentations at your relevant functions. Contact your county coordinator (page 14) for guidance and display materials to use at your events.

Be sure to check out the Fall newsletter to see what Oscar has to report regarding the Knightdale Nest Box. If you have news to include in this edition, please send to editor@ncbluebird.org by 8/14/2021.



NCBS MEMBERSHIP

NCBS memberships options are one or three years.
Dues: \$10.00 per year or \$25 for three years

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.

Check box if you prefer to access the *Bluebird Notes* via the Internet instead of a printed copy by postal mail.

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: \$ _____

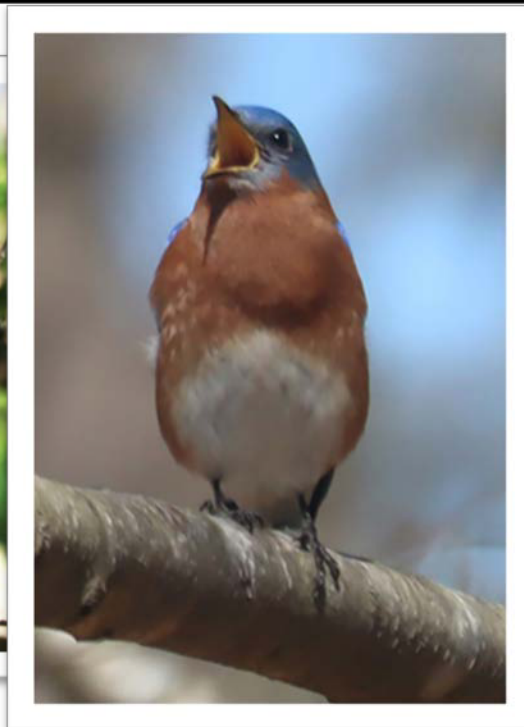
Please indicate if you also have an interest in:

- 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
- Other (please explain)

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SUMMER 2021 WISHES OF FUN & SUN & SONGBIRDS



We hope you enjoy the sights & sounds of songbirds and have plenty of fun & relaxation in the upcoming months. Check out ncbluebird.org and our Facebook page for tips to help you help bluebirds. Direct questions to your County Coordinator or Past President, Ray Welch. Take a cue from the singing bluebird above and enjoy the sunshine with a cheerful attitude. Photos by Glenda Ryan, Editor/Webmaster.

Stay Positive, Stay Safe & Happy Bluebirding!