



BLUEBIRD TRAILS & TALES

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

Volume 15, Issue 3

Fall/Winter 2012

Editor: Joan Watroba • sunshinebb@msn.com

www.thebsp.org

A Message from the President -

Bluebirds Need Landlords for Nestling Survival

This year I'm convinced that bluebirds need landlords for the survival of their nestlings and fledglings. Here in Western Pennsylvania, Butler County the weather does not want to cooperate with my nesting pair of bluebirds. Hot, then cold, and then rainy weather makes it difficult for the pair of bluebirds to find insects not only for themselves but to take care of the nestlings and fledglings. My pair of bluebirds already fledged four young and started another nest with 5 eggs that should hatch around June 8th. I spend many hours watching them from my back porch while I recover from a back sprain.



Photo by Chuck Musser

I notice the pair of bluebirds trying to feed their fledglings but with little success because insects are just not active today due to the weather conditions. As I sit on my porch, the pair comes to me looking for a handout. They seem to be asking me for help. So I get up (in pain I might add) and come to their rescue. Once I am outside with the container of mealworms, they all follow me to their feeding station approximately 40' from the porch and about 30' from their nest box. With wings flapping and their song

in the air, they are waiting for me before I get there. Even the fledglings are there, but Mom and Dad are still feeding them. Mom has another nest built with 5 eggs and wants to get started with the incubation process but is worried that her recent fledglings are not getting enough food.

After eating and all are fed, Dad bluebird goes to the nest box and starts wing waving and poking his head in and out of the nest box. He even enters and then flies back out trying to encourage the female to get back on the eggs. It was as if he was telling

her "do the incubating and I will provide the food for the kids." Mom goes back to the incubation duties, and Dad resumes his responsibilities. It's just wonderful watching a pair of bluebirds working together trying to raise another family for the next generation. I myself realized that Bluebird Landlords do play a big part in their survival by adding predator guards to their nest box poles and monitoring the nest box by spending a little time overseeing them while they

face their trials. Bluebirds and Landlords go together like Cotton Candy and Kids and Bluebirds and Mealworms.

Respectfully Submitted,
Harry Schneider
BSP President



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Photo by Susan Renkel

From the Editor -



The weather for the 2012 nesting season presented many challenges for nesting songbirds. An unseasonably warm March, followed by a cold and wet April, and then the prolonged high temperatures in July and August made it more difficult for the nesting birds to regulate the development of their eggs and young and to obtain adequate food to provide nourishment and hydration for themselves and their young.

In spite of these extreme temperatures, many bluebirders are reporting excellent results, while others are reporting many unhatched eggs and some losses of young birds. According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, songbirds regulate their eggs by heating or cooling them to a narrow range of optimal temperatures during the incubation period.

During a past BSP Conference, participants learned about scientific studies being conducted regarding recording the temperatures inside nest boxes using data loggers. Caren Cooper and Tina Phillips of Cornell Lab of Ornithology are instrumental regarding this research. For more information about these data log studies, go to: http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/Birdscope/Summer2002/Rhythm_Bluebirds.html

According to Cornell, the optimal range for bird egg development is 96.8 °F to 104.9 °F (36 °C to 40.5 °C). If egg temperatures are lower, embryonic development slows. Higher temperatures can be lethal for the embryo. (Birdscope, Summer 2002, Vol.16 No.3, Cooper and Chu). Bluebird eggs and nestlings cannot survive temperatures exceeding 107 °F (41° C) (Conley Black). Prolonged excessive heat can severely impact nestling health due to dehydration and heat stress.*

*<http://www.sialis.org/heat.htm>

I was lucky not to lose any young birds due to the weather extremes, but I did find many unhatched eggs in both a second nesting of bluebirds and two nestings of tree swallows during that same time period. I believe that was due to the extremely high temperatures in early July.

Hope that your nesting season was successful, and please remember to report your nesting results to BSP. And thank you for all that you do to promote nesting success of native songbirds!

Joan Watroba

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BSP BOARD OF DIRECTORS & SERVICE DATES:

2012-2014

Philip Durgin – Cumberland County

Dan Thomas – Lancaster County

Dale Cook – York County

Bill Cuppett – Somerset County

Dean Rust – Lancaster County

Terry Gerhart – Berks County

2013-2015

Harry Schmeider – Butler County

Nancy Putt – York County

Joyce Stuff – Franklin County

Shirley Halk – Lebanon County

Ken Leister – Chester County

Note: BSP is very happy to report that five of our current Board Members whose terms are expiring in 2013 are willing to serve on the Board of Directors for another 2 year term starting at the conference dates of 2013-2015: Harry Schmeider, Nancy Putt, Joyce Stuff, Shirley Halk, and Ken Leister. We thank them for their continued commitment to serve in the vital role of Board Directorship for the Bluebird Society of PA.

Dan Thomas, BSP Nominating Chair



To the Editor: Joan, I just joined BSP at the PA Farm Show last year.... Our box was infested with house sparrows early, so I removed their nest and tried the monofilament line trick - wow - spectacular success - FIVE bluebirds fledged. Meanwhile, we had tree swallows in a second box on our property. The swallows laid two clutches of 5 eggs each, only to have the eggs removed or destroyed. Could I have used monofilament to protect them too? I know it said something about native cavity- nesting birds in the bluebird book or on the sheet with the monofilament instructions, but I've lost both somewhere. Thanks for your help - Mike

Editor's Reply: *Hi Mike- Sorry that your tree swallow nesting was disturbed. Yes, you can use the monofilament line on all of your nest boxes to deter the house sparrows, as all of the native songbird species such as tree swallows, chickadees, bluebirds, and house wrens will use the nest boxes with the monofilament line installed. I use it on all of my nest boxes in house sparrow habitats and all of those species successfully use those nest boxes. Question-After the Tree Swallow eggs were removed or destroyed, did the house sparrows try to nest in that particular nest box? The reason that I ask that question is that sometimes house wrens will remove the eggs of other species and even newborn chicks, but if they did that, they would have probably placed sticks in the nest box after removing the other species' eggs. Because house wrens are native species, their nests and eggs cannot be disturbed.*

Reply from Mike: Thanks for the information. (I e-mailed to him the diagram of the installation of the monofilament line) No birds nested after the tree swallow eggs were removed. The swallows remained near the nest for a couple of days. I think they may have still defended it for a while.

To the Editor: I am a new member and am pretty sure I have no bluebirds in either of my boxes...I have seen blue birds in our area...any help? Pat

Editor's Reply: *Hi Pat- Birds are very secretive and you may not have seen them building a nest in your boxes. Many people are hesitant to open their nest boxes because they think that they may scare away the parents, but bluebirds and other native songbirds adapt very well to monitoring activities. Please check your boxes every week-look inside and check if there is any activity at all and note the results so that you will know what is going on. It is important to talk softly while approaching the nest box to let them know that you are near, and then knock lightly on the side of the box before opening it. If the parent(s) fly out, they will return soon after you leave the area. In some cases, the female may even stay in the box if she is incubating the eggs. If that is the case, do not disturb her; just close the box and check the contents during your next trail visit. I usually secure the opening with a screw to avoid predators like raccoons from opening the box or other people from opening the nest boxes. When the bluebird babies are 14 days old or older (other time frames for different species) do not open the nest box, as that may cause the young to leave the box too early. Just observe the activity with binoculars to observe the parents feeding them. If the parents are not there, you can stand near the nest box, which will usually bring the parent bluebirds in to defend their nest box. If your boxes are mounted on smooth poles in an open area in your yard in suitable habitat, with time you should get some activity. If you have no activity, you may want to relocate the boxes to another area of your yard. If there are House sparrows in your yard, they will compete for the nest boxes and may scare other native birds away. If you feed the birds, you may want to place feeders away from the nest boxes and only use black oil sunflower seeds and not offer the cheaper mixed seed blends which contain the type of seeds that House sparrows prefer.*



Artist - Susan Renkel

BSP is NOW GREEN!



Benefits of receiving the BSP newsletter by e-mail:

- * Quicker Delivery of the publication
- * Reduction of the cost for printing and postage fees to deliver the newsletter
- * Reduce the use of natural resources-trees to make paper and fuel to transport mail to its destination
- * Ability to view photos in color

Please consider going GREEN as your newsletter delivery option!

To receive the e-mail version, please **send an e-mail from the e-mail address that you wish to receive your BSP newsletter to: btntnewsletter@thebsp.org.**

In your e-mail, please include BSP Newsletter Delivery in the subject line of your e-mail, along with the following:

1. Your name as it appears on the mailing label of your newsletter.
2. Your current mailing address.
3. Your phone number.
4. Retype your e-mail address



*The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
thanks Linda J. Hohl of Morgantown, PA
for her generous donation of \$50.00*

In Loving Memory of Weaver Martin

BSP EVENT REPORTS

Bluebird Saturday

Joanne Slavinski and Doris Hoffman, Event Chairs

On Saturday, April 28th, we brought the BSP educational display and we presented a bluebird program to about 15 people to a bluebird event called **Bluebird Saturday**, hosted by Mary and the Staff at *Hearts Design/Needful Things*, a beautiful Gift and Garden Shop in Shermansdale, PA. Phil and Dale offered a nest box building activity. Bluebelle, BSP's Bluebird Mascot, also participated and stood at the entrance to the event and waved to passing cars -she got many toots, waves and howls and provided many photo opportunities for the children.

Thanks to Joanne, Doris, Phil, and Dale for your help during this event.

After the event, BSP volunteers received thoughtful Thank You cards from Mary and the Staff:

*Dear Joan - "Thank you so much for your presentation at our **Bluebird Saturday**. We learned so much from it. We've had great feedback from it."*

Mary and the Staff at Heart's Design

P.S. Mary was very thoughtful to include \$5.00 gift card(s) with the Thank You notes. We can use them to purchase bluebird-related items to donate to the BSP Auction at the upcoming conference.

BSP goes to the Governor's Mansion

On Sunday July 8, 2012, Bill Strauss, Jennifer Halk, and Shirley Halk represented the Bluebird Society of PA at **First Lady Susan Corbett's Garden Tour**. The free tour which included the Governor's residence also highlighted the trees of PA (DCNR), pollinators and the gardens (PSU Dauphin County Master Gardeners), and PA native plants. Although it was a hot, sultry day we enjoyed talking about bluebirds, solving problems, listening to success stories, encouraging new bluebirders, and of course handing out membership forms. We had approximately 75 people, which was good considering the weather and that this was the first year for the free summer programs. A good time was had by all and we will be called on in the future for other events.

A special thank you to Bill Strauss for picking up and delivering needed materials to the Bird's Nest and volunteering his time for this event. All of this was done with his infamous smile. Also thank you to Jen for sharing her knowledge and enthusiasm. Jen has been working with bluebirds since she has been knee high to a grasshopper and she also volunteers for the PA State Parks.

Shirley Halk,
BSP County Coordinator, Lebanon County

Bluebird Monitoring Course

Dean Rust, BSP County Coordinator-Lancaster County

I presented a "Bluebird Monitoring Class" on Monday evening, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. in Manheim Township at the Boettcher House. I showed slides, a video and presented a Bluebird Monitoring 101 course and demonstrated the field tools needed and answered many questions about checking nest boxes. Sixteen people pre-registered for the course, so it was very well-attended.

New Trail Report-Manheim Township Trail- Dean Rust

We have 3 nesting Bluebird pairs at Weaver Rd right now-
Boxes #4, #5 and #9
4 bluebirds in each nest box
That makes 5 nests for the year!!!
A Great Start for a brand new bluebird trail

For more information about Dean's efforts to promote bluebird propagation in Lancaster County, see:

http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/703098_A-helping-hand-for-Lancaster-County-s-bluebirds.html

Ned Smith Festival - July 28th

Phil Durgin, Event Coordinator

Thanks to Joan, Doris, Dale, Dean, Ken, Bill, and Keith and Kevin Lutz for all of their help at yesterday's Ned Smith event. We signed up 8 new members, 2 renewals, and sold \$139.50 in store merchandise. Joan had about 18 people at her bluebird talk and we helped the children and their parents build about 100 of the PGA bluebird boxes. Good work everyone!

"Ready for That: Bluebirds Aloft!"

(Mary Ellen and Jim Tarman moved to the Masonic Village at Elizabethtown with their Chinese Shar Pei, Charlotte, in January 2012. Mary Ellen has volunteered to share her experiences each week as she explores Masonic Village and everything it has to offer.)



In March, we attended a program at Masonic Village about bluebirds. The guest speaker was Chuck Musser who is Research Chair for the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania ([website at www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)). Chuck is a virtual encyclopedia of experience and knowledge about bluebirds. His enthusiasm is infectious, and we were fortunate to have him stop by our cottage the next day to install a bluebird box in the back yard.

We had bluebirds at our former home and enjoyed watching them fly through the yard, although the boxes were at places we couldn't easily observe. Here, the nesting box is directly across the back lawn and bird activity is easily visible.

Nesting Pair Arrives

Shortly after the box was installed, a pair of bluebirds claimed the site for their nest. Jim bought mealworms to feed them to keep their enthusiasm level high for the new home. We were pleased to see such quick interest and hoped they would stay to have their young here.

Chuck Musser stopped by many times as a courtesy to check on progress of the nest, and we were pleased when the final laying produced five eggs. Bluebird nests are susceptible to things going wrong, but we were hopeful all eggs would be viable and hatch in good order. The female lays one egg a day, usually in the morning. I wondered how that would work since eggs should all hatch at one time. I learned that after all eggs are laid, the female sits on them to complete the incubation process so they mature at one time.



Eggs Hatch

In May, we knew the eggs had hatched and the adults' activity level increased. This becomes a vulnerable time for the bird family. On June 4, when the birds began to fledge, a large crow landed atop the box. He did not have good intentions toward the brood and Jim shooed him away. For the next few days we kept a careful eye on the box. We could see the parent birds go to the opening to encourage the young to leave the box.

Fledglings Leave

Finally on June 6, all five fledglings had taken wing, and we were pleased to actually see it happen. Later that day, the young birds were in the front yard with the parents encouraging the group to fly toward the Veteran's Grove area. We assume they will take up quarters there before beginning a second nesting, here if we are lucky. It was a wonderful experience to see the progression of box installation to baby birds taking wing. We are delighted our home at Masonic Village has enabled us to see this happen. We were "ready for that."

Mary Ellen and Jim Tarman

***Reply from Mary:** Hi Joan, thanks for your comment. I learned a lot from the bluebird materials and Chuck. We are fortunate he lives close to us. Best wishes, Mary Ellen*

***From the Editor-to Mary Ellen:** Yes- Chuck is a wonderful man and I have learned a lot from him, too. He is so dedicated to helping the bluebirds and inspires others to get actively involved. Thanks again for your article.*

BSP County Coordinator News

Request for Co — County Coordinator-Cumberland County

BSP has many members in **Cumberland County**, and we are seeking another County Coordinator to join Joan Watroba to provide programs and to assist bluebirders, especially in the Carlisle area. It would be ideal if your schedule would allow for participation in weekday events.

If you monitor bluebird trails and would be willing to help to educate the public about bluebirds and their nesting needs, please contact BSP State County Coordinator, Ken Leister at 610-696-5271 or e-mail: kenapeg@aol.com. BSP can provide educational materials and handouts for educational outreach activities.

Welcome — New BSP County Coordinator/Somerset County:

Simeon D.Yoder - Berlin, PA
(814) 267-9932

Simeon will serve as Co-County Coordinator for Somerset County along with Bill Cuppett to serve bluebirders in Somerset County.

BSP UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 28th and Saturday Sept. 29th –Birdseed Sale

The Appalachian Audubon will host a birdseed sale at the Boscov's Department Store at the Camp Hill Shopping Center in Camp Hill. A large variety of quality foods and bird feeders will be available. Check for details closer to the event: www.appalachianaudubon.org

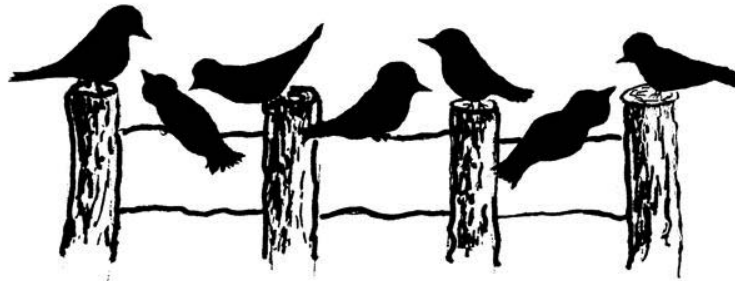
Note: Bluebirds will eat shelled sunflower seeds, peanut hearts, fruit blends, and suet. For other songbird species, it is best to offer black oil sunflower seeds and niger/thistle. Avoid offering the cheaper blended seed mixes containing cracked corn and millet, as they will attract House sparrows to your feeders.

Thursday, October 25th, 6 p.m. BSP Board Meeting Giant Community Room, Giant Food, Camp Hill, PA

Please plan to attend the meetings to learn about upcoming BSP activities and events and to share your ideas about a variety of issues related to bluebird conservation.

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, we can arrange for you to attend via conference call.

Contact BSP President: Harry Schmeider: harryschmeider@gmail.com or call (724) 285-1209 to make arrangements to join the meeting.



Artist - Susan Renkel

Friday and Saturday, April 5th and 6th, 2013 - 15th Annual BSP Conference Co-Hosted with the Purple Martin Conservation Association

Best Western Premier- The Central Hotel and Conference Center
800 East Park Dr. (off of Union Deposit Road) Harrisburg, PA

Plan to join us to celebrate **15** years of service to bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting species. We welcome the Purple Martin Conservation Association as co-hosts of this very special event. Purple Martins and Eastern Bluebirds face many of the same nesting challenges ... learn new skills and new tips from experienced trail monitors.

More information will become available through a special mailing to all active members, and event updates will be posted on the BSP web site: <http://www.thebsp.org/> or <http://purplemartin.org/>

BSP UPCOMING EVENTS, con't.

Jan 5- 12, 2013- 96th Annual PA Farm Show- Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, PA

Farm Show website- www.farmshow.state.pa.us/

Hours: 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Jan. 5-11 — 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Jan. 12

The largest indoor agricultural event in the East with nearly 6,000 animals and thousands of exhibits. Delicious food items are available in the Food Court.

The BSP will have the educational booth for 8 days, so we really need help! BSP will reimburse the parking fee for volunteers.

Please call Nancy Putt at 717-432-2647 to volunteer.

**Please help us by volunteering for a 4-hour time slot: 9-1, 1-5 or 5-9*

PA Garden Show of York

March 1-3, 2013

Website-www.pagsy.com

Toyota Expo Center- York Fair Grounds, York, PA

Hours- Friday- 10am to 9pm, Saturday- 10am to 8pm, Sunday- 10am to 5pm

BSP will attend this Garden Show with an educational display and box building event for children. Enjoy the beautiful landscape/garden displays and browse the many booths for inspiration for the coming spring.

Please call Nancy Putt at 717-432-2647 to volunteer.

★ ★ ★ *Nominate Your Favorite Bluebirder* ★ ★ ★

BSP is now accepting award nominations for 2013. Please help us to recognize individuals or groups who you feel have greatly contributed to bluebird education and/or have promoted nesting success of bluebirds and other native songbirds. Please include a brief paragraph about your nominee, including their name, county, and their contact information. Include your name and contact information and send this to the BSP Award Nomination Chairperson:

Shirley Halk, 42 Park Drive, Grantville, PA 17028.

Thank you!

TIME TO REPORT YOUR BLUEBIRD NESTINGS

It's time to send in your **Annual Nest Box Report** of your nesting results for the 2012 nesting season to BSP. The **Annual Nest Box Report** was included in the Summer edition of the BSP newsletter and is also available to print from the BSP web site: <http://www.thebsp.org/>

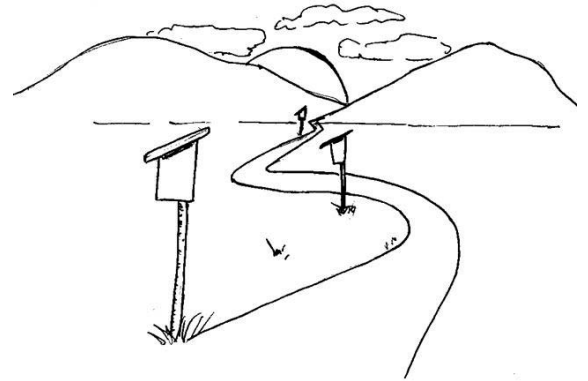
Each year BSP sponsors a *Nest Box Report Submission Contest*, a random drawing of nest box reports submitted by October 15th of each year. Prizes include binoculars and items from the BSP Store. This year the deadline date to submit nest box reports to qualify for the prize drawing is extended to **October 31, 2012**.

Please note that BSP will be accepting your Annual Nest Box Report Forms until 12/31/12, so make sure that your bluebirds are included in the count.

Note: After the nesting data has been compiled, BSP will post the Annual Nest Box Report results on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Send in your Annual Nest Box Report Form to:
Shirley Halk, BSP Nest Box Reporter
42 Park Drive, Grantville, PA 17028

Note: If you would like to receive a printed copy of the compiled nest box results by regular mail, please indicate that preference on your report form or contact Shirley Halk at the above address.



Artist - Susan Renkel

BLUEBIRD SPEAKERS NEEDED

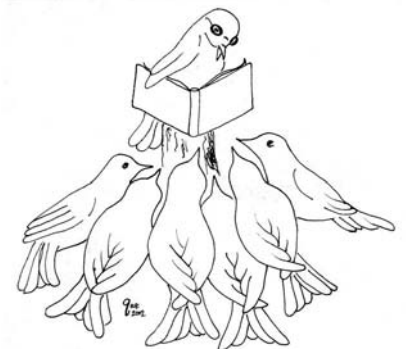
If you enjoy speaking about bluebirds or if you feel you would like to get started as a speaker to educate others concerning bluebirds, the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania can assist you by providing a CD program with beautiful photos related to bluebird education and educational handouts.

To be added to the BSP Speaker's Bureau List, please reply with the following information:
Name, Address, County, Telephone Number and E-mail Address

Please e-mail your information to Harry Schmeider at harryschmeider@gmail.com or call him at (724) 285-1209.

Don't Forget -BSP has a Facebook Page!

Google: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania / Facebook



Artist - Susan Renkel



Bluebird - Purple Martin Conference

Non-Profit Organizations

Date: April 5 & 6, 2013

Time: Friday 6-9 pm, all day Saturday

Where: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Open to the Public

Contact Info: Harry Schmeider, Conference

Chair/BSP President

harryschmeider@gmail.com

(724) 285 -1209

General Comments: The Bluebird Society of PA and the Purple Martin Conservation Association of Erie, PA will hold a joint conference at Best Western Premier- The Central Hotel & Conference Center, 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, Pa. 17111. Now accepting lodging reservations: (717) 561- 2800 *Mention the Bluebird/Purple Martin Conference to receive the group discount rate.

Event Highlights: Friday evening: 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar with evening programs. Saturday: All day conference includes Speakers, Displays, Vendors, Exhibits, Live and Silent Auctions, Amish Quilt Raffle, Door Prizes, Bluebird and Purple Martin Store items for sale on site. Registration of \$35.00 per person includes Saturday morning Breakfast Buffet and Mid-day Luncheon Buffet and all activities on Friday night and Saturday. * Pre-Registration is required for food planning. Registration forms and additional information can be obtained from the following host organizations websites: The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania: <http://www.thebsp.org/> The Purple Martin Conservation Association of Erie, PA: <http://purplemartin.org/>

* **Bluebird Speaker, Mr. Andy Ohrman**, Past President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, presents "The Joy of Bluebirds and Other Cavity - Nesting Birds up Close and In Motion." Experience birds in slow motion footage with special effects from cameras placed inside the nest box. Explore cavity - nesting birds as you've never seen before.

* **Purple Martin Speaker, Mr. John Tautin**, Executive Director of the Purple Martin Conservation Association of Erie, PA presents "Building Community for Purple Martins." This conservation topic concerns the ecology, status and management of Purple Martins, with emphasis on building community to address the decline of martins in Pennsylvania.

* **Guest Speaker, Mr. Daniel Brauning**, Wildlife Diversity Chief, Pennsylvania Game Commission, presents "The State of Pennsylvania's Birds." He will update the status of PA's birds as determined from the recently completed 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas of America.

* **Committee's Comments** - Due to spring events in and around Harrisburg, PA, please reserve your rooms promptly.

WELCOME -New BSP MEMBERS!!!!!!

ALLEGHENY

Alissa Buck

ARMSTRONG

Renata Brumbaugh

Linda Frailey

BEAVER

Robert Kapanyko

BUTLER

Dean & Alice Salisbury

CHESTER

Marilyn Michalski

Erica Houseknecht

Joshua Marks

Paige Polsin

CUMBERLAND

Kyle Loy

Gary Ankabrandt

Wayne Witmer

Pauline Gutshall

Philip Fogarty

Jennifer Lebo

LANCASTER

Jack Heinze

Vicki Wagner

Ina Jacobs

LEBANON

Barbara Odenkirk

LEHIGH

Kirk Smith

MERCER

Leslie Kapsar

NORTHUMBERLAND

Terry & Susan Sheaffer

PERRY

Charlie Johnson

SOMERSET

Simeon Yoder

YORK

Jeremy Barnes

Suzanne Schauman

Ken Painter

BALTIMORE, MD

Gary Landes

Remember to offer supplemental food to the bluebirds!

Especially during the upcoming cold winter months and early spring, natural food sources may become very limited. By offering some mealworms (in moderation) shelled sunflower seeds, peanut hearts, or some crumbly fruit /peanut butter suet , you can help the bluebirds and other native songbirds to get through these severe weather conditions.

By planting native trees or ornamental plants which produce fruits and berries, you will be able to create a habitat which will attract bluebirds to your landscape.

This suet recipe attracts several songbird species, especially bluebirds, and it provides a good source of nutrition in the fall, winter, and early spring when the natural food supplies are low:

Recipe for Yummy Suet for the Birds - submitted by Chuck Musser

1 pound of lard (available in a tub)

18 ounces of crunchy peanut butter

Heat the above ingredients in a large pan on the stove on low heat until they are mixed together. Remove from heat.

Mix in: one- 2 lb. bag of yellow corn meal.

Optional add-ins: raisins, shelled sunflower seeds.

Refrigerate until using.

Serve in a log feeder or on a flat tray from October through April!



Photo by Chuck Musser

BSP Picnic/Nest Box Building Event August 18th!

Thanks to all Volunteers!



*Many thanks to Bill and Mim Strauss for hosting the fun
and productive BSP Picnic/Nest Box Building Event!*



BSP Newsletter Submission/Wiggly Worm Contest

The Newsletter Committee is very excited that many BSP members are submitting material for the BSP newsletter, and we want to encourage more members to do so. By submitting your questions, nesting experiences, and field observations, we will be able to offer a wider variety of articles and materials that are of interest to our readers.

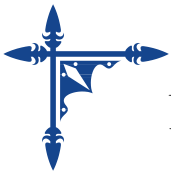
Contest Rules:

1. Locate the illustration of the **Wiggly Worm** which will appear in the content of the newsletter and write that **page #** on the top of your item for the newsletter.
2. Your entry can be a general question or article about bluebirds or other nature topics, a write-up about something that you observed in your yard or on your trail, an original poem, a trail monitoring tip, or any non-copyrighted material.
3. Write **Attn: Wiggly Worm Contest** on the front of the envelope and send to: BSP, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756. We are also now accepting newsletter submissions by e-mail. Please enter **Wiggly Worm Contest** in the subject line and e-mail to the BSP Editor at: sunshinebb@msn.com.
4. One submission will be *randomly drawn* at the cut-off date for each newsletter edition, and the person whose entry was randomly picked will have their choice of any book offered in the BSP store- website: **www.thebsp.org**

The latest date to submit items is the following:

Spring - January 7 • Summer- May 7 • Fall/Winter- September 7

The Newsletter Editor will then review the items and reserve the right to include your submission in an upcoming edition. Since we cannot return any items, please send *copies only* of materials and/or photos. Please include your contact information-name, address, phone number or e-mail address (optional) with your entry.



BSP NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION CONTEST WINNER:
Mary Ellen Tarman - Elizabethtown, PA



CONGRATULATIONS!

Mary Ellen - Please contact the BSP Store Manager, Doris at (717) 766-3877
and provide her with your book prize choice.

Books can be viewed at the BSP web site: <http://www.thebsp.org/>
Select the link to: BSP Online Store to view the list of books available.





BSP Membership Form
Send to: P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756

2012 BSP MEMBERSHIP RATE INFORMATION

Student	Senior	Regular/Family	Organization/Corporate
1 year -\$10	1 yr.-\$12	1 yr.-\$15	1 yr.-\$100
3 years-\$25	3 yrs.-\$30	3 yrs.-\$40	3 yrs.-\$275
			Lifetime Sponsor -\$375

Renew for 3 years and take advantage of our discounted rates!

New Member _____ **Renewal** _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ County (if in PA) _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail Address: _____ (Required if requesting e-mail delivery of seasonal newsletter, event updates)

Additional supporting donations are gratefully accepted and appreciated. Please make your check or money order payable to the "Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania" and return this application to: Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756.

Additional Contribution (optional): \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate preferred delivery method of your newsletter by checking off one of the following options:

_____ e-mail delivery Please enter your e-mail address here: _____

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Member Interest Survey:

I/We would like to learn about assisting BSP with:

___ Create/monitor BSP trail ___ Telephoning ___ Membership ___ Finance ___ Woodworking ___ Fundraising ___ State Monitoring
___ Education ___ Speakers Bureau ___ Photography ___ State Conference ___ Research ___ Publication/artwork ___ Newsletter
___ County Coordinator ___ Publicity ___ Web Site/Web Content ___ Other _____

Special Events Help:

___ Garden Expo Booth @ Farm Show ___ Garden Expo Booth @ Hershey Gardens ___ Ned Smith Day@ Millersburg
___ Annual Farm Show @ Farm Show (January) ___ Tech Support @ State Convention ___ Other Special Events: _____

Please tell us how you learned about us: _____

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Website: www.thebsp.org

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Special Bluebird –Related Items for Holiday Giving/Receiving

The BSP Store has a wonderful collection of bluebird and nature-related items to brighten your holiday season. Included with this newsletter is a list of these items.

They can be viewed at: <http://www.thebsp.org/>



Photo by Chuck Musser



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