



# The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

- Volume 19, Issue 1 Spring 2017
- Editor: Joan Watroba • sunshinebb@msn.com • www.thebsp.org

## A Message from the President

Dr. Dean C. Rust, BSP President

### ODE TO THE BLUEBIRDS

*I wonder where the bluebirds go  
When there is so much ice and snow;  
Each bird house stands alone and bare  
(There is no bluebird family there).  
Each day I take my daily stroll  
And hope to see a sign or two;*

*A chickadee, scampering squirrel,  
But no little bird all dressed in blue.  
The babbling brook I pass each day  
Still flows so merrily on its way;  
But I still hope for lovely spring,  
When there'll be bluebirds on the wing.*

*I hope they're warm and comfy still,  
Till they come back to Russell Hill.*

Joan Rix

*Reprinted from Sialia, Winter 1994.*

It is late January 2017 and another winter is starting to relent its icy grip with longer days and warming trends of spring-like weather forecast soon. The stage is set for the Eastern Bluebird to grace our days with their serene and ebullient presence for yet another season. Bluebirds bring people a sense of joy when they see the flash of blue wings in the sunlight and hear the soft, liquid warble of their voices. Most people that have ever been in close proximity to a bluebird will smile and say, "There's something really special about bluebirds, something that touches you deep down inside and makes you happy."

I grew up in southwestern Ohio in more of a "Master Gardener" type family with vegetable and flower gardens to maintain each spring and summer. We were a 90% plants and 10% birds family. When I was 12 years old, one of my chores was keeping the songbird feeders stocked each winter. I was the "suet-&-birdseed specialist" until I went off to college. I could name all the birds that came to our Ohio birdfeeder year 'round. Unfortunately, I never saw a bluebird until 2005 when visiting friends in South Carolina. I was "captured" by a pair of bluebirds with their song and beauty on that trip. Now I am making sure all my grandchildren see bluebirds at a young age and know how to attract them to their yards plus monitor their nest boxes.

It's hard to believe, but bluebirds were once an endan-

gered bird species in the 1950-70's (when I was growing up). One of the main problems was the extensive use of DDT (a pesticide) which killed insects that the bluebirds thrived on.



*A pair of Eastern Bluebirds with a "double-wing" wave"  
photo by Shirley Rust*

Another problem was the non-native bird species introduced in the 1850's. House sparrows and European starlings took over bluebird nesting sites and they were aggressive to the gentle bluebird. Also was a change in farming practices with the utilization of steel fence posts. Gone were the days of locust wood fences with natural knot-hole cavities.

But today, thanks to the North American Bluebird Society and 60 state affiliate organizations (like the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania) all across the country, the number of bluebirds are rising each year. This comeback started in 1978 with the formation of NABS in Rockville, Maryland, and a key article in National Geographic in June 1977

entitled, "Song of Hope for the Bluebird." Dr. Zeleny founded NABS and encouraged people across the United States to install bluebird boxes to promote their resurgence. It is a remarkable story of bluebird recovery by citizen-science conservationists all across most of our 50 states and Canada.

Since Colonial times (circa Jamestown Colony 1607), the bluebird has been a national favorite and a welcome harbinger of spring. Featured more frequently than any other bird in American poetry and in the lyrics of popular songs, the blue-

## A Message from the President continued from page 1

bird has become a beloved creature of legend with its great comeback from almost extinction.

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania was founded in May of 1998. The BSP is committed to sharing the joy of bluebirds one nest box at a time. We do this through education, box-building events, maintaining and monitoring trails and giving bluebird presentations to all age groups. The BSP currently has over 1200 members in 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Please invite your friends or a family member to join our organization.

More and more people are seeing bluebirds in the winter around Pennsylvania than ever before. If 'the Blues' have water, cover, native berries, mealworms and peanut butter suet, they can survive a PA winter and not have to migrate to a southern state like Virginia, South Carolina or Georgia.

### What is the biggest danger facing bluebirds today?

- Well-meaning people installing nest boxes and then NOT monitoring them. This does the bluebird and all songbirds more harm than not putting up a nest box at all. Boxes should be taken down or closed up (blocked) if no one is going to check on (monitor) what is happening inside. Boxes need to be monitored or they become a house sparrow haven within a short period of time.
- Also, boxes need predator guards or they become a "feeding station" – "fast-food on a stick" for raccoons, feral cats, weasels and black snakes. Boxes need to be installed on smooth pipe in the most open area of your yard.
- Nest boxes need to be clean, dry and well-maintained to provide good housing for bluebirds.

My goal as President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is to get as many people involved with bluebirds as possible. That is why I recently published a book on bluebirds, *The Beloved and Charismatic Bluebird*. This book shares my love of bluebirds with others in a concise, organized, "how-to-be-successful" format that will ensure memorable adventures with bluebirds on trails or single backyard boxes for years to come.

### Attracting Bluebirds...A Few Hints

**1. Put Up A Box** – Install a nesting box specifically designed for bluebirds. (for details on building boxes, go here: [thebsp.org](http://thebsp.org) or [audubon.org](http://audubon.org)) When a variety of boxes is offered, bluebirds will choose their favorite. They might change boxes from season to season.

**2. Pick A Good Spot** – Select the right habitat for your nest box. Bluebirds prefer semi-open grassland areas, such as mowed lawns, meadows, orchards and rural roadsides. If you happen to live adjacent to a golf course, church, school, community park or light industrial park, you are fortunate. Bluebirds also love to perch on power lines, fences and small trees.

**3. Leave Boxes Up in Winter** – Birds checking out future nest sites in the fall might find yours and return to it to nest in the spring. They might roost in it all winter and find it to be shelter during nasty winter storms.

**4. Keep Clean** – Clean out your nest boxes routinely. Bluebirds won't use a box that is filled with sticks or straw nests filled with feathers. If you have paper wasps in your area, use bar soap on the underside of the roof or paint it with liquid soap to prevent wasps from attaching their paper nest petiole to the ceiling.

**5. Eats Like a Meal (Worm)** – Bluebirds can't resist mealworms. If bluebirds don't nest in your boxes, at least you might get to watch them feed if you give this a try. Be consistent about how and when you set out the worms to create a habit among the bluebirds. Use a pushpin with a salad dressing cup and the mealworms won't blow off the top of the box. (Feeding time also allows for better photography opportunities, too).

**6. Tame The Competition** – House Sparrows harass bluebirds and can peck eggs and nestlings. They can also kill nestlings and adults. Try to keep house sparrows from using the bluebird nest box. Methods of deterring house sparrows range from making entry to the box difficult with monofilament fishing line to trapping and relocation of HOSP.

**7. Provide A Birdbath** – Bluebirds enjoy water and prefer running or dripping water on occasion. A birdbath should be a maximum of 3 inches in depth with gently sloping sides. Keep it 15 feet away from trees or shrubs where cats might lurk. Replenish with fresh water every few days. In winter a heated birdbath is very special.

**8. Go Native** – To attract hungry birds to your backyard, provide native plants that produce berries. When selecting tree varieties, consider the American holly, black cherry, crabapple, mountain ash, Kousa dogwood, red mulberry, flowering dogwood, hawthorn, Eastern red cedar or sumac. In need of a shrub? Consider blackberry, blueberry, chokecherry, elderberry, viburnum, bayberry, juniper, highbush cranberry, winterberry, serviceberry, pokeweed, currant, firethorn, hackberry or arrowwood.

**9. Supply Materials** – Bluebirds love to build their nests from white pine needles. If you can, provide needles as a material source for the birds to use. Place a few needles inside the box and throw a few handfuls on the ground nearby to garner the bluebirds' attention. This might help them get started building a nest in your backyard box!

Dean C. Rust

President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

## BSP Officers

*President*

**DEAN RUST**  
July7ds@aol.com  
717-669-0167

*Vice President*

**PHIL DURGIN**  
pdurgin@comcast.net  
717-732-5325

*Secretary*

**NANCY PUTT**  
bluebirds@pa.net  
717-432-2647

*Treasurer*

**JOYCE STUFF**  
bspcc@innernet.net  
717-328-3411



photo by Dick Hess

## Our Mission Statement

To take all action deemed by the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania to be beneficial to the protection, enjoyment and propagation of the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity nesting species in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

- \* Provide and promote educational activities relating to bluebirds, birding, conservation and related subjects.
- \* Monitor and conduct research relating to bluebirds, other cavity nesting birds, food sources, habits, and trails.
- \* Build, maintain, and monitor bluebird boxes and trails.
- \* Provide opportunities for people to become involved in efforts that assist bluebirds and other native bird species.
- \* Provide social opportunities to share information and experiences relating to bluebirds and related conservation topics.

## Board of Directors

**SHIRLEY HALK**  
zebraswallowtail@juno.com  
717-865-2650

**KEN LEISTER**  
kenapeg@aol.com  
610-696-5271

**DAN THOMAS**  
adthomas10@comcast.net  
717-786-7893

**PETER REINHART**  
preinhart@fast.net  
610-247-5256

**BILL CUPPETT**  
grammied34@gmail.com  
814-479-2230

**TERRY GERHART**  
gerhartsat@aol.com  
610-670-5508

**MARILYN L. MICHALSKI**  
emeraldmm@verizon.net  
610-933-0497

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## From the Editor

As I write this message, it is early January. So far, in Southcentral PA, we have missed all of the snowstorms. We are seeing many bluebirds. Sometimes they come to check out the nest boxes in the yard. They travel in flocks, and seem to be adapting well to the change of the seasons. My husband, Bill and I went to Pinchot State Park in Lewisberry, PA on Sunday, January 1st, when the weather was unusually warm and sunny-about 50 degrees. As we were hiking on one of the trails along the lake, we were enthralled when we saw about 8 bluebirds-mostly males, but a couple of females, sipping water from the edge of the lake. I wish that I had my cell phone or camera to capture their beautiful images and lively behaviors. Since there is a very productive bluebird trail at Pinchot Park, many of these bluebirds probably fledged from the nest boxes within the park. What a positive Omen for the bluebirds for a Happy and Successful New Year 2017!

### At the PA Farm Show

On Sunday, January 8th, I volunteered at the PA Farm Show at the BSP booth. BSP co-volunteer, Cynthia Self, from Dillsburg, told me about a nice bluebird feeder which is very good to use to offer dried mealworms and Bluebird Nuggets. I did not have any luck with the bluebirds eating the dried mealworms in the past, they only

seemed to like the live mealworms, but she said that they were all over her feeder with the dried mealworms.

Anyway, after I got home from the Farm Show, I went to Tractor Supply (where she bought her feeder) and purchased the feeder, Dried Mealworms and also the Bluebird Nuggets. Every day since I put out this feeder, we have had at least 5 or 6 bluebirds actively feeding on these offerings. Maybe some of these bluebirds are the same ones that fledged from our nest box in the yard this past nesting season. So



*Joan and a bluebird*



happy that the bluebirds found this food supply so quickly during this cold, frigid weather.

It is also important to offer supplemental food to the bluebirds early in the Spring before the insects have hatched. The adults need this nourishment to stay healthy and to feed their early hatchlings.

I always learn something new by volunteering at the Farm Show!

Wishing you and the bluebirds an enjoyable and productive nesting season in 2017!

Please keep records of your nesting activities so that you can submit your report to BSP at the end of 2017.

*Joan Watroba*  
Joan Watroba,  
Editor

Now that the year 2016 is behind us, BSP is happy to report that the Spring, Summer, and Fall/Winter issues of the 2016 BSP Newsletter have been added to the BSP web site: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)

## BSP Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau is a list of Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania members who have volunteered to offer programs about bluebirds and related topics. If someone in your county requests a bluebird program, please contact the person listed nearest to you to ask if they would be available. Speakers in your County can be found on the BSP website: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org). Scroll across to More...then scroll down to Speaker's Bureau

If you are an active member of BSP and would like to be listed as a speaker, please contact: Speaker's Bureau Chairman, Harry Schmeider: [harryschmeider@gmail.com](mailto:harryschmeider@gmail.com)

We can provide educational materials and a CD program for you to use in your bluebird presentation upon request.

Thanks in advance for educating the public about bluebirds!

## Mailbag

### Regarding Ventilation holes in nest boxes

In Ontario (Canada) we do not recommend any ventilation holes in nest boxes. We recommend a completely-sealed nest box with just the nest hole opening, It is the wind and cold in May that does the most damage to nestlings. At least in a sealed nest box facing away from the prevailing winds, they have a chance of surviving. Our temperatures this year were well above normal. Three of our top bluebirders that fledged 1548 bluebirds (630, 580 and 338) reported no problems with the extreme heat. Indeed they seem to thrive in the hot, humid weather. I would say there is not much difference in temperatures between your state and our province. (in southern Ontario) Because we are feeling hot, we tend to think the bluebirds are hot as well. Texas, with their heat, is a different story.

Bill Read,  
President Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society  
web site: oebs.ca  
All of our newsletters are online.

### Editor's Reply:

Hi Bill-Thanks for your feedback/experiences regarding ventilation holes in nest boxes. We are currently collecting the nesting data from our members, but we have had reports of losses of young birds due to the extreme heat

We do recommend blocking the ventilation holes in early Spring to avoid losses due to hypothermia caused by the cold and rain getting into the nest boxes. Thanks also for forwarding your organization's web site to me. We are featuring this topic in the Spring edition of our newsletter.

Joan Watroba

### Additional Studies Regarding Ventilation Holes:

<https://www.beautyofbirds.com/nestboxventilation.html>

• Ventilation holes to allow the interior to remain cool  
<http://www.sialis.org/heat.htm>

## Mailbag continued

### Saving the baby bluebirds

Hi Joan, I read the story of how the baby bluebirds were saved from the extreme heat. I also had that situation, I had 5 babies about 5 days old, I was so worried about them. I did try the umbrella, but it did not seem to help, so every 2 hours I took out a towel soaked in cold water and laid it over the box, I also put some ice cubes inside the box in each corner. I lifted the nest up a bit so that it would not get wet from the melting ice cubes. That worked well, the box is square, the nest was more round and I could get ice cubes in the corners. All worked out well, all 5 babies were saved and fledged and are still around. I should have snapped some pictures, but people wondered why that towel was hanging over the bird box, I got lots of comments for being concerned and saving the babies. I did that for 2 days in a row.

Lois Nester

### Editor's Reply:

Hi Lois-Happy that your baby bluebirds successfully fledged. The weather this summer was very extreme, and we hope that we will not need to take such drastic measures in the future to keep the young birds from dying due to extreme heat. Thanks for sharing your remedy!

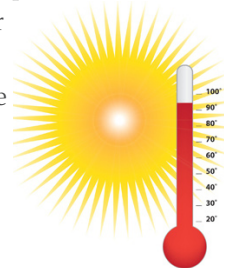
Joan Watroba

## Beat the Heat

**Temperatures:** According to Cornell, (Lab of Ornithology) 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.

**Temperatures** inside a nestbox can reach 120 °F, and are often at least 10 degrees higher than



## Beat the Heat continued

the outside temperature (Cudsworth et al). Some research indicates that if temperatures outside are 100-104 °F, the percentage of eggs that hatch drop, and nestlings under nine days old can die from heat stress or dehydration. (Up to 6-9 days old, the nestlings are as sensitive as eggs to cold/heat.)

Use a high/low thermometer during full sun in your nestboxes to see if they hit 107 degrees.

### More Recommendations:

#### *The Use of Drainage Holes in Nest Boxes*

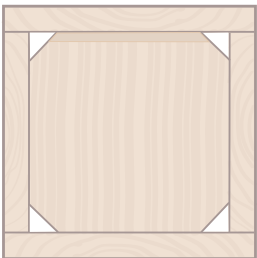
These are also important so the birds or other animals won't get wet and chilled. Drill at least four 1/4-inch drain holes in the floor of the house, helping drain moisture that gets inside.

- <http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/projects/nestboxes/>

#### *Ventilation holes to allow the interior to remain cool*

- <http://michiganbluebirds.org/nestbox-basics>

Another important feature is leaving openings in the bottom of the box for water to drain out. You can do this in several ways. One way is to simply drill 1/4" holes in the bottom of the box. Another way is to angle-cut the four corners of the floor about 1/2" from the edge to allow water to drain via the



corners. The final way is to leave a 1/4" to 3/8" gap between one wall and the floor. Ventilation is very important to help cool the box on hot spring or summer days. In addition to the entrance hole letting in air, you need to introduce some crossventilation by either leaving gaps between the roof

and the tops of the two sides, or drilling 1 or 2 good-sized holes on each of the two sides about an inch or so from the roof.

- <http://michiganbluebirds.org/nestbox-basics>

## Features of a Good Nest Box

- [http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/nest\\_box/nest\\_basics](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/nest_box/nest_basics)

Just like birds, nest boxes (birdhouses) come in many shapes and sizes. The size of the nest box and the size of the entry hole are variables that can be changed to make the nest box more appropriate for a certain species. A nest box large enough for a Wood Duck would not be a popular choice for chickadees, for example.

## Features of a Good Nest Box continued

Nest boxes can be homemade or purchased from commercial outlets. Some basic design features to look for include:

- untreated wood (pine, cedar, or fir)
- extended, sloped roof
- rough or grooved interior walls
- recessed floor
- drainage holes
- ventilation holes
- easy access for monitoring and cleaning
- sturdy construction
- no outside perches

The nest box should be durable, easy to check, and clean.

### *Plans for Nest Boxes /Mealworm Feeder*

Check out the Nest Box Builder web site: <http://nestboxbuilder.com/nestbox-plans-for-bluebirds.html> to view many different styles of nest boxes and also a mealworm feeder that you can build yourself.

Permission to post this link was granted by Fred Stille and it is also posted on the BSP web site :[www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org) Select more...on the main page, then scroll down to Nest Box Plans

- <http://nestboxbuilder.com/nestbox-plans-for-bluebirds.html>

(This link is also posted on the BSP web site:

- [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)

Select the link for: More...then scroll down to Nest Box Plans

*Harry Schmeider, BSP Webmaster*

**PLANT NATIVE PLANTS** which will provide food and shelter for songbirds.

For a comprehensive list of plants suitable to grow in your area, check out:

- [www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants)

## A BIG THANK YOU to:

Nancy Putt, Dean Rust, Dave Price and Jim Crone for helping to assemble 95 nest box kits on Tuesday, October 4th. There are now approximately 180 total kits available for use. Thank you also to all who helped cut out the pieces for these kits. Your dedication to the Bluebirds and your ongoing cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to everyone.

Have a wonderful day!

Bill Strauss, Nest Box Committee Chairperson

## Methods to Reduce Injury Due to Birds Hitting Windows

- <http://www.audubon.org/news/help-birds-avoid-deadly-collision>
- <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/why-birds-hit-windows-and-how-you-can-help-prevent-it/>

## Annual Nestbox Report Contest Winners:

### Winners of the Early Bird Contest Drawing:

- 1st...Bernee Coffin-*Fayette County*
- 2nd. Marion Manula-*Allegheny County*
- 3rd.. Nancy Fraim-*Chester County*

Nest Box Reports received by October 15th of each year will be entered into a random drawing for prizes from the BSP Store. However, reports submitted by December 15th of each year will still be accepted and the data will be entered into the compiled report.

Thanks to everyone who submitted reports!

Submitted by Shirley Halk, BSP State Monitoring / TBT Trails Chairperson

## BSP Newsletter Submission Contest Winner

**Congratulations! Earl Nollenberger**  
Please select an item from the BSP Store at [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org) and contact BSP Store Manager, Nancy Putt at (717) 432-2647 or e-mail: [bluebirds@pa.net](mailto:bluebirds@pa.net) to arrange for delivery of your prize.

## Upcoming Events

### PA Garden Show of York — March 3-5, 2017

**DESCRIPTION:** Pennsylvania Garden Show of York event with thousands of flowers, enchanting walk-through display gardens, bustling garden market with anything relating to gardens, or the gardening lifestyle.

**Friday and Saturday 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm**

York Expo Center, Memorial Hall  
334 Carlisle Avenue, York PA

**Easy Access:** The York Expo Center is located on Route 74 near Routes 30 and 83. BSP will host an educational booth and will present a **45 minute Bluebird Program on Friday, March 3 at 11:30 a.m.**

**Volunteers are needed.**

Contact: Nancy Putt, Event Chairperson  
717-432-2647

- [bluebirds@pa.net](mailto:bluebirds@pa.net)

### The Hanover Eagle Nest-the Unseen Story by Karen Lippy

**March 13, Monday 7:00pm**

Sponsored by the York Audubon Society, [www.yorkaudubon.org](http://www.yorkaudubon.org)  
Luther Memorial Church, 1907 Hollywood Dr. York, PA

**Karen Lippy**, longtime member of the York Audubon Society and BSP County Coordinator for York County, presents a fascinating program related to her many years of observing and documenting the activities of the Bald eagles at Corderus State Park. Karen is a member of the Corderus Bird Club and serves as Naturalist at Corderus State Park. She is the author of two wonderful books titled: "A Year with the Eagles-The Unseen Story of the Hanover Eagle Nest" and "Growing Up Eagles."

### BSP Annual Conference — April 7 & 8, 2017

Toftrees Golf Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA  
[www.toftrees.com/](http://www.toftrees.com/)

**Registration Forms & Full Itinerary are on the BSP web site: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org)**

#### Friday, April 7 -Pre-conference Activities

5:00 to 9:00 pm - Vendors Set-up

5:00 to 6:30 pm - Registration

7:00 to 8:00 pm - **Rick Price**, long-time Appalachian Audubon Society member, speaks on birding in PA and surrounding states

8:15 to 8:45pm - BSP County Coordinators meet

9:00 pm - Social Time & Visiting Vendors

#### Saturday, April 8- Conference Day

7:00 to 8:50 am - Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:50 to 9:00 am - Conference Coordinator welcomes guests and announcements.

9:00 to 9:30 am - Annual Membership Meeting - President's report/ annual budget

9:30 to 10:30 am - Jeff Stratford, PhD, on mist-netting and bird-banding -inspiring children about songbirds

10:30 to 11:00 am - Social Break / visiting vendors and visiting live and silent auction items.

*schedule for Saturday continues on next page* 

## Upcoming Events continued from page 7

### BSP Annual Conference — April 7 & 8, 2017

#### Saturday, April 8- Conference Day

11:00 to 12:15 pm – Dick Hess, BSP member and official photographer, speaks on the life cycle and natural history of Bluebirds through the seasons using his wonderful photographs.

12:15 to 1:15 pm - Luncheon

1:15 - Silent Auction Bidding Closes.

1:15 to 2:50 pm - Live Auction

2:50 to 3:00 pm -Joan Watroba announces winners of the Silent Auction items.

3:00 to 3:15 pm - Break / Visiting Vendors

3:15 to 4:15 pm - Shavers Creek Environmental Center presents Animal Adaptors (what they have to do to adapt and survive)

4:14 to 4:25 pm - Nancy Putt announces the winner of the Bluebird Basket door prize (winner must be present to win the door prize).

4:30 pm - Closing remarks and conference ends

## Top Ten Reasons for becoming a Member and for Renewing Your Membership to the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

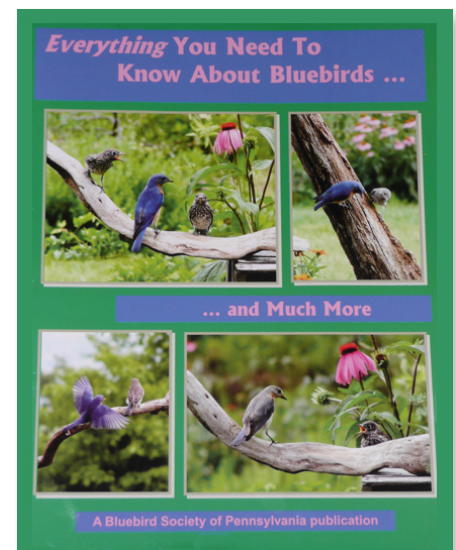
10. Members can learn how to provide suitable nesting sites and habitat to promote bluebirds and other native songbirds to propagate and can experience the hands-on joy of bluebirding by monitoring a bluebird trail.
9. Members can communicate and socialize with people with similar interests.
8. Members can feel good about supporting the goals of BSP through the payment of their annual dues so that bluebird trails can be expanded and can receive the BSP seasonal newsletter, "Bluebird Trails and Tales" which is very informative and enjoyable to read.
7. BSP members who submit Annual Nest Box Reports to BSP, or submit items for publication in the BSP Newsletters are entered into a random drawing to receive prizes from the BSP Store.
6. Members will be informed of BSP-sponsored educational programs related to bluebirding and other nature subjects in their communities.
5. Members can learn how to provide children with educational, interesting, and fun projects related to nest box assembly, nest box placement,

checking nest boxes, and reporting results of nesting activity.

4. Membership can help people to acquire new skills in a variety of different areas through their volunteering on BSP committees.
3. Members can encourage young people, the bluebirders of tomorrow, to get involved in this conservation effort through educational programs and BSP resources.
2. Members can learn more about the natural world around them and therefore feel more connected to the environment by reporting each bluebird that fledges from their nest boxes.
1. Members can receive assistance from BSP County Coordinators who are key resources of knowledge about bluebirding, habitats for wildlife, and related conservation issues. We appreciate your support and encourage you to inspire others to join BSP. Share your joy of bluebirding with your extended family members and friends with a gift membership to BSP.

### Give the Gift that Keeps on Giving!

Membership to the Bluebird Society of PA is a wonderful gift choice for those who love bluebirds and nature-related



topics!

Includes a book, *Everything You Need to Know About Bluebirds, and Much More...* and also seasonal newsletters throughout the year.

### Scientific Study of Birdsbesafe Collar Covers

Information regarding the following product was posted on the Audubon web site and may be effective in reducing the number of birds killed by domestic and feral cats.

However the only way to prevent the losses of birds by cats is when the cats are kept indoors: <https://abc-birds.org/program/catsindoors/cats-and-birds/>



## Birdsbesafe Cat Collar Covers/ Locating Wildlife Rehabilitators

### Scientific Study Of Birdsbesafe Collar Covers

With year-round use, you can expect about an 87% reduction in birds caught by cats that wear Birdsbesafe® collar covers, according to an independent scientific study. The 24-week field study was conducted by St. Lawrence University researchers in New York state, U.S. in 2013 - 2014.

Researchers compared the prey caught when cats wore Birdsbesafe® collar covers, to when the cats wore no collar at all. The study results were described in the *Global Ecology and Conservation Journal*. The authors wrote: "The conservation implications are clear: if owners of outdoor cats choose to use Birdsbesafe® collar covers, a significant factor in the decline of bird populations would drop precipitously." See our summary here for more details on the study:

<http://www.birdsbesafe.com/pages/science-study-of-birdsbesafe>

### Find Help for Injured, Sick, or Orphaned Wild Animals

If you find an injured, sick, or orphaned wild animal, including songbirds, you may be able to obtain assistance for them by contacting a Wildlife Rehabilitator. These persons are trained and certified to care for these animals with the goal of releasing them back into their natural habitat.

When contacting a Rehabilitator, it is important to check what types of animals they are trained to care for:

**M**..... Mammals

**P** ..... Passerines (songbirds, water fowl & woodpeckers)

**R** ..... Raptors (hawks, owls, falcons, eagles and vultures)

**RVS** ... Rabies Vector Species (raccoons, skunks, bats, groundhogs, coyotes & foxes)

**END** .. Endangered/Threatened Species

**RA** ..... Native Reptiles and Amphibians\*

*\*Some Wildlife Rehabilitators are now able to provide rehabilitations services to these types of animals, too*

For a list of Wildlife Rehabilitators in PA, contact:  
Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitators  
<http://pawr.com/>

Not all counties have wildlife rehabilitators. Refer to the map to find the closest to you. Contact links are to the right.

- Click on the county to find the nearest Wildlife Rehabilitator in your area.

## 2016 State Park Bluebird Trails Nest Box Report

Attached is the 2016 Bureau of State Parks Cavity-nesting Trails Summary Report. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff, 46 state parks monitored 1,749 boxes and fledged a total of 6,009 birds, including Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Purple Martins, Wood Ducks, and several other species.

There was a decrease in fledgling numbers compared to 2015. This could be due in part to 6 fewer parks participating, which dropped the total box count by over 250 from last year. Colder than normal temperatures and wetter weather from the beginning of the year through early spring, then above normal temperatures and dry weather throughout the rest of the nesting season could have also been a factor. Since the program's beginning in 1980, volunteers have fledged over 123,000 individual birds and over 19 species.

This year's annual Cavity-nesting Monitors Meeting was held on Saturday, October 1 at French Creek State Park in Elverson, PA. The meeting included two presentations, cavity-nesting trail program updates, group discussion on successes and challenges, as well as an optional guided walk by park staff. James Klucartis, professor at Alvernia College, presented on his American Kestrel research at Hawk Mountain. Purple Martin Conservation Association and PA Game Commission volunteer Gretchen Roth shared information on purple martins with help from purple martin landlord Bob McMillen.

Next year's meeting will take place at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center in Nazareth, PA. **Jennifer Halk was awarded the 2016 Monitor of the Year.** An invaluable volunteer at Memorial Lake and Swatara State Parks for over 25 years, Jennifer became interested in bluebirds while helping her mother clean out the boxes at the parks. Since then, she's been increasingly more involved with the maintenance and documentation of the birds. Jennifer also knows that while some of the terrain can be challenging to traverse, she looks forward to continuing the hard work and long hours, and maybe one day taking over for her mother when she retires.

The following monitors were also recognized for their seasons of service to this program:

- **Dave Gobert**, Prince Gallitzin, 30 seasons
- **Mary Jo Passmore**, Canoe Creek, 25 seasons
- **Bill Ford**, Black Moshannon, 25 seasons
- **Alan Lichtenwalner** -2- December 22, 2016
- **Bonnie Ford**, Black Moshannon, 25 seasons
- **Lorraine McCurdy**, Keystone, 25 seasons

# 2016 State Park Bluebird Trails Nest Box Report continued

- **Jennifer Halk**, Memorial Lake/Swatara, 25 seasons
- **Barb Fisher**, Codorus, 20 seasons
- **Sandy Corrigan**, Evansburg, 20 seasons
- **Cindy Moore**, Canoe Creek, 15 seasons
- **Luis Moore**, Canoe Creek, 15 seasons
- **Alice Sevareid**, Ridley Creek, 15 seasons
- **Terry Lobdell**, Presque Isle, 10 seasons
- **Diane Allison**, Delaware Canal, 10 seasons
- **Lorie Baker**, White Clay Creek Preserve, 5 seasons.

Please extend a sincere thank you to all volunteers in your region; without them the cavity-nesting program would not be this successful! Feel free to contact **Carly Hitzfeld** ([chitzfeld@pa.gov](mailto:chitzfeld@pa.gov), 717-783-3344) with any questions or concerns related to your trail. Remember that the annual report is due by November 1 each year.

Report issued by: Terri Kromel, Division Chief  
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Bureau of State Parks|Outdoor Programming Services  
Division

### Editor's Note:

*Jennifer Halk, who was awarded the 2016 Monitor of the Year, is the daughter of Shirley Halk, BSP Board Member, BSP County Coordinator and BSP Nest Box Reporter.*

*Congratulations, Jennifer, for your many years of monitoring nest boxes! And Thanks ,Shirley for inspiring your daughter to become actively involved in bluebirding!*

*Many BSP members currently monitor nest boxes within PA State Parks. To volunteer to check nest boxes in parks near you, please contact: Feel free to contact Carly Hitzfeld ([chitzfeld@pa.gov](mailto:chitzfeld@pa.gov), 717-783-3344*

### Species Summary:

Eastern Bluebirds . . . . .	2,438
Tree Swallows . . . . .	1,848
House Wrens . . . . .	992
Purple Martins . . . . .	279
Chickadees . . . . .	274
Tufted Titmouse . . . . .	16
Total songbirds fledged in 2016: . . . . .	6,009

**Timmy and Lassie help the Bluebirds**  
Lassie-Episode #315-"Project Bluebird"-Season 9, Ep. 24-  
03/24/1963: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCTEye-qf5s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCTEye-qf5s)

# The Conococheague Audubon Bluebird Trail in 2016

by Earl Nollenberger

The Conococheague Audubon Bluebird Trail is found in Greene and Letterkenny Townships in Franklin County, PA.

### Number and Location of Nest Boxes:

- 5 Druckenbrod Lane off Nyesville Road
- 5 Bender's Pond
- 4 Burkholder's Land, both off of Sandy Mount Road
- 6 located off the north side of Wye Road, just east of the power line that crosses the Cumberland Valley
- 7 located off the south side of Wye Road, just west of the power line.

In early spring, 26 nest boxes were closed to allow bluebirds to start nesting in April It took three weeks before I discovered a 27th box on the south side of Wye Road.

The nest boxes are cleaned out and are left open during the winter to prevent mice and other creatures from becoming accustomed to using the nest boxes. I repaired several nest boxes and replaced one broken box. Eight volunteers checked the nest boxes weekly from mid- April to mid-October. Data collected included the species building nests in each box, the number and color of eggs laid, the number of hatchlings, and the number of fledglings. Occasionally a female Bluebird or female Tree Swallow would stay on the nest when opening the nest box, thus, making it a challenge to guess the number of eggs or hatchlings or fledglings.

### Summary of Nesting Activity:

#### Total Number of Nest Boxes-27

- 10 Boxes successfully fledged Bluebirds
  - 13 Bluebird Nests
  - 55 Eggs
  - 42 Eggs Hatched
  - 31 Bluebirds Successful Fledged
- 
- 19 Boxes successfully fledged Tree Swallows
  - 21 Nests
  - 119 Eggs
  - 81 Eggs Hatched
  - 53 Tree Swallows Fledged
- 
- 1 Box House Wrens (Druckenbrod Lane nest box style)
  - 2 House wrens fledged

Conococheague Audubon Bluebird Trail continues on page 11

## The Conococheague Audubon Bluebird Trail in 2016 continued from page 9

Seven of the Boxes successfully fledged both Bluebirds and Tree Swallows in a different time frame, three of the Boxes had two successful attempts to fledge Bluebirds or Tree Swallows after a failed first attempt, and five of the boxes were not successful in fledging any birds due to location, competition or predation.

It is interesting to collectively view fledgling success at each of the five sites. At Druckenbrod Lane, only three of the five nest boxes produced fledglings, resulting in three Bluebirds from eight eggs laid in one nest. The first four Bluebird eggs were destroyed by a House Sparrow and its nest was built upon the Bluebird nest. The broken Bluebird eggs under the House Sparrow nest attracted ants. I removed the House Sparrow nest and within four days the female Bluebird had started a new nest which fledged the three Bluebirds from four eggs laid. House Wrens nested in one box, used successfully by Tree Swallows, producing two fledglings from four eggs laid.

Bender's Pond has five nest boxes, and Bluebirds were limited to nesting in one box resulting in three fledglings from five eggs laid. The presence of large numbers of Tree Swallows at the pond meant that all five nest boxes were used for five nests which produced fifteen fledglings from 31 eggs laid. At Burkholder Lane Bluebirds used two nest boxes for two nests that fledged 6 from 11 eggs laid. Tree Swallows used all four nest boxes for four nests that fledged 13 from 23 eggs laid.

On the north side of Wye Road, Bluebirds used three nest boxes for four nests, however, one nest was taken over by Tree Swallows and four eggs were lost. The three successful Bluebird nests fledged ten from 18 eggs laid. Tree Swallows had six nests in five nest boxes, however, two nests were lost probably due to a raccoon. From the four successful Tree Swallow nests 11 fledged from 29 eggs laid.

On the south side of Wye Road, Bluebirds nested in three nest boxes producing five nests of which three produced nine fledglings from 13 eggs laid. The loss of Bluebird nests was due to White-footed Deer Mice destroying the nest. Of five Tree Swallow nests, one nest was destroyed by White-footed Deer Mice, the remaining four nests fledged ten from 28 eggs laid.

**Predators:** Comments about predators were noted when nests were destroyed or were taken over by another species. I had found one dead Tree Swallow that probably was trying to take control of a nest box quite possibly from another Tree Swallow. One female Bluebird died defending her hatchlings in a nest box, her death resulted in the loss of four hatchlings. In my review of the data collected, I could see the effects of competition for nest boxes between Bluebirds and Tree Swallows and between Bluebirds and House Sparrows where an entire clutch of eggs could be lost when the female House Sparrow would destroy the Bluebird eggs and build her nest on top of the Bluebird nest. The effects of competition between White-footed Deer Mice and Bluebirds and/or Tree Swallows meant that the nest and eggs, hatchlings and fledglings would be lost. At least one box was knocked off its post suggesting the impact of a raccoon attempting to consume eggs or hatchlings. The damage done to one box which was smashed into small pieces probably to get to White-footed Deer Mice inside, at least I would like to think so, suggested the activity of a hungry Black Bear.

I was surprised that twenty percent (one in five) of all nests that were started in the nest boxes failed to produce a single fledgling. The rate of fledging in successful Bluebird nests was 56%, while in successful Tree Swallow nests it was 45%.

A report was filed with the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania using the Annual Bluebird Nest Box Report Form in mid-October.

Respectfully submitted by Earl Nollenberger,  
Bluebird Trail Coordinator, Conococheague Audubon, Society,  
Chambersburg PA.

### Editor's Note:

*Thanks, Earl, for your very interesting, comprehensive, and informative report of nest box activities, and Thank You for submitting your report form to BSP. Some bluebirders pair nest boxes in areas of high tree swallow activity, which may allow bluebirds and tree swallows to nest side by side. The addition of Noel guards may keep the nest boxes safe from predation from raccoons or other climbing predators. Please refer to the article within this issue regarding deterring white-footed mice.*

## Clarification: Fall/Winter Issue, 2016

Page 5 states: "European Starlings and House Sparrows were brought in illegally to the U.S.A."

Thanks to BSP Member, **Mark Ritke**, who clarifies that *unfortunately, in the 1800's, it was not illegal to introduce non-native birds to the United States.*

## PA Farm Show Report – January 7–14, 2017

This was the 15th year that BSP has attended this 8 day event ,which is the largest of its kind in the country. I think

it is great to see people from all across PA and beyond come to see what this state is all about.

Many of those people come to our booth to talk to us about bluebirds- we are very popular!!! Also, I want to welcome the 51 persons who signed up as new members of the Bluebird Society of PA.

We are fortunate to have this Free space, requiring that we provide about 45 free nest boxes for kids to “Make and Take”, with the help of our awesome volunteers. All that we do here happens because of our 42 dedicated volun-

teers, coming from all around the state, as far as West Chester, Allentown and Westmoreland County to help out. The things we do to spread the word about Bluebird Conservation really does help. Thanks to all for volunteering!!!

Nancy Putt-Farm Show Chairman

### Volunteers:

Bill Strauss • Jim & Darlene Crone • Dale Cook • Joanne Slavinski • Carol McCall • David Price • Bill Cuppett • Phil & Susan Durgin • Joan Watroba • Cindy Self • Dave & Barbara Cox • Diane Kripas • Chuck & Bonnie Musser • Dean Rust • Rick Canada • Joyce & Carl Stuff • Dan & Addie Farber • Bill Frantz • John & Susan Wesley • Marilyn Michalski • Ken Leister • Deb Hershey • John Woodward • Joyce Horner • Pat & Henry Greenawalt,

Peter & Denise Reinhart, Nancy Fraim, Debra & Loren Carmen, Terry & Sandy Gerhart, & Wilma Light.



photo by Nancy Fraim, Chester Co.CC

Special THANKS to John and Vickie Petrina of Harrisburg who made beautiful signs for our display at the Farm Show.

### From the Jr. Members who joined BSP at the PA Farm Show—Reasons they joined:

- “I love birds so much!” - Jake Lester
- “Because I’m interested in nature and love birds” - Emily Swarr
- “I love birds” - Serena Lanford
- “I love animals, and so I joined so that I can help the environment” - Keegan Tilley

For more photos of the PA Farm Show, go to the BSP Website: [www.thebsp.com](http://www.thebsp.com). Scroll across to more...select 2017 Farm Show Pictures in the drop-down box

## Lyme Disease Precautions

### Check for Ticks!

Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blacklegged ticks.



Female deer tick

Typical symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart, and the nervous system. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on symptoms, physical findings (e.g., rash), and the possibility of exposure to infected ticks. Laboratory testing is helpful if used correctly and performed with validated methods. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. Steps to prevent Lyme disease include using insect repellent, removing ticks promptly, applying pesticides, and reducing tick habitat. The ticks that transmit Lyme disease can occasionally transmit other tickborne diseases as well.

From the CDC web site:

<https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

### Trail Monitor Wanted

New Bluebird Trail at  
Opossum Lake, Carlisle, PA.

Please contact  
Joan at 717-766-2102  
or e-mail:  
[sunshinebb@msn.com](mailto:sunshinebb@msn.com) for details.

## Deterring Mice and Rats from a Bluebird Trail <http://www.sialis.org/mice.htm>

Mice are more likely to use boxes mounted on T-bars, wooden posts, or fence lines, and boxes in tall grass or near shrubs. Some sources say mice can't climb metal conduit, but I have found mice in boxes mounted feet high on conduit. Mice can also climb 10 feet or more up a tree trunk. (Some people intentionally place nestboxes for deer or white-footed mice on fence posts/fence lines near their cabins or at nature centers. A wren house is appropriate for use by both species. Mouse nestboxes should be on posts, 3 to 4 feet above the ground.)



On one trail, 75% of boxes were occupied by mice during the winter months. They leave an odiferous urine-soaked mess behind. Mice and rats also pose several hazards to bluebirders, and may eat bird eggs and young. Bluebirder Bruce Johnson noted "If mice are a problem during the off season, bluebirds are not safe during the nesting season."

### To prevent mice or rats from using nestboxes, try these tips:

- On pole mounted boxes, use a stove pipe guard with wire mesh covering the top, a PVC baffle (with a cap sit-

ting on a hose clamp or other means to make it wobble), or a downspout sleeve over the pole. Make sure there is almost no gap between the baffle and the pole. Put the guard/baffle/sleeve a few inches below the floor of the nestbox.

- Plug up the box (e.g., with a plastic or Styrofoam plug), or leave the door open until the ground freezes solid (at which point the mice have hopefully hunkered down elsewhere.) Of course this will make the box unavailable for other birds (bluebirds, chickadees, woodpeckers) that might use it to roost.
- Do not mount boxes low on wooden posts. If you do use wooden poles, wrap thin flexible tin around the pole directly underneath the box down to the middle of the pole.
- Move boxes away from jumping off spots like shrubs, rocks etc., that would allow the mouse to gain access to the box itself.
- Build a mouse-sized, cheap, unobtrusive predator guard. Using scissors, cut a 7" diameter circle from a piece of plastic (like a salad bar container lid), and cut a hole in the center (3/4" for metal conduit). Then cut a straight line from outside edge to center hole. Duct tape the disk to the pole below the box, pulling the two cut edges together some to form a cone with the wide end down. Staple the seam.
- Regularly remove any mouse nesting material you encounter. Don't use your bare hand to remove nests as it's possible you could be bitten by a startled mouse (or mice, as winter roosts often have multiple occupants.) to prevent infection with very rare, but potentially deadly Hanta Virus:
- Before removing a used mouse nest (and AFTER evicting any mice), use a spray bottle to thoroughly soak the nest and box (to control dust) with a 10% bleach solution (water if no

bleach is available).

- After 15-20 minutes, while standing upwind/wearing a dust mask, use gloves and a spatula (or a plastic bag inverted over your hand) to remove the nest. Then sweep and scrape out the box.
- Clean your hands afterwards with a germ-killing hand cleaner.
- Leave the box open for a day to air it out.
- Afterwards, regularly remove new nesting material that appears (once or twice a week, as they tend to rebuild quickly.) This is one reason why regular monitoring is so important to successful bird nesting.

### Repellants:

- Bounce scented dryer sheets are used to deter mice in RVs. In an RV, it doesn't work more than one season. Try tacking a small square portion of one to the wall? (so any roosting birds would not be resting on it.) However, some people are concerned about residual perfumes or chemicals remaining in the box. They may also deter nesting birds, so remove when nesting season begins.
- A few drops of all natural peppermint oil on a cotton ball thumb tacked to the wall or underside of the roof. (Just in case, avoid using peppermint oil in such a way as might result in direct contact with the bare skin of nestlings, as it could be an irritant.)



Mouse Nest

story continues on page 14

## Deterring Mice and Rats from a Bluebird Trail <http://www.sialis.org/mice.htm>

### Hazards

- Deer mice and several other common mouse species can carry Hantavirus Four Corners (also known as Muerto Canyon) virus, which causes a rare but deadly pulmonary syndrome. The virus is transmitted by infected rodents through urine, droppings, or saliva. Breathing in airborne particles contaminated with mouse droppings can cause infection. The onset of Hantavirus begins with a flu-like illness. People may experience a fever, sore muscles, headache, nausea and have

shortness of breath. Chills, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain have also been reported. Most cases reported a dry, non-productive cough. As the disease progresses, fluid builds up in the lungs, making breathing very difficult. Approximately 60-70% of infected people will die.

- Mice may carry deer ticks which in turn transmit Lyme Disease.
- Mice may evict or attack birds that attempt to nest in a box they are using/want to use. They may destroy eggs and nestlings in nestboxes, as do roof

rats, eastern chipmunks (*Tamias striatus*) and red squirrels (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*). However, Dean Sheldon reports several occasions where mice have actually cohabited in a nestbox underneath a bluebird on a nest without problems.

- Roof rats can transmit human diseases such as endemic typhus, rat bite fever, and bubonic plague.
- When boxes are opened in the spring, be aware that a startled mouse might jump out at you, which could startle you.

## Update Regarding the BSP Store

The BSP store will continue to be available for those who win prizes due to the Newsletter Submission Contest and also for winners of the random drawing of Annual Nest Box Reports received by BSP by October 15th of each year. **(Note that Annual Nest Box Reports can be submitted until December 15th of each year and the data will still be included in the compiled report.)** These contest winners can contact our Store Manager, Nancy Putt, at 717-432-2647 or e-mail : bluebirds@

pa.net to select prizes and arrange for delivery.

Merchandise shown on the BSP web site cannot be purchased online, but can be purchased at the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania's events throughout the calendar year.

See our BSP Calendar of Events for times and locations.

Thank you, prize winners for your active participation in BSP activities and for visiting and selecting your prize merchandise item from the BSP store!

### Note:

*Information regarding merchandise posted on the BSP Store will be used exclusively by The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania to offer select merchandise for prize winners and to successfully complete requested transactions for our winners. Should a problem arise and the Store Manager does not resolved the issues, please contact the President of The Bluebird Society, Dean Rust at: [july7ds@aol.com](mailto:july7ds@aol.com) or by phone 717-669-0167*

## Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania- Financial Report 2016

Submitted by Joyce Stuff, BSP Treasurer

### Revenue

Store .....	\$ 1,960.38
Membership Fees ...	10, 977.00
Donations .....	1,141.35
Speaker Income .....	1,990.00
Fundraising .....	6,087.00
Woodworking .....	1,404.83
Conference .....	3,790.00
<b>Total Revenue ..</b>	<b>\$27,350.56</b>

### Expenses

Administration .....	\$2,354.24
Store .....	1,648.82
Membership .....	1,256.88
Fundraising .....	\$987.24
Woodworking .....	3,592.51
Conference .....	7,294.75
Education .....	1,825.69
Newsletter .....	3,967.40
County Coordinator .....	286.88
Research .....	99.08
<b>Total Expenses .</b>	<b>\$23,313.49</b>

### BSP Financial Statement for 2016

<b>Checking Account Balance 12/31/15 ..</b>	<b>\$40,834.73</b>
2016 Revenue .....	+27,350.56
2016 Expenses .....	-23,313.49
<b>Checking Account Balance 12/31/16 ..</b>	<b>\$44,871.80</b>
Certificate of Deposit Balance 12/31/16 .	+10,341.33
Cash On Hand (store cash box) .....	+200.00
<b>Total Cash Assets 12/31/16 .....</b>	<b>\$55,413.13</b>

## Mailbag

Mailbag reply from Dean Rust to Ken Leister’s inquiry regarding the use of Skylight Nest Boxes to reduce the predation from House sparrows:

Ken, I already have tons of data on this technique. Most recently, a veterinary clinic in Smoketown, PA right beside the Smoketown Airport. There are acres and acres of mowed grass at the airport (49 A) but the vet property has about 5 acres of their own. Last year I placed a new bluebird trail of 5 boxes on the perimeter. They had some successes with bluebirds and tree swallows. This year they sent an SOS calling for help! House sparrows had taken over everything !! Installed the skylight nest boxes and the trail had successful nestings of native songbirds , and the House sparrow activity stopped.

For information about making the skylight nest boxes, check out my You Tube posting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxYDkEe5avM>



photo by Dean Rust

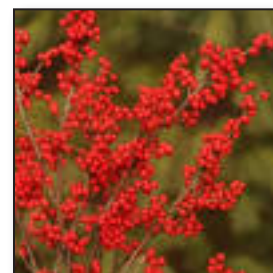
## The Winterberry Bush



### Editor’s Note:

Native Plants and shrubs, such as the Common Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) are very important, as they provide a natural food source and shelter for songbirds. For a comprehensive list of plants which are suitable to grow for your area, check out: [www.audubon.org/native-plants](http://www.audubon.org/native-plants). The bright red fruit of winterberry is eaten by small mammals and more than 48 species of birds.

The persistent bright red fruit of this shrub make it very popular for landscaping.



Winterberry Bush by Terry Lobdell

## 2017 BSP County Coordinators

BSP Members—Please contact one of the following BSP County Coordinators if you have questions about bluebirds or how to identify other cavity-nesting songbirds, or if you have questions about how to monitor your bluebird boxes.

This list is also posted on the BSP Web site: [www.thebsp.org](http://www.thebsp.org) Scroll to More...then select County Coordinators in the drop-down box

BSP County Coordinators-Please review your contact information and notify State County Coordinator, Ken Leister at [Kenapeg@aol.com](mailto:Kenapeg@aol.com) of any corrections or changes.

### ADAMS

John Gabreski  
717 337 2851

### ALLEGHENY

Edward Monroe  
412 486 0766  
[ewmonroe2@verizon.net](mailto:ewmonroe2@verizon.net)

### ARMSTRONG

Cathy Beer  
724 763 8637  
[bbeer@windstream.net](mailto:bbeer@windstream.net)

### BEAVER

Scott Parry  
412 841 5071

### BEDFORD

John & Cathy Everhart  
814 623 8852  
[johneverhart3077@gmail.com](mailto:johneverhart3077@gmail.com)  
[cathyevert3088@gmail.com](mailto:cathyevert3088@gmail.com)

### BERKS

Terry Gerhart  
610 775 9474  
[gerhartsat@aol.com](mailto:gerhartsat@aol.com)

### BLAIR

Kelly Baronner  
814 696 3945

### BRADFORD (Vacant)

### BUCKS (2)

Ron Freed  
215 536 7293  
[ronalfreed@verizon.net](mailto:ronalfreed@verizon.net)  
and  
Bill Moyer  
215 536 7032  
[wcpmoy@comcast.net](mailto:wcpmoy@comcast.net)

### BUTLER (2)

Darrell Daubenspeck  
724 735 2363  
[daubie@zoominternet.net](mailto:daubie@zoominternet.net)

### BUTLER (continued)

Harry Schmeider  
724 285 1209  
[harryschmeider@gmail.com](mailto:harryschmeider@gmail.com)

### CAMBRIA (VACANT)

### CAMERON

Robert Kerner  
814 486 3484

### CARBON

Sandy & Don Bonett  
610 681 8807  
[Don4nett@ptd.net](mailto:Don4nett@ptd.net)

### CENTRE

Bonnie & Bill Ford  
814 355 1811  
[bcf1@psu.edu](mailto:bcf1@psu.edu)

### CHESTER (2)

Marilyn Michalski  
610 933 0497  
[emeraldmm@verizon.net](mailto:emeraldmm@verizon.net)  
and  
Nancy Fraim  
610 873 7454  
[nancyfraim@comcast.net](mailto:nancyfraim@comcast.net)

### CLARION

Amy Wolbert  
814 764 5321  
[ashoupdwolbert@gmail.com](mailto:ashoupdwolbert@gmail.com)

### CLEARFIELD

Norman Bloom  
[ngbloom@toast.net](mailto:ngbloom@toast.net)

### CLINTON

Linda Frye  
570 769 7375  
[vfrye@kcnet.org](mailto:vfrye@kcnet.org)

### COLUMBIA

Margret Pickin  
570 784 2633  
[mpickin@ptd.net](mailto:mpickin@ptd.net)

### CRAWFORD

Bill Wenger  
412 279 8732  
[w.wenger@comcast.net](mailto:w.wenger@comcast.net)

### CUMBERLAND (2)

Joan Watroba  
717 766 2102  
[sunshinebb@msn.com](mailto:sunshinebb@msn.com)  
and  
David Price  
717 245 2926  
[David17007@aol.com](mailto:David17007@aol.com)

### DAUPHIN

Bill Strauss  
717 541 9168  
[mbstrauss@verizon.net](mailto:mbstrauss@verizon.net)

### DELAWARE

Alice Severeid  
610 544 9057  
[alicesevereid@hotmail.com](mailto:alicesevereid@hotmail.com)

### ELK

Wayne Bryndel  
814 772 4604  
[wbryndel@windstream.net](mailto:wbryndel@windstream.net)

### ERIE

Bernie Connelly  
814 734 5446  
[bbconnelly1@verizon.net](mailto:bbconnelly1@verizon.net)  
and  
Andrea Wyman  
814 398 8384  
[awyman@edinboro.edu](mailto:awyman@edinboro.edu)

### FAYETTE

Jane Shuck  
724 277 8526  
[janesluck@zoominternet.net](mailto:janesluck@zoominternet.net)

### FOREST

Mark Ritkef  
814 676 4747  
[Bluebirdsunlimited@aol.com](mailto:Bluebirdsunlimited@aol.com)

### FRANKLIN

Joyce Stuff  
717 328 3411  
[bspcc@innernet.net](mailto:bspcc@innernet.net)

### FULTON

Florence & Robert Pyle  
610 322 7031  
[bluebirdflo@yahoo.com](mailto:bluebirdflo@yahoo.com)

### GREENE (Vacant)

### HUNTINGDON

Alice Saunders  
814 667 4437

### INDIANA (2)

Michael Schmaus  
814 938 0928  
[mspaek@yahoo.com](mailto:mspaek@yahoo.com)  
and  
Debbie Barate  
814 446 566  
[ridgeback@aol.com](mailto:ridgeback@aol.com)

### JEFFERSON

Marsha Harris  
814 265 1231  
[mlharris@penn.com](mailto:mlharris@penn.com)

### JUNIATA

Gail Getz  
717 463 4041  
[dgetz@embarqmail.com](mailto:dgetz@embarqmail.com)

### LACKAWANNA (Vacant)

### LANCASTER (2)

Dan Thomas  
717 786 7893  
[Adthomas10@comcast.net](mailto:Adthomas10@comcast.net)  
and  
Dean Rust  
717 669 0167  
[July7ds@aol.com](mailto:July7ds@aol.com)



## 2017 BSP County Coordinators continued

**LANCASTER (continued)**  
**Dean Rust**  
 717 669 0167  
 July7ds@aol.com

**LAWRENCE**  
 Bob Allnock  
 724 584 0601  
 bob.a@zoominternet.net

**LEBANON**  
 Shirley Halk  
 717 865 2650  
 zebraswallowtail@juno.com

**LEHIGH**  
 Denise & Peter Reinhart  
 610 965 5389  
 parrots@ptd.net

**LUZERNE**  
 Dr. Jeffrey A. Stratford, PhD  
 570 332 2942  
 jeffrey.stratford@wilkes.edu

**LYCOMING**  
 Fred Stiner  
 570 323 1313  
 fredstiner@yahoo.com

**McKEAN**  
 John Barwin  
 814 929 5577

**MERCER**  
 Ed Palmer  
 724 458 4456  
 plife@zoominternet.net

**MIFFLIN (VACANT)**

**MONROE (2)**  
 Rose Schoch  
 570 992 7500  
 rschoch@epix.net

**MONROE (continued)**  
 Deron Erney  
 610 657 4653  
 derongolf@pga.com

**MONTGOMERY**  
 John W. Stoltzfus  
 610 781 1098  
 jwstol@gmail.com

**MONTOUR**  
 Donna Kreischer  
 570 437 3649  
 dkteacher@verizon.net

**NORTHAMPTON**  
 Doris Heil  
 610 262 5085  
 heil18067@msn.com

**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
 Ben Rissingar  
 570 758 4771  
 570 856 8418  
 jer43@comcast.net

**PERRY**  
 Pat Kessler  
 717 589 3076

**PHILADELPHIA**  
 Margaret Rohde  
 973 271 4375  
 margaret@wvwa.org

**PIKE**  
 Tom Peifer  
 570 470 9960  
 Tomp345@ptd.net

**POTTER**  
 David Hauber  
 814 274 8946  
 Haubers3@penn.com

**SCHUYLKILL**  
 Charles Trusky  
 570 773 2737

**SNYDER (VACANT)**

**SOMERSET (2)**  
 Bill Cuppett  
 814 479 2230  
 grammied34@gmail.com  
 and  
 Simeon Yoder  
 814 267 9932

**SULLIVAN**  
 Kat Clark  
 570 928 8952  
 hayes.clark@frontiernet.net

**SUSQUEHANNA**  
 Amber Zygmunt  
 570 869 2353  
 perennialacres@epix.net

**TIOGA**  
 Leslie Clifford  
 570 662 4527  
 lcliffor@mansfield.edu

**UNION**  
 Cricket Klinger  
 570 966 9887  
 topcop47@dejazzed.com

**VENANGO**  
 Carl Hohmann  
 814 676 2782  
 hohmannc@comcast.net

**WARREN**  
 Mark Ritke  
 814 676 4747  
 Blubirdsunlimited@aol.com

**WASHINGTON**  
 Gigi Gerben  
 412 973 9760  
 Kasgerb@yahoo.com

**WAYNE**  
 James Kilgore  
 609 874 2122  
 jkilgore@centraljersey.com

**WESTMORELAND (2)**  
 Joanne Mcilhatten  
 724 523 9203  
 ejmci@comcast.net  
 and  
 Wilma Light  
 724 238 7041  
 Lightgarden515@gmail.com

**WYOMING**  
 Ray Massacesi  
 570 836 0173  
 agnesma@ptd.net

**YORK**  
 Nancy Putt  
 717 432 2647  
 bluebirds@pa.net

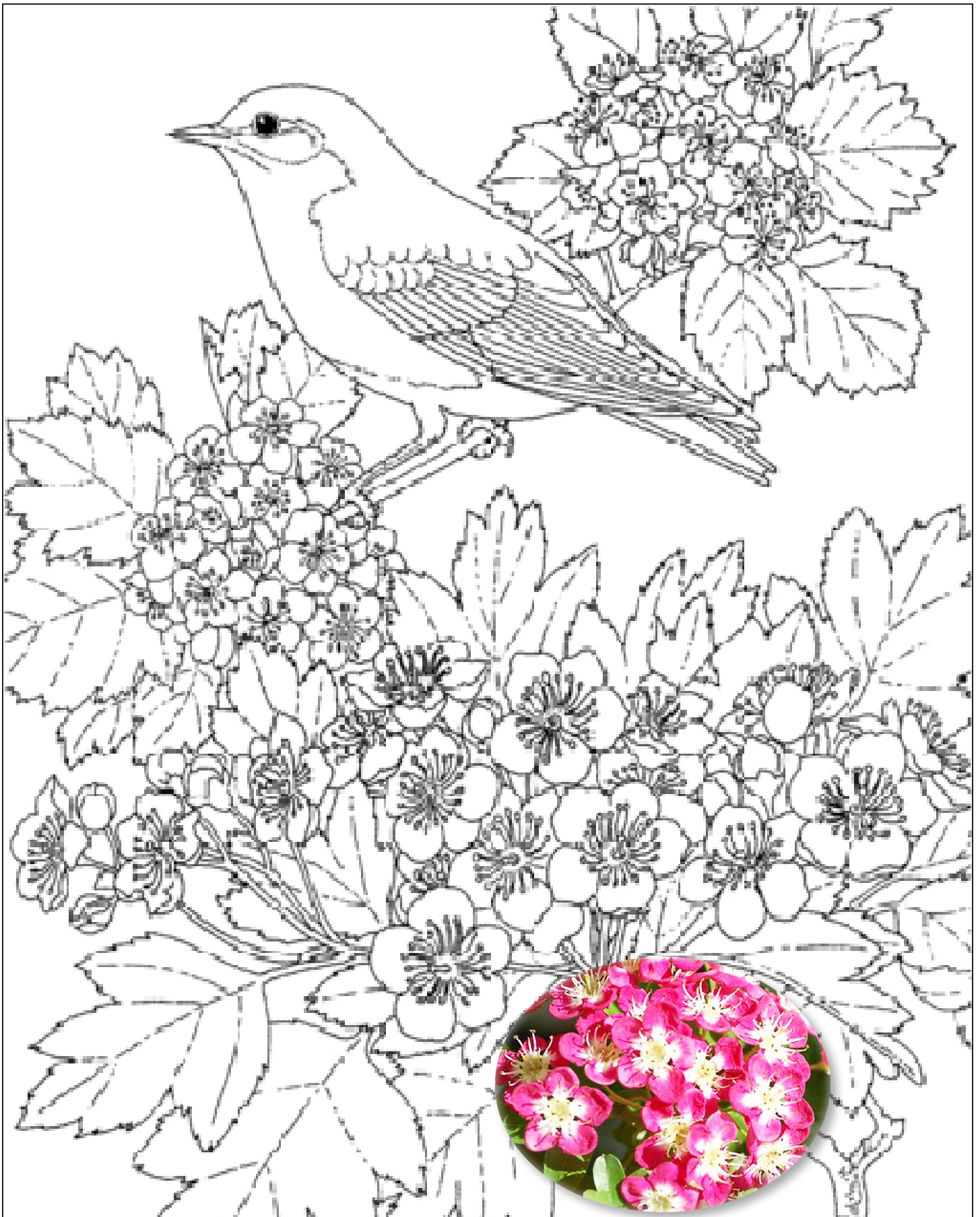


**\*Members:**

Please contact your county coordinators if you have questions about bluebirds, identification of other nest cavity birds or questions concerning monitoring nest boxes.

**\* Coordinators: Should your information change or needs corrected, please contact State County Coordinator:**

Ken Leister  
 610 696 5271  
 kenapeg@aol.com



Eastern Bluebird with Hawthorn

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



2017 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

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**From the Editor:**

We would love to share your beautiful photos of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds with our readers.

Please e-mail jpeg files of your photos to me at : [sunshinebb@msn.com](mailto:sunshinebb@msn.com) In the Subject Line, flag as: Photos for BSP Newsletter

Please provide the name of the photographer, a caption for the photo (optional) and your County so that we can credit you with the image.

An evening with Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke, co-authors of

***The Living Landscape:  
Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity***

Presented by Manada Conservancy & the Appalachian Audubon Society  
Thursday April 27th 6pm - 10pm • the Lower Dauphin High School  
• 201 South Hanover Street • Hummelstown, PA 17036

The richness of life in any landscape is linked to the richness of its layers. Using chickadees and other wildlife as guides we will explore how layers of native plants evolved with local wildlife. Join us as we learn to enhance our ability to see these layers and to create them in our own landscapes. Manada Conservancy is privileged to present two of the nation's leading authorities on the interplay of design, native plants and wildlife.

Doug Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and author of the award winning book, "Bringing Nature Home." He is a much sought after speaker and has inspired many with his compelling message on the importance of gardening with native plants in order to provide vital habitat to sustain local wildlife. [www.timberpress.com/author/doug\\_tallamy/1308](http://www.timberpress.com/author/doug_tallamy/1308)

Rick Darke is a landscape design consultant, author, lecturer, and photographer based in Pennsylvania who blends art, ecology and cultural geography in the creation and conservation of livable landscapes. His vast experience includes 20 years serving on the staff at Longwood Gardens. In addition, Darke has served as a horticultural consultant for numerous diverse public landscapes nationwide. [www.rickdarke.com/bio.htm](http://www.rickdarke.com/bio.htm)

This program is free and open to the public.  
Questions? Contact the Manada Conservancy office at [office@manada.org](mailto:office@manada.org) or (717) 566-4122.  
[www.manada.org](http://www.manada.org)



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