

BLUEBIRD NOTES



SUMMER OF 2022: FUN, SUN, & FEATHERED FRIENDS

The joy of summer is just around the bend again. By now the Spring 2022 songbird babies have arrived and the Summer 2022 nesting season is in progress. We look forward to hearing your stories, seeing your pictures, and helping with your questions. Isn't the beautiful picture below a great inspiration to keep bluebirding? Thanks to our President, Dr. Bill Zitek, for sharing this fantastic snapshot.

We were pleased with the turnout for our May 14 conference at Sylvan Heights Bird Park (Scotland Neck, NC). See photos and details about this splendid day among nature on pages 4-6. We honored four into our new Hall of Fame recognizing exceptional efforts: Bill Satterwhite (Raleigh), Ken Kernodle (Durham), Ray Welch (Winston-Salem), and Helen Munro (Texas). Read more on pages 7-8.

Our County Coordinators across the state are working diligently to help people help bluebirds. Check out two articles reported by longtime Wake County Coordinator, Joye Stephenson, on page 12.

Our bluebird neighbors to the North, the Virginia Bluebird Society, has an upcoming conference, celebrating 25+1 years! November 11-12. Registration opens early September. See their website at virginiabluebird.org. Contact Valerie Kenyon Gaffney via email vbs@virginiabluebird.org.



wez

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

Tree Swallows & Bluebirds ... Knowledge shared from Bill Zitek from years of studying & monitoring. Pages 10-11.

Knightdale Nest Box ... More education from the window view of Oscar, the bird friendly feline. Page 13.

Upcoming Board Meeting ... The next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2022 at 7 pm. All members are welcome. Please contact Bill Zitek for the Zoom link.

Stronger NCBS Team ... We have added some important roles and people to fill them: Kay Hindsley as Eastern NC Director, Lloyd Young as the Coastal Region Director, Rebekah Sandell as Co-Vice President, and Terri McLaughlin as an addition to the Wake County Coordinator Team.

Staying In Touch Online ... Iris Senzig joins Kristin Dzimitrowicz, Catawba Coordinator, and Glenda Ryan, Webmaster/Editor, as an addition to our Social Media Team. Our Facebook is continuing to grow, so extra help is welcome.

Memoriam ... We are sad to report the passing of members who played a big part in promoting the NCBS mission for many years. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of Susie Miller (Sparta), Bill Abbey (Clemmons), and Bill Satterwhite (Raleigh). See page 9 for more about the positive impact these caring people projected with their dedication to bluebird conservation.

As we were going to press, we just learned of the passing of George Kaye, our Macon County Coordinator. We send condolences to his family as well and will remember George in the fall edition of *Bluebird Notes*.

Bluebird Notes

Vol. 37 Issue II

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
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
828-699-7717

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

Rebekah Sandell, Co-Vice President
vicepresident@ncbluebird.org
828-361-1220

Kay Cameron, Recording Secretary
recordingsecretary@ncbluebird.org
703-336-2865

**George Wesoloski
Corresponding Secretary**
correspondingsecretary@ncbluebird.org
910-233-0007

Chuck Brewer, Treasurer
treasurer@ncbluebird.org
919-387-4673

Alexia Maneschi, Recording Chair
recordingchair@ncbluebird.org
919-387-9500

Jim Burke, NABS Representative
director-jb@ncbluebird.org
336-763-1528

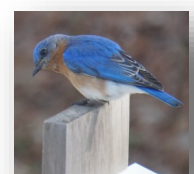
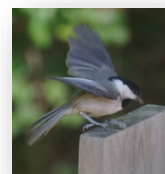
Kay Hindsley, Eastern NC Director
east@ncbluebird.org
336-402-2752

Lloyd Young, Coastal Region Director
coast@ncbluebird.org
336-402-2752

Ken Roberson, Newsletter Distribution
director-kr@ncbluebird.org
336-402-2752

Donna Allred
director-da@ncbluebird.org
336-402-1150

Bob Warmuth
director-bw@ncbluebird.org
828-322-7467



**Nest Monitoring Data Coordinator
Kari Gould**
nestdata@ncbluebird.org
919-349-3283

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Our NCBS Annual Meeting has just concluded, and it was wonderful to share the beautiful sunny day with members and guests. For meeting Chair, Kay Hindsley, who poured every bit of herself into planning and finally, producing the meeting, it must have seemed a long time coming but, on May 14th it all came together at the Sylvan Heights Bird Park where seventy attendees heard some fine speakers, enjoyed lunch together and made new friends—sharing knowledge and experience. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and enjoyment of meeting together for the first time since 2019! Thank you all for turning out. Now, we must start to plan for another year-a year in which we can carry our message more effectively.

Almost daily, I meet people who are interested, yes, fascinated by bluebirds. Many ask where they can get a nest box to put up in their yard. Yet, when I explain the concerns that go along with putting up a nest box, they seem astounded that their **well-intentioned project requires more than the simple act of putting up a nest box**. This is where we, as the NCBS, come in.

This is where our actions will validate our Mission. We do not just “love” bluebirds, our mission is to know as much about bluebirds as we can possibly learn and function as an educational source in every instance which calls upon us for guidance: a school class, the Scouts, a golf course manager, a neighbor.

We should be looking for broader participation by members who represent us in their communities--people who are representative of their community. Our NCBS County Coordinators represent forty-eight counties in this state. They are a source of information and help who represent the spirit and action of this organization to people throughout North Carolina. If you don't see your county represented on our County Coordinators list, please consider being that county's coordinator.

New Team Members and Roles to Strengthen NCBS

Rebekah Sandell: Rebekah will be working as a Co-Vice President with Carol Reid, who has been serving solely as the NCBS Vice President. Carol will continue to bring experience to that office as she and Rebecca form a team to tackle the growing responsibilities of the Vice President.

Terri McLaughlin: Terri will join Carol Reid and Joye Stephenson as a Wake County Coordinator. Terri and her husband enjoyed meeting some of their colleagues at our May meeting at Sylvan Heights. Wake County is the place where we have the most members, so extra assistance there is wonderful.

Kay Hindsley: Our Board reaches out east with Kay Hindsley representing eastern North Carolina. Kay has been involved with NCBS in many roles over the years, including her stellar role as our Annual Meeting chairperson. Her knowledge and experience will continue to be of great benefit to NCBS.

Lloyd Young: Coastal NC has a great resource with Lloyd. He established and monitors a 64 nest box trail in Bolivia, NC. Lloyd has recruited many volunteers in his area who keep impeccable records.

Welcome and thanks to each of you for stepping up. You make the NCBS stronger.

Always looking ahead, we are starting to plan our next steps and next year's Annual Meeting. We want to hear your thoughts. What would you like to learn there? Where would you like to hold it?

Bill

An egg is a promise of the future. Help it get there. Monitor your nest box properly.

FIRST CONFERENCE IN THREE YEARS WAS FUN, FUN, FUN



Highlights from our Saturday at Sylvan Heights Bird Park

What a great turnout on May 14 to our event held at Sylvan Heights Bird Park in Scotland Neck, NC. It was an opportunity to see an assortment of winged creatures, learn from speakers, and relax and enjoy nature. Thanks a bunch to Recording Chair, Alexia Maneschi, for many snapshots of this educational and interesting time. **Pictures on pages 4-6 are courtesy of Alexia, unless otherwise noted.** The bird photo gallery on page 6 shows a colorful array of various types of feathered friends that reside at Sylvan Heights.



We want to offer a big round of applause to Kay Hindsley (speaker in the left photo and below) for her extensive efforts to make this conference happen. We are grateful that she and her husband, David, recommended Sylvan Heights Bird Park to the NCBS Board. Great suggestion, Kay and David!

Kay worked as a liason between our organization and the bird park to coordinate this fabulous event. Kay persevered in the challenging times of Covid ... and it finally paid off. Cancellations in 2020 and 2021, but 2022 was the year!



Photo by President, Dr. Bill Zitek

MEET & GREET: HUMANS AND FEATHERED FRIENDS

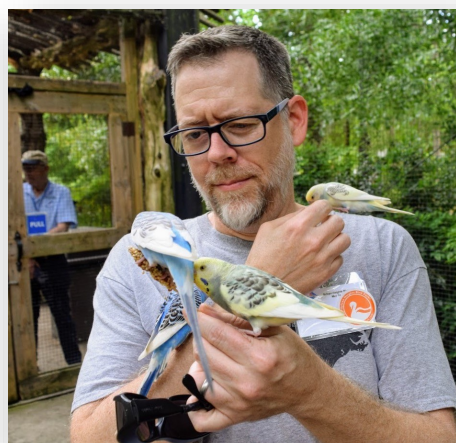
Carol Reid (in picture at the right with husband Ed) wins nestbox autographed by Mr. Bill Satterwhite. What a fantastic prize and critical tool to help the precious bluebirds! Carol has been working with Joye Stephenson (who snapped this photograph) as a Wake County Coordinator for several years, as well as serving on the NCBS Board. She is currently a Co-Vice President. She has been an integral part of the Bluebirders of Wake organization, helping out more when founder Bill Satterwhite's involvement in the club was scaled back due to health. Mr. Bill often gave nest boxes away at the Bluebird meetings. One contest he offered was a drawing with the winning number of how many bluebirds he saw in his yard. Congratulations, Carol! We know this treasured nest box will be put to good use and honor Mr. Bill by helping many bluebirds.



Photo by Joye Stephenson, Wake County



Photos Above: Sylvan Heights Executive Director, Mike Lubbock, speaking about the park (left), Mike & wife Ali Lubbock speaking with NCBS members Carrie & Dave Helston (center), and Ken Kernodle and President Bill Zitek presenting a bluebird carving to show appreciation to speaker Dean Rust (right).

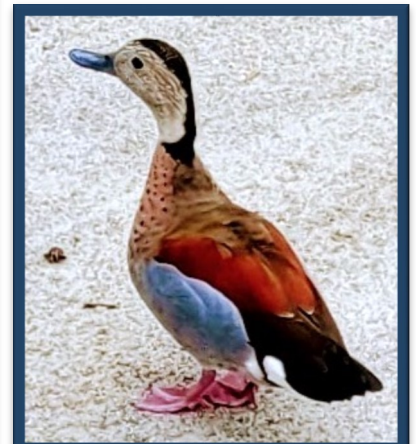
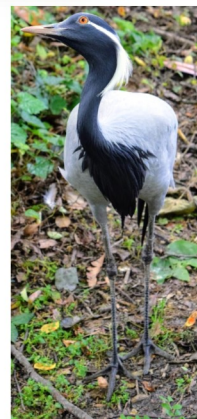
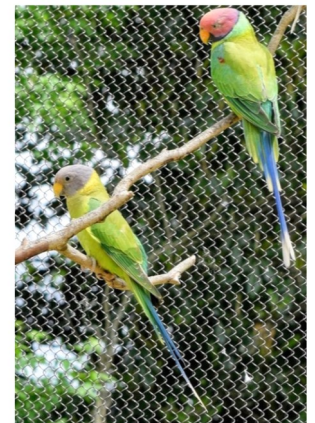


The smiles and amusement above show how cool it was to learn and socialize with the sights and sounds of so many feathered friends around. Kat Lewandowski (top left) is the Lead Bird Keeper at the Park. She is holding a Bar-Headed Goose, which she discussed. These birds are unique as they have the ability to fly at extreme high altitudes, due to their ability to metabolize oxygen at great heights. Mark Quinnan (center) and President Bill Zitek (right) are enjoying parakeet time. Great Saturday at the park.

PHOTO MEMORIES: A DAY WITH BIRDS, BIRDS, BIRDS



Recording Chair, Alexia Maneschi, has been busy in her role of helping new members. She also was an integral part of planning and helping at the annual meeting, as well as documenting with photographs. Thanks to her awesome pictures, we can see an assortment of various feathered friends found at Scotland Neck, NC at Sylvan Heights Bird Park. Nice review of memories for those who attended and a chance for those who were not there to get a glimpse of a range of birds that can be seen at this remarkable place. Alexia captured some great snapshots. Looks like the birds like posing for the camera. This unique spot offered a splendid environment to have our conference. A great mix of amenities for humans and an awesome venue to check out so many bird species. The tranquility and peace of the natural setting boosts the enjoyment. See more details about the bird park at their website <https://www.shwpark.com> and their Facebook <https://www/facebook.com/SylvanHeightsWaterFowl>



FOUR HALL OF FAME MEMBERS ANNOUNCED 5/14/2022

Bill Satterwhite: Known widely as “The Bluebird Man of Wake County”, Bill Satterwhite was born March 7, 1920. Yes, 102 years ago. He was a radiological technologist. After a 40 year+ career, he retired from Rex Hospital as Head of the X-Ray Department. Bill designed and made hundreds of nest boxes. He never sold one. HE GAVE THEM AWAY. He was one of the most devoted friends of Bluebirds. Photo below of his daughters, Billie Jeanne (left) and Peggy (right) accepting his award. Bill passed away shortly before this honor was presented. Picture by Joye Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator, who was Bill’s right hand lady promoting the bluebird cause for many, many years.

Bill was instrumental in establishing numerous Bluebird trails in the Raleigh area:

- 16 boxes Historic Oak View Country Park in 1993
- 18 boxes JC Raulston Arboretum in 1994
- 25 boxes Wil-Mar Golf Course in 1994
- 17 boxes Lake Crabtree Creek County Park in 1996
- 17 boxes Oakwood Cemetery in 1998
- 7 boxes Mordecai Historic Park
- A number of boxes at Lonnie Poole Golf Course on NC State Campus since 1992



Add in the untold number of boxes he placed at public schools, county parks, churches, and individual back yards. Accomplishments by Mr. Bill have been truly amazing. He was recognized by the News and Observer Newspaper as “Tar Heel of the Week”, DAR Conservation Award & Medal and the William C. Friday Award at NCSU for Distinguished Service in Retirement.

Bill was a NCBS Board Director and Wake County Coordinator for many years. He was an expert guest speaker at many events and gave countless Bluebird presentations at schools, retirement centers, libraries, garden clubs, etc. He was a Master Gardener and amassed over 1,000 volunteer hours at the Arboretum. He filmed a video for YouTube in 2015 on Bluebird nest boxes. See this on bluebirdersofwake.org.

Bill’s positive attitude and cheerful voice always added warmth to any discussion. His passion, fondness and dedication to the growth of bluebirds in North Carolina will be long remembered.



Ken Kernode: Ken was born on September 23, 1947. He was raised on the family farm in the Brown Summit community of Guilford County near Greensboro. He grew up with a love for the outdoors. During Sunday afternoon adventures, he would search for bluebird nests in hollow trees in the woods. He learned to make nest boxes in shop class in high school. Ken graduated from NCSU in Agricultural Engineering and enjoyed a 42 year career with Duke Energy. He retired in 2011. In 2009, he joined the NCBS and attended his first annual meeting in 2010. He served as the Durham County Coordinator from 2010-2013, NCBS Vice-President for 3 years (2012-2014), President for 4 years (2015-2018) and Board member for 10 years. He was the Annual Meeting Coordinator for several years: 2012 at Maple View Farm, 2013 & 2015 at Haw River State Park, 2014 at Dupont. He served as the Grant Program chairman for 3 years (2015-2017).

Responsibilities on the family farm in 2018 caused him to give up the Presidency. However, when no candidate could be found, Ken stayed on as “Past President” and for the next two years did more work than he did as President. He and his wife, Peggy, are responsible for establishing the Board meetings on Zoom and keeping the Society together through the initial Covid years. He continues to be an active member of the NCBS, maintains 5 trails (33 boxes) in Durham, as well as a 7 box trail on the family farm in Brown Summit. Your extraordinary efforts are greatly appreciated, Ken.

FOUR HALL OF FAME MEMBERS ANNOUNCED 5/14/2022

Helen Munro: Helen was born in Wellsville in upstate New York on February 23, 1938. She retired from teaching in Delaware in 1992. Although she majored in Biology, over the years she taught from Pre-School to College. In 1995, she and her husband moved to Foxfire Village near Pinehurst, NC. A new neighbor showed her an article about the upcoming Annual Meeting of the NCBS. She attended her first meeting at Weymouth Woods and within four months was Corresponding Secretary.

Over the next few years she did “everything”. She became President for more years than she can remember. She wrote the NCBS Newsletter for 16 years, attended the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) and NCBS meetings for 10 years. She hosted the NABS meeting in Asheville in 2005 as well as their meeting in Athens, GA in 2007. She was Secretary of the NABS for two years. By default, she would take on the leadership of projects with the help of Chuck Bliss, Jim Jochum, David & Kay Hindsley, Bill Abbey, Joye Stephenson, Bill Satterwhite, Jack Finch, Randy Senzig and Ray Welch. According to Ray, “She did it all.” Her neighborhood Foxfire Homeowners Association put up 72 boxes on their golf course and 8 on private property, which she helped monitor.



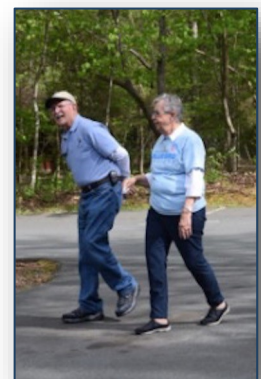
When she moved to Texas in 2012, Ray Welch gave her a 3 year membership to the Texas Bluebird Society. Knowing of her reputation with Bluebirds, the Texas Bluebird Society welcomed her with a new nest box and plaque reading “True Blue Friend, Helen Munro”. See article by Chuck Bliss (longtime NCBS Board Member who served in many roles) honoring Helen in the Winter/February 2013 newsletter. Additionally, there was a New Editor’s Note of Gratitude from Risa Jarman regarding how smoothly Helen facilitated her Editor role to Risa. Check out the many newsletters published by Helen to learn more about our society and historical information at <http://www.ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters>. Helen “did it all” when the NCBS needed it. Great service, Helen. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Ray Welch: Ray was born on October 4, 1941 in Mullins, West Virginia, but lived mostly in Roanoke. When he moved to Winston-Salem in 1970, he became interested in bluebirds. Like most people, he started with one nest box and immediately got hooked when it resulted in five new birds. In 1990, Bill Abbey invited Ray to a NCBS Board meeting and shortly after he was elected Secretary. He served on the Board for numerous years, including seven plus as President.



Ray coordinated several Annual Meetings, updated the By-Laws, found our present printer (Earl Kaiser), coordinated and edited NCBS publications *Bluebirds Forever* and *Bluebird Tips*, and labeled and sent the quarterly newsletters. He has served as the Davidson County Coordinator for many years, and picked up Forsyth County in 2019. Ray has been the primary contact person for answering questions from the public for many years. He loves talking to people, especially about bluebird conservation.

See our online newsletter archives for details of Ray’s extensive work over the years. An interesting story to check out is the Spring 2019 *Bluebird Couples* story, which featured Ray and wife Betsy (with him in the photo to the right at NCBS conference at Haw River State Park in Brown Summit). Ray informed Betsy is the best “right hand” that any Board Member of the NCBS could hope to have. Ray’s bluebird questions and answers appeared in numerous *Bluebird Notes*, with an example being the Summer 2020 edition. The Winter 2019 edition has a very nice article by Ray titled *Don’t Neglect Your Nestbox*. Lots of great reading and helpful tips to be found throughout past *Bluebird Notes*, per the following link: <https://www.ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters>.



Ray started numerous Bluebird trails. One particularly successful location was in conjunction with a new Lowes Hardware location in Winston-Salem. Ray did everything and more, always willing to support and take on work as needed for the Society. He is a true champion deserving of Hall of Fame recognition.

MEMORIAM: BLUEBIRD LADY / TWO BLUEBIRD MEN

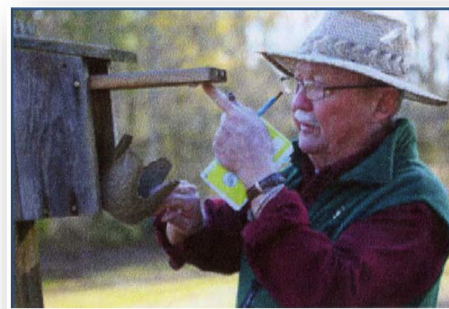
We want to honor the memory of three members of our Society who were exceptionally dedicated to bluebird conservation. We appreciate our time spent with these caring individuals and the opportunity to work with them on the common mission of supporting bluebirds. The groundwork and education they put in place over many years will continue to help future bluebirds survive and flourish.



Susie Miller: As the Allegany County Coordinator, Susie guided NCBS cavity nesting bird conservation projects for the last ten years. See nbluebird.org newsletter August 2013 for article about Susie soon after she signed on to represent NCBS in her area. Her love of nature and community extended into a number of activities. As a Nationally Certified Elementary Teacher for 35 years, Susie taught students to establish and monitor nest boxes. She was the NC Entomology Teacher of the Year as well as a NASA Educator Fellow and Delta Kappa Gamma member. Susie was an advisory board member for Stone Mountain State Park and participated in the Hawk Mountain Bird Counts.

Community Activities involved her First Baptist Church choir and handbell participation, Foothills Corvette Club, and the Allegany Writers Club. Susie was active with the Solid Rock Food Closet. We are keeping her husband, Tom Miller, in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We are grateful he provided the highlights of Susie's impressive accomplishments and diverse interests. Picture above supplied by Tom. Her dedication to fostering the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in her county will long be remembered.

Bill Abbey: Mr. Bill Abbey's involvement in our organization dates back to 1986. He was a charter member of the North Carolina Bluebird Society. He served as the Forsyth County Coordinator from the Spring of 2000 until stepping down for health reasons a couple of years ago. Bill's love of bluebirds and his commitment to help our little blue birds was so clear. He was very involved in bluebird conservation in his area—known as the “Bluebird Man“ of the Bluebird Trail at Tanglewood Park. At one time, he had 140 boxes at this location. He was a popular sought after bluebird speaker. See newsletters on nbluebird.org for *Bill Abbey and Arbor Acres* (August 2013), and a story of how he became involved with bluebirds in the Autumn 2018 edition. Bill was an integral part of the foundation of our organization. Bluebirds all across the state have him to thank for their continued support.



Bill Satterwhite: Mr. Bill Satterwhite celebrated his birthday # 102 this March. He was known as the “Bluebird Man” of Wake County. His enthusiasm was unparalleled when it came to helping bluebirds. His retirement years were spent devoted to the Blues. His bluebird conservation efforts slowed down as he approached 100 years, **but did not stop**. His daughters, Billie Jeanne and Peggy, and Joy Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator, continued to ensure he stayed involved with bluebird activities as much as his health would allow. He and Billie Jean were monitoring nest boxes in April. Sadly, Bill passed in May, just days before being honored in our Hall of Fame. See page 6, as well as our newsletter archives (nbluebird.org), for more about Bill's extensive efforts to help his precious bluebirds. The summer of 2020 newsletter was dedicated to Bill to honor his achievements and birthday # 100. Bluebirds throughout Wake County are flourishing and their future looks bright, with much thanks to Mr. Bill!



Photo by Glenda Ryan

GOOD NEIGHBORS: BLUEBIRDS & TREE SWALLOWS

What's that Trying to Nest in the Nest Box that I Put out for Bluebirds?? A Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) ... Folks who have more than one nest box on their property know that they can't expect one Eastern Bluebird to nest right door to another, so they place their nest boxes about 100 yards apart and then are more likely to have 2 bluebird families nesting. What happens when we find that another interloper, the Tree Swallow, moves into our nest boxes leaving the bluebirds to look elsewhere for a nest site? Experience over the years has shown that Bluebirds and Tree Swallows do get along quite well as neighbors-after they have made their nest site selections. Well, here's our chance to promote interspecies well-being and breeding success.

Bluebirds and Tree Swallows are cavity nesting birds. They are secondary cavity nesting birds which means they adopt cavities made by other birds, natural cavities formed when a tree limb breaks off or---our man-made cavities: nest boxes. Bluebirds select their nest sites in late February or early March, build nests and lay eggs before Tree Swallows do. Tree Swallows, being the earliest of the swallow family to return to their nest territory, may have their sights on those same nest boxes in which the Bluebirds are actively nesting. The answer has been to put up another nest box within 5-10 feet of the first and the Tree Swallows will usually accept this and nest successfully next door. Remember there is usually no competition over food because Bluebirds get most of their food by diving down to the ground and grabbing insects in the warm season and the Tree Swallow gets its food (insects of all types) by flying up into the sky where it collects its prey, balls it up under its tongue until it has a sufficient amount to return to the nest to feed the young and its mate. Pretty efficient sharing of space!

While the Tree Swallow may occupy our nest boxes, we do our best to accommodate both them and our target species, the Bluebird. They are native birds and quite efficient at removing many pesky insects—we'd be in trouble without them! A few points about Tree Swallows:

- Are birds of open fields and meadows and near marshes who like being near the water.
- Are the earliest swallows to return in the spring because they can eat and digest bayberries (*Myrica* spp.).
- Glide in flight more than any other swallow; indeed, are amazing to watch as they twist and turn in the air picking out insects that you and I can't even see!
- Have the broadest distribution of the nine swallow species.
- Are Diurnal migrants-need reed or cane beds to roost in at night along their migration route.

Breeding range: Central and Northern North America-but their breeding range is moving south and they are being seen along the coast and northern areas of the state.



Photo by President, Dr. Bill Zitek

Winter: Florida and along the gulf coast; southern California; Mexico and Central America.

Food: Flying insects-of all kinds; feed from dawn until twilight; can adjust to environmental changes: in absence of insects can eat bayberries; during breeding will eat high calcium items such as snail shells, clam and egg shells.

Drink: in flight off the surface of the water.

Nesting: Build nest of coarse grasses with some finer grass at bottom and line their nests with bed of soft feathers. They lay 4-6 white to off-white eggs which hatch in about 14 days. The female incubates the eggs. Nestlings fledge in about 20 days. "About" is used here as these hatching and fledging dates may occur a day or so earlier or later.

Large flocks of many families of Tree Swallows form at the end of the season, mixed later with other swallows as they introduce the fledglings into the world, training them to find food and fatten up, strengthen their wings and get ready for the trip south.

Further information about Tree Swallows may be found at:
North American Bluebird Society (NABS) website nabluebirdsociety.org
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's "Birds of America Online".

"Birds of Field and Shore"- John Eastman (Author of several books on bird life histories, etc.-eminently readable and enjoyable)

W. E. Zitek, 5-24-21. Edited from previously published article in New York Bluebird Society newsletter

Mr. & Mrs. Bluebird: Greetings from Montgomery County



What a fabulous snapshot! Male and female bluebirds sitting in a tree taken this Spring. This picture of Mr. & Mrs. Bluebird is sure to add cheer to your day & inspiration to keep helping these precious birds.

Thanks to Edward Rivers of Montgomery County, NC, for this splendid image. Mr. Rivers had this photo opportunity in the early evening as the birds were returning to the bluebird house after a day of foraging.



Apex Bluebirds send You Wishes for a Peaceful, Safe & Relaxing Summer of 22

The bluebird activity in the backyard of Tammi & Brad Smith just keeps getting better. They stop by for snacks from the well-stocked feeders and pose in the tree branches of the small forest by their home.



I had some great photo opportunities during a recent visit in May, especially after Tammi replenished the bluebird nuggets and mealworms. My favorite snapshot was the singing Blue on the left. Tammi liked the bluebird on the right posing so nicely the best. Hope both pictures add cheer to your day. Happy Summer.

Glenda Ryan, Editor/Webmaster, Knightdale, NC

WAKE COUNTY BLUEBIRDERS' BUSY WEEKEND

Spectacular Saturday Garden Festival — Interesting Activities for All Ages



On April 30, we were back at JC Raulston Arboretum for their annual Raulston Blooms! Whether you entered your masterpiece birdhouse in their contest or just wanted to check them out for future reference, it was the happening place to be on this Spring day. There was a plant sale and vendors with beautiful and unique crafts. Or if you wanted information about plants, there were gardening talks, children activities, food trucks, and of course, Howling Cow ice-cream.

Alexia Maneschi, NCBS Recording Chair (in the back in photo to the left with Jean Learner from Wake Audubon), and I set our exhibit up in “The Nook” with other educational displays. We enjoyed discussing bluebirds and the NC Bluebird Society. The only thing missing from this fun day was our beloved Bluebird Man of Wake County, Bill Satterwhite. Bill and I always enjoyed this event and I have so many wonderful memories of our good times in years past.

Off subject, but I have to tell a couple of my most fun memories of us monitoring his trails. Wil-Mar Golf Course where he and his wife played after his retirement always had a golf cart waiting for him. Would you believe this gentle man drove that thing like a “bat out of hell”? I had to hold on for dear life ... with him laughing. At the same golf course, the surprise on his face when he opened a box and there was a nest full of baby flying squirrels stands out among our many adventures. The Mama flew by us to a nearby tree.

Another special time I remember is sitting on his back porch with him and his wife very late one evening rocking and waiting while his Night Blooming Cereus opened. He took his gardening duties seriously.

For more photos on Raulston Blooms!, check out the Arboretum’s website: <https://jcra.ncsu.edu/events>

Fun/Educational Sunday in Cary Results in Several New NCBS Members

Cary Herb Fest held at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center on May 1 was a very successful event. NCBS was represented by our President, Bill Zitek, Carol Reid (and her husband, Ed), Vice President and Co-Coordinator, and me. Many people stopped by to ask questions and get information. We had a drawing for an Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group nest box aka Credit Union box: join that day and enter the drawing for the box. At the end of the day, the name drawn was Burt Millette of Cary. I had the pleasure of giving Burt the box when he and his wife came over to pick it up several days later.

How exciting to bring on 11 new NCBS memberships that day! Welcome Ellen Liston of Durham County, Cody Bower from Nash County, and several folks from Wake County: Amanda Benson, Catherine Evangelista, Susan Howard, Catherine Hren, Mark Kuttrus, Mary Melia, Burt Millette, Tom & Maria Spampianto, & Melinda Yelverton.

Submitted by Joye Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator Team



Snapshot of Joye manning the NCBS booth in the left picture. Thanks for all you do to help our mission, Joye.

Joye presents Burt Millette with the winning nest box in the right photo (taken by his wife) Congratulations to Mr. Millette for acquiring this key tool to helping bluebirds safely start their families. Happy Bluebirding!



OSCAR'S WINDOW VIEW: SONGBIRD SIGHTS/SOUNDS

Happy June, Bluebirders. Hope you have been enjoying bird activity as Glenda & I have been this year. My window view has been very active this Spring. Similar to last year, a lot of songbirds were seen researching for real estate and shopping for food in the area near my studio. Titmice stopped by quite often to dine and I saw an occasional wren swoop in briefly for a snack. However, chickadees and bluebirds were the most serious in considering making a home in my backyard for their first nesting brood of 2022. Following are some highlights and pictures from our window view observations and photography.

Early March: Bluebirds and Chickadees were watching the nesting house from tree branches all around. March 4: Bluebirds sightings in the trees and on the nest box. March 6: Two bluebirds were spotted and photographed together investigating the Knightdale Nestbox. For awhile, the chickadees seemed to be the most interested. They were spotted visiting the nest box frequently, checking out the roof, entrance, and predator guard thoroughly. Then, on March 14 it looked like the bluebirds were getting serious and really wanted the nest box. They spent much time perched and watching intently from the nearby tree branches, observing and calculating whether their eggs and babies would be safe and have a good chance to fledge.

However, the chickadees did not give up their potential home so easily. It turned out the new residents were the chickadees. A chickadee nest was spotted in late March. April 1: Chickadee eggs (five) were first seen in nest box. After the eggs appeared, until around April 10, the Mama Chickadee was usually on the nest during monitoring inspections. She did not fly away when the box was opened. Per discussion with Ken Kernodle, she was incubating the eggs. So things were going good! April 13: Five baby Chickadees were counted at the Knightdale nest box. They were so cute with their little mouths open waiting for food.

Then, a wren was spotted April 23 in the backyard and on the nest box. It was not seen entering the nest box opening, which was a good sign. Glenda was concerned if the wren may hurt the chickadee babies and consulted the President Team (Bill/Marti). Marti advised she has known house wrens to remove chickadee eggs and nestlings from the nest, She suggested considering a wren guard, but warned that extra monitoring was needed if this choice was made. She advised a wren guard would require watching the box very closely to make sure the chickadee parents accept it. Additionally, removal at the correct time would be necessary so the young can fledge. She advised to see <http://sialis.org/wrens.htm> for more information. After worry, discussing pros and cons of wren guards, and watching around the nest box, it was a relief that the wren apparently came for birdseed, not to terrorize the chickadee nest. Not further wren activity was seen, so all seemed fine again for the chickadees. A wren guard was not pursued at that time. Thereafter, the parent chickadees were sighted many times taking food to the box and the babies continued to get bigger. On a nest box check in the morning of Thursday, April 28 all five babies were present and looking great. Glenda was so excited later that day as she saw what appeared to be the babies being coached to fledge by the adult chickadees from the window. See picture of mom & dad outside the box and baby at entrance being enticed out with food. Per consultation with President Team Bill/Marti, she was not going to check the nest box for a few days with the concern of spooking the fledglings.



No bird activity was seen Saturday morning and afternoon, April 30, from the window views. It seemed odd, so Glenda consulted Marti and was advised to check the box (slowly). Unfortunately, the box contained one deceased baby chickadee. No evidence of predation was seen, so it is assumed the other four did fledge. The baby bird was removed by Ken Kernodle, who laid it to rest in his pet cemetery. Glenda made the difficult decision to take down her nest box. She learned that dealing with issues such as this is part of hosting a nest box. She has a full-time job, does freelance website work, and is my caretaker (I am a lot of responsibility, but so worth it), so she decided to continue helping bluebirds in other ways, such as with the website and newsletter. She is glad for the monitoring experience, as it adds value to her roles as Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. She is happy for the baby birds that did make it thanks to the nestbox.

Oscar, Bird-Friendly Feline in Knightdale (story and photography assistance by Glenda Ryan)

PHOTOS/NEST BOX NEWS

NCBS MEMBERSHIP

Bird Picture Gallery from Oscar's Window View



Bluebird & Chickadee Photos by Glenda Ryan

NEST BOX UPDATE: The NC State Employees Credit Union (SECU) branches will no longer be selling the "Credit Union Box" after the supply they have now is exhausted and not all branches have them.

The Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group's volunteers, located in Warrenton, NC have been making and selling them through the SECU for 20 years. Hopefully, EBRG will be able to find another outlet for selling them.

Joye Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator

See more about the Eastern Bluebird Rescue Group at easternbluebirdrescue.org

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

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

SENDING WISHES FOR AN AWESOME SUMMER OF 22

Hello from Durham County Bluebirds: Photos below are courtesy of Elke Hoffman of Bahama. She reported 8 fledges as of May 11. The bluebirds are certainly flourishing in her yard and have been for some time now. Elke has submitted some awesome bluebird pictures to NCBS. Many can be seen in past newsletters. A shout out to Elke for all she does to help bluebirds and other songbirds. See her stories in the Spring 2021 & Spring 2022 editions at our website: <https://www.ncbluebird.org/online-newsletters>

The Blues are posing so nicely and Elke captures their beauty well. Perched on nest box roofs, they serve as a reminder how important these man-made houses are to the survival of bluebirds, as well as other native NC cavity-nesters. Learn more about how you can help these precious winged creatures at our website, ncbluebird.org, or nabluebirdsociety.org, the site for North American Bluebird Society (NABS).



Enjoy your Summer of 2022 with sun, fun, and the sights and sounds of our feathered friends. We hope this newsletter brought you education, cheer, and inspiration. Happy Bird Watching in 2022!