



Bluebird Trails & Tales

The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

• Volume 23, Issue 3 Fall/Winter 2021 • www.thebsp.org • Editor: Joan Watroba • bluebirdhappy365@outlook.com



A Message from the President

Dr. Dean C. Rust, BSP President

Highlighting the Male Bluebird

So much has been written about Bluebirds, and the female's role usually gets the lion's share of the press clippings. In this President's Message, the plan is to look more closely at the male Bluebird's character and job description.

The male Bluebird establishes and defends a nesting territory that may include one or more suitable nest boxes. In locations where Bluebirds are migratory, the males return to their nesting grounds a few days to a week before the females arrive. These male scouts "sing" to establish their territory boundaries. These parcels of real estate vary from 2 to 5 acres or less. The male Blue likes to find the tallest treetop from which he broadcasts his love songs. The taller the tree – the farther his warble extends. The male Bluebird begins singing in late February or March and he trusts his song to fall on the ear of a lovely female in his territory. If he spots a female, he sings at a higher rate and begins displaying to draw her attention to his blue plumage.

Nest building follows in March to April depending on the weather conditions. Remember the bluebird timetable



photo by Christy Rhodes

in Pennsylvania: 1st brood season is April-May; 2nd brood season is June-July. When August arrives, the Blues will finish their active nests, but new nests are rare.

Dr. Larry Zeleny writes in his book, *The Bluebird: How You Can Help Its Fight for Survival*, 1976, on page 10-11, "the Eastern Bluebird's song is one of love and persuasion as he tries to entice his prospective mate into accepting him and his chosen home. He may interrupt his singing occasionally to bring her a choice caterpillar which she passively accepts. It is hard to understand her apparent indifference at first, as she sits quietly on a nearby branch or fencepost listening to his passionate appeal. And watches him pop in and out of his doorway obviously imploring her to try it herself. This phase of courtship may last an hour, a day or even a week depending largely on how well the female is able to resist the entreaties of the male. During the period his hope and enthusiasm never wane. At last, she will fly to the cavity or nesting box and examine it inside and out, speculating as to its suitability. This simple act of hers is evidently interpreted by the male as an outright acceptance of his proposal".

If the female brings some grass blades or pine needles to the box, the deal is sealed, and a new pair-bond is formed. The male is now ecstatic and overjoyed! "His emotion then knows no bounds, his wings quiver with excitement and his soft but beautiful love song swells in a great crescendo. His exquisite rhapsody is often sung on the wing as he flutters fitfully in circles around the lovely mate who has just accepted him". Dr. Zeleny continues, "To witness a Bluebird

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courtship in early spring is well worth watching and waiting for. It contains all of the elements of tenderness, love and devotion of the finest human relationship."

Watch for your Eastern Bluebird pair to perform a "nuptial display" on the roof of the box they have claimed. This is basic "wing-waving 101" to each other; first the right wing and then the left wing, and perhaps both wings at one time! This is a special coordinated wing wave. **See photo.**

The nest box will be the central hub to the new "Bluebird Family" activity over the next six weeks. Amorous moments between the male & female occur in and around the nest box. Watch closely for the one to two second touch, aka, "cloacal kiss" between the pair that ensures that sperm and egg will be joined in fertilization. This activity happens several times prior to each egg laying period. Mating only requires a couple of seconds for birds when they position themselves so their cloaca's can touch. At this moment sperm is transferred from the male's cloaca to the female's. They both have the same external sexual equipment, a cloaca or avian vent. (*Parental supervision is suggested for this paragraph)

The female builds 99.9% of her nest and the male is her constant companion to encourage, check on progress and sing to her while she does the work. He will even enter

the box occasionally to examine the nest for quality control. The male fancies himself as a building superintendent but he only knows how the nest should look, NOT how to do it!

At a high perch near the box, the male keeps a watchful and persistent presence from dawn to dusk. To him, the roof of his box is "OFF LIMITS" to any other birds. He goes into a 'protection mode' during nest building and stays in that mode through egg-laying, incubation and feeding nestlings phase. Woe to any Blue Jays, Cardinals or House



photo by Mike Brown



Wrens who inadvertently land on his box! He will divebomb them and even physically bump them, if necessary, to send a strong message of: "YOU ARE NOT WELCOME". Even squirrels on the ground are given the same notice.

Incubation begins when the clutch of eggs is completed. The male Bluebird is now a full-time Sentinel or protector of the nest box. The female at this time is the most vulnerable when she is 'dozing off' on her clutch of eggs. She needs full time surveillance during the daylight hours. And the male shows his chivalrous side by bringing her delicious insect snacks at various times. **Refer to photo on page.1.**

Another role the male plays during the "incubation phase" is as an escort. Watch closely for this. When the female leaves the box for a break to stretch her wings, get a drink or have a private moment to herself, the male may briefly go to the entrance & look in. He then returns to his perch and waits for the female to return. When she does, he flies behind her and "tailgates" her closely right up to the box. Why? 1). the male does not want an interloper male to get that close to her. 2). the male does not want a male House Sparrow to follow her into the box. His protection of her is of utmost importance!

The male will soon partner with the female in feeding the chicks after they are born. The pair both share the feeding duties (50/50) of the young nestlings from dawn to dusk until their fledge date.

After the nestlings exit their "creature comfort nest" for perches in the pines or hardwoods, the Bluebird pair

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Our Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is simple, yet powerful:

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



Male Bluebird in Winter Eating Sumac photo by Richard R. Hess

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If you have interest or skills in any of these committee functions, please contact us.

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continue their daily feedings like clockwork for 8 to 10 days. At this time the mother often decides to start the second nest and a new “double-duty” assignment is taken over by the father Bluebird. He must teach a course in “insect foraging skills 101” to the new fledglings and continue his protection of the mother while she builds her nest and lays her new clutch of eggs. This split-responsibility is labor intensive for the male, but he takes pride in his work, and he can easily manage this dual assignment.

Not wanting to anthropomorphize the male Bluebird too much, I am willing to take a chance. The male Bluebird reminds me of a medieval knight known for Chivalry. The definition of an excellent knight is one who has a choice to do the right things, for the right reasons and at the right time. Ideal qualities expected of a knight:

Courage, honor, courtesy, justice, valor, generosity and dexterity in arms. When I see a male Bluebird, I



photo by Mike Brown

am reminded of these adjectives. May the BLUEBIRD of HAPPINESS find and reside near each of you in the upcoming years ahead.

Dr. Dean C. Rust
President of the Bluebird
Society of Pennsylvania
September 2021

My “Spark Bird”, Revisited *by Joan Watroba photo by Thomas Bollinger*

In the Fall/Winter issue of 2020 of the BSP newsletter, Nick Kerlin shared a wonderful story and beautiful photo of his “Spark Bird”, the Eastern Bluebird. The sight of a brilliant male bluebird captured his eye and heart and prompted him to consider this as his “Spark Bird”.

Thanks again, Nick for sharing your inspiring story.

I also LOVE bluebirds. However, I must admit that my “spark bird” is the Wood Thrush. We hear them in the woods behind the house, as their song is so melodic. They sing in the morning and evening. It is always a very special day when they return from their long migration. They winter in lowland tropical forests in

Central America. They have returned to our yard this Spring in early May.

Due to their brown coloring and forest habitat, it is often difficult to see them. One author in the Bay Journal referred to songbirds in the thrush family as “ghost birds”, as they are so difficult to see.

However, last nesting season we spotted an active Wood Thrush pair

nesting on a tree branch at the edge of the woods. We were able to observe the entire nesting cycle with binoculars while lying in the hammock. How special was that!

Readers: Please share a story of your “spark bird” with us!



From the Editor *by Joan Watroba*

It certainly was a **HOT**, and **STEAMY** summer—the hottest on record, along with a lot of rain. Some weeks I had to adjust my monitoring days to avoid the extreme humidity and thunderstorms. With the trend of hotter Summers, it may be a good idea to increase the width of the ventilation openings underneath the roof of nest boxes. Just make sure that the roof overhang is adequate to keep out the rain.

In the Winter, you can add a thin piece of wood to cover the enlarged vents to insure a warmer interior for the roosting birds and for the first nestings in the early Spring. In the Fall I place a couple of handfuls of dry white pine needles in many of my nest boxes. The pine needles will provide some insulation for birds which may roost in the nest boxes during the cold winter nights, and they can also use the pine needles in their nest-building in the spring. I did so last year, and this past spring, the bluebirds used the pine needles as a base for their nests.

For me, this bluebird nesting year was a mixed bag, with many successes and some nesting failures.

Some bluebird monitors reported finding young bluebirds dead in their nest boxes over the Memorial Day weekend due to the prolonged cold and rainy weather pattern. A combination of cold weather and low food supplies can be very detrimental to the young hatchlings, especially those that have started to develop feathers. When they are younger than that, their food requirements are lower, and the female will brood them (cover the young with her wings) to keep them warm, so they are less likely to perish due to hypothermia. This summer, the emergence of the Cicadas Brood X after 17 years provided an abundant food supply to the nesting birds. When

cleaning out the nest boxes after the second nesting, I found the remains of the parts of this insect which the young did not consume, such as the wings.

There were many unhatched bluebird eggs, especially in the second nesting cycle, which may have been caused by the excessive heat. It seems that one female bluebird was laying infertile eggs, as she laid and incubated 6, 5, and then another 5 eggs and none of them hatched. It is certainly disappointing when eggs do not hatch. However, it is even more upsetting to find young or adult bluebirds which have died. If that happens, some people are so upset that they want to take the nest box down. We must remember that bluebirds are very resilient, and there is a good chance that they will try to re-nest and will be successful in the future. Always try to remember the positive outcomes and stay motivated to keep on providing nesting sites for bluebirds and to learn about new ways to increase their nesting success.

In the Summer issue of the BSP newsletter, Dean Rust's President's Message talked about bumble bees nesting in bluebird boxes. I got to experience that first-hand this season. In one of my nest boxes with a straw nest, I could hear a buzzing sound when I opened the box. I carefully poked a screwdriver in the nest, and several bumblebees exited the box and started to swarm me. I promptly closed the box and walked quickly to the next nest box on the trail. For the rest of the season, I did not open that box, but marked "Bumble Bee Box" on my monitor sheet. In mid-September when I was doing the final check of the season, I carefully removed the straw nest and found the remains of a bumblebee nursery (colony)



Bumble Bee Colony

in the middle of the nest. Bumblebees are also cavity-nesters! Since they are so beneficial as pollinators and will only sting when provoked, they certainly deserved a nesting box of their own.

House Sparrows were very persistent this season in trying to nest in the boxes. As we know, House Sparrows are non-native, aggressive birds which will kill adult and young songbirds. They are a main threat to all native cavity-nesting songbirds and are not protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Please do not allow them to nest in your boxes. Monitor your boxes every week and remove their nests and eggs. Trapping the adult birds is recommended



View of Skylight Roof from Inside of the Nest Box

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Close-up of Skylight Roof



Nest Box with Skylight Roof and Noel Guard

to permanently remove them from the environment. In the very beginning of the nesting season, I discovered four nest boxes in a local park and observed House Sparrows going in and out of all of them. I contacted the Township Office and asked if anyone was checking the bluebird boxes and was told that no one was. I explained the importance of monitoring bluebird boxes and was given permission to do so. Upon closer inspection of the boxes, I found that they were built without any ventilation. I was able to move a few screws to allow airflow into the boxes. I added the

monofilament line in front of the nest boxes to try to deter the House Sparrows from using the boxes, but it was not effective. The House Sparrows were already bonded to the nest box, and they continued to try to nest for the next two weeks. I then spoke with Dean Rust about my problems with the House Sparrows at this location, and he mentioned that many bluebirders were having good results with the skylight roofs. He offered to make four skylight roofs for this trail. I installed them, and the result was very positive. There was no further House Sparrow nesting activity, and bluebird pairs nested in two of the four nest boxes and successfully fledged a total of 8 bluebirds.

Success!

*Please offer supplemental food to the bluebirds in the winter. Good choices include homemade or commercial suet, sunflower chips, peanut hearts, and live or dried mealworms. These food sources are very important if natural food supplies are not available. Consider planting trees and ornamental shrubs

Bluebird Banquet Suet Recipe

by Linda Janilla Peterson

MIX:

1 cup peanut butter
4 cups yellow corn meal
1 cup unbleached or whole wheat flour

ADD:

1 cup fine sunflower seed chips
1 cup peanut hearts (or finely ground nuts)
1/2 to 1 cup currants (or raisins cut in halves)

Drizzle and stir in 1 cup of rendered, melted suet (can substitute lard or a commercial suet square)

Cool before serving and keep unused portions refrigerated until use to avoid the mixture from getting rancid. Resulting mix will be crumbly and should have bean/ pea-sized lumps from the drizzling of the melted suet. If too sticky after cooling, mix in a bit more flour. If too dry, drizzle in more melted suet.

Editor's note: Serve suet mixture on a raised flat tray, bluebird feeder, or from a log-style feeder as pictured.

which produce food for the bluebirds.

If there is not a natural water source nearby, consider adding a birdbath with a heater, as birds need water year-round to drink and to preen their feathers.

Joan Watroba
Joan Watroba, Editor



photo by Chuck Musser

A Word About Native Predators *by Susan Renkel*

Taken from Everything You Need to Know About Bluebirds...and Much More, a Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania publication:

“Creating habitat on your property that attracts a wide variety of birds can be enjoyable for us and beneficial for the birds. There is one thing to be aware of though, when the birds you are attracting become plentiful. Native predators will move into territories that have the most abundant food (prey) and it is a likely possibility that you will have a Sharp-Shinned or Cooper’s Hawk mulling around. These birds of prey are magnificent creatures and a source of awe and wonder for many of us.

Because they are at the top of the food chain, birds of prey are also considered important environmental indicator species.

Natural predators of all kinds help create a balanced, healthy ecosystem by taking prey that are very slow, weak, young, old, or just not very bright, and help prevent any one species from “taking over” while the fittest of each species lives on.

When you put up feeders or



Sharpshinned Hawk

nest boxes in your yard, it is only natural that you will eventually meet up with natural predators of birds. Do what you can to discourage native predators from invading your nest boxes by installing predator guards and regular monitoring. Please do not harm or relocate them. In many cases, such as with birds of prey, it is against the law to harm them. **Simply put, it is the best interest**



Cooper's Hawk

of conservation as a whole to leave them be”.

Photo credits:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org>

Editor's Note: These two species look very similar. Two differences are: Size (Cooper's are larger- 14"-20" vs. Sharp-Shinned 10"-14") Shape of Tail (Cooper's has a well-rounded tail vs. Sharp-Shinned which has a notched or square tail)

BSP Newsletter Submission Contest/Winner

Congratulations to: Joan Stump

for submitting *My Three Bluebirds*

Joan, please select an item from the BSP Merchandise Store at: www.thebsp.org and then contact the BSP Newsletter Editor, Joan Watroba at: bluebirdhappy365@outlook.com or by phone 717-766-2102 to select your prize and arrange for delivery.

BSP is thrilled that many members are submitting material for the BSP newsletter, and we want to encourage more members to do so. By submitting your questions, nesting experiences, photos, and field observations, we will be able to offer a wider variety of

articles and materials that are of interest to our readers.

To submit by regular mail, write: Newsletter Submission Contest on the front of the envelope and send to Joan Watroba, BSP Newsletter Editor, 2408 Bumble Bee Hollow Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

To submit by e-mail, include BSP Newsletter Submission Contest in the subject line of your e-mail and send to: bluebirdhappy365@outlook.com

One submission will be randomly drawn at the cut-off date for each newsletter edition:

January 7, May 7 and September 7, and you will have their choice of any item offered in the BSP Merchandise Store.

The Birds are Back in Town *by Anthony Hill*

The next time you need a walk to stretch out those achy muscles or enjoy the summer sunshine, consider wandering over to Wineberry Open Space off Maack Road in Northern Chester County.

There's a clear stream, open spacious land with a lovely clustering of trees, and – most recently – a bluebird trail.

Bluebirds, and other songbirds, rely on adequate habitat to grow, raise their young, and thrive. But with increasing development in our communities, bluebirds have to adapt to survive. The newly formed trail features eight bluebird houses with more coming next season. Bluebirds are cavity nesters, meaning they need a safe cavity, or house, to nest. The bluebird houses have a distinct 1.5 -inch opening, perfect for the small bluebirds to fly inside, create



a nest, lay eggs and care for young. They often come back season after season, too!

If you've never observed a bluebird, take a few moments to sit down (a few yards away to keep them comfortable!) and watch. They're beautiful, fun creatures with unique personalities. And they have multiple broods a season, so you'll have many chances to monitor them. Since the start of this trail in July, there've already been six babies that have fledged the nest.

For more information and to learn more about setting up a nest box, please visit the website of The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania at www.thebsp.org and/or www.sialis.org

The Eagle Scout Project that Helps Bluebirds *by Nicholas Smeal, Eagle Scout Candidate (Troop 196)*

For my Eagle Scout project, I constructed and installed nest boxes that would best suit the needs for Bluebirds and other native songbirds in the South Central PA area. I first contacted Joan Watroba with the Bluebird Society of PA, as she has lots of knowledge regarding bluebirds, and knew which parks were the ideal locations to install the nest boxes.

Then, I was able to get approval from Upper Allen Township to replace the old nest boxes at Simpson Park, and to install some new nest boxes at Grantham Park. These parks have ideal features for bluebirds such as open

fields in Simpson Park and an open pond in Grantham Park.

After I got approval to execute my project from Upper Allen and made a rough draft of my project plan, I was able to get in contact with Phillip Durgin of BSP, who was able to help me work out some of the details that were vital to my project. Once I got my plan finally worked out, I was able to start executing my project by building the nest boxes.



Cedar nest boxes

My team and I (14-15 people in attendance at each workday) constructed 24 Lenker-style nest boxes to replace 12 nest boxes at Simpson Park and to install 12 new boxes at

>> **The Eagle Scout Project that Helps Bluebirds continues on page 10**

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Grantham Park. The reason that I went with building Lenker-style bird boxes was because they were able to give the bluebirds favorable opportunities to nest in cavities. I chose to make the nest boxes out of white cedar wood for the reason that cedar is not only very durable, but also lasts for a long time. The construction process went smoothly, and my team and I were able to not only build the nest boxes with only minor mishaps, but we were also able to add some important features such as grooves for easy exiting and screws to hold in traps to trap the non-native species, House Sparrows. After two short workdays, the nest boxes were ready to be installed at Simpson Park and Grantham Park.

I had planned for the installation process to be an all-day event, but my team and I were able to finish the installation before noon. At Simpson Park, we were able to initially replace 6 of the 12 nest boxes with new nest



Nick installing a bluebird nest box

boxes. Six of the nest boxes already had native species inhabiting them, so we couldn't replace those nest boxes. While my project had a smooth execution, this was one of the most challenging aspects of the execution phase and I had to come up with a contingency plan regarding the remaining 6 nest boxes. At Grantham Park, my team and I were first able to easily drive the poles for the nest boxes. Then we were able to install the nest boxes onto all 12 of the poles. The installation process at Grantham Park for all 12 nest boxes only took an hour and a half to complete.

While there were very few workdays, there were some key highlights that were very insightful from my project. First, some of the workers were able to learn about bluebirds as a species, the birds that were the prioritized residents of the installed nest boxes. That was done by the subject matter experts (Joan Watroba, Cindy Vasiliu, and Philip Durgin) explaining key details about the bluebirds. One thing Joan did in particular was that she opened some of the boxes during the project; one of them having young bluebirds inside of them (we didn't replace those boxes at that time). One unforgettable detail about the workday my team and I had at Simpson Park was seeing a tree swallow checking out one of the new houses while we were leaving Simpson Park. I personally found the nest boxes to beautify and help fill empty space with life at Simpson Park and Grantham Park.

While my project was in the present and was impactful in the present, I did have to make plans in the future to upkeep my project. I appointed monitors from the BSP to help care for and look over the birdhouses in Simpson Park and in



Bluebird trail Grantham Park

Grantham Park. Again, I can't thank everyone enough who helped me with my Eagle Scout Project, since the journey was treacherous and the complete opposite of the smooth journey that I had expected due to the delays caused by the restrictions related to Coronavirus.

Hi Nick-Enjoyed working with you and your great team of volunteers! It was a fun and productive day on Saturday. Nick, you did an excellent job with the planning and execution of your new bluebird trail and the rehab of the trail at Simpson Park. The Bluebird Society is so proud of young people like yourself getting actively involved in bluebird conservation, and the bluebirds and the other native cavity-nesting songbirds will use your beautiful nesting boxes to raise their young for many years. We will monitor the boxes each week during the nesting season and will manage them for optimum nesting results.

Joan Watroba, BSP County Coordinator, Cumberland County

What is the Meaning of Perseverance? *by Marilyn Michalski*

In 2020 the BSP was invited to help Awbury Arboretum attract Eastern Bluebirds to its grounds. Located in Northern Philadelphia, this is a public facility and park, based around the former Cope home. Upon learning about the BSP, Program Director Nancy Pasquier invited Ken Leister and myself to establish a Bluebird Trail on the grounds.

In October of 2020 we toured the 30 acres of land and concluded that the area was a good environment for bluebirds. This would be a "First Bluebird Trail" in Philadelphia County. While inspecting the grounds, we discovered ten old nest boxes – all of them dried up and broken. Our examination revealed they were all filled with sticks and twigs -- a sign of House Wrens.



Adult House Wren photo by Richard Hess

For us, this was bad news – as we know that sticks and twigs signal the nesting of these little brown birds, whose population is skyrocketing.

Their nesting is a danger to other cavity nesters. At Awbury, we found no evidence of bluebirds, and no used bluebird nests. Except for one sighting of a single bluebird in 2019, no one there had seen an Eastern Bluebird. The situation was dire, because we knew that numerous House Wrens would return to nest in 2021. Knowing that House Wrens nest twice each season, and that each clutch produces 5 to 7 new wrens, we faced a major problem. Bluebirds do NOT nest in areas with large House Wren populations, if they have a choice. Reason: House Wrens often destroy the nests and eggs of other birds. The wren is NOT meek or tolerant – it is a predator with a weapon – a slender and sharp beak that pierces the eggs and nestlings of other birds.

We developed a plan of action:

- 1) old nest boxes would be replaced with new ones, which Ken Leister would construct.
- 2) We would install only seven nest boxes, to reduce nesting opportunities for wrens.
- 3) We would monitor weekly.
- 4) We would remove "dummy nests" generated by the male wren.
- 5) We would install wren guards on nest boxes.

We used a standard hole-blocking panel, as well as an experimental wren guard, which has three panels rather than one, so as to block a view of the entry hole from the front and the sides of the nest box. In April and May, we had success with a three-sided guard when Chickadees built a moss nest and laid 8 eggs, which hatched. But

tragedy struck: When the nestlings were a week old, they were killed by House Wrens. We believe the peeping of the nestlings, calling for



Dummy House Wren Nest
A House Wren added sticks on top of this Tree Swallow nest. The 5 TRES babies had hatched on 5/27, this dummy nest was discovered on 6/2. Notice it is loose, does not entirely fill box, and lacks white spider cocoons, indicating it is a dummy nest. www.Sialis.org

food, attracted the wrens, which got under the wren guard and destroyed the young inside. We found all 8 chickadee nestlings dead on the ground under the nest box.

By the end of May, House Wrens occupied five nest boxes and laid eggs in four. What could we do? We removed two empty nest boxes and continued to remove dummy nests.

What is the Meaning of Perseverance continues from page 11

The wrens were everywhere. But we could not hurt them -- they are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

In June we installed a different experimental wren guard on one of the nest boxes. The new design incorporated a 90 degree turn in a tube-shaped device attached to the entry hole. This design excluded all birds – as no bird was able to get inside the nest box. With modification, this device has the potential for success, and we will try it in 2022.

In early July the nest boxes had fledged 22 House Wrens, and this was only their first nesting – another would follow. A different nest box, put up independently by local residents, was also occupied by wrens, and this box fledged two nestings of five or more wrens each time. At the end of the 2021 nesting

season, we confirmed, in the BSP Nest box Report, that forty-two (42) new House Wrens were in residence at Awbury. No other cavity-nesting birds nested there successfully.

But we're not giving up. We have plans to continue our efforts. We will further reduce the number of nest boxes next year, and we will install these only in large open spaces. The Bluebird Team of four women, including myself, will deter, when possible, through legal means, the nesting of House Wrens. The women trail monitors, most of whom live in Philadelphia, have promised to continue the quest for Bluebird success. I applaud the efforts of Kate, Marie, and Nina. We will strive to achieve our goal. This is what I call perseverance.

Editor's Note: As Marilyn explains, male House Wrens build "dummy nests" by placing twigs in nest boxes

and other cavities in its territory. One male may construct multiple such nests, defending them and the space around them. When building "dummy nests", House Wrens may destroy the nests, eggs, and even the young of bluebirds, tree swallows, and chickadees. A "dummy nest" is identified by a few or even many disorganized sticks without a nesting cup or a nest cup liner. It is acceptable to remove such "dummy nests."

However, if there is a full stick nest with a nest cup on top lined with grass, plant fibers, animal hair, or if there are House Wren eggs, that indicates an active nest of this native species, the House Wren, which is protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. To discourage House Wrens, place nest boxes in open areas, away from the woods or dense shrubs.

BSP Upcoming Events



BSP Board/Membership Meetings:

- January 27, 2022
- April 28, 2022
- July 28, 2022
- October 20, 2022

Thursday Evenings 6:00 p.m.
Location: Giant Supermarket, Community Room, Camp Hill PA

***Please contact Phil Durgin, BSP Vice President at 717-732-5325 or email: pdurgin@comcast.net prior to the event to confirm attendance.**

PA Farm Show 2022

- January 8-15, 2022

Location: Farm Show Complex 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA
This is a fun event for the entire family, with interesting events, demonstrations, a variety of animals, vendors, and delicious PA food choices in the food court. Volunteers are needed to host the BSP educational/ BSP Store Booth. Contact Nancy Putt, Event Chair at 717-432- 2647 or e-mail: bluebirds@pa.net to volunteer.

Great Backyard Bird Count 2022

- February 18–21, 2022

<http://www.birdcount.org>
Watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds!

BSP Annual Conference 2022

- March 18 & 19, 2022

We hope to see you at the 2022 BSP Conference at the Best Western/Lehigh Valley Conference Center in Bethlehem, PA.

www.lehighvalleyhotel.com

More details will be available via a special mailing to all active members and on the BSP web site closer to the event.

BSP is Enrolled in AmazonSmile!

When you sign up for AmazonSmile and select the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania as your charity, Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase to BSP. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service!

Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1810835>

Proceeds from this fundraising source are being used for educational outreach and for setting up bluebird trails. Thanks to those of you who

have already purchased items through Amazon using this program, as we are receiving donations through it.

Bill Wenger is Honored as the 2020 Monitor of the Year

by DCNR's PA State Parks Cavity-Nesting Trails Program

The Bluebird Society of PA is so happy to share the following announcement about BSP's Crawford/Lawrence Counties Coordinator, Bill Wenger!

The following is from the "Cavity-nesting Trails Newsletter" per Carly Broder, Program Director of the DCNR's PA State Parks Cavity-Nesting Trails Program:

We were finally able to present the 2020 Monitor of the Year - Bill Wenger - with his award.

Here is a portion of the nomination letter from park environmental educator, Emily Borcz:

I would like to nominate Bill Wenger for monitor of the year. He has been a dedicated volunteer here at Pymatuning State Park since 2011 when he installed Purple Martin housing in three locations throughout the park including the Spillway, the Espyville Marina, and the Jamestown Marina. Bill now monitors 12 colonies in the Pymatuning area including on park property, in game lands, and at his home. His passion for the conservation of the Purple Martins and his dedication of time, energy, and talent has him fledging hundreds of Purple Martins every year. This year, he fledged 881 Purple Martins. This is a new record for him by over 100 birds.

Bill has worked with other parks and park staff in the region with their housing and volunteers. He also works with many other agencies and organizations surrounding this topic. Additionally, he has presented at birding conferences throughout the state. Each year, he works with education staff at the park to offer programming to the public in his mission to help these birds and get others interested in assisting with conservation efforts and becoming landlords themselves. He is always willing



Bill Wenger admiring his award plaque with his beautiful dog, Daisy.

to answer questions and help in any way he can. He has a true passion for working with, teaching, and learning from others. He has and continues to be a leader, teacher, naturalist and advocate and he is a true asset to the park, the region, these birds, and the cavity-nesting program here in Pennsylvania. Thanks, Bill for all your hard work!"

So, huge congratulations to Bill Wenger from all of us here at BSP!

My Three Bluebirds *by Joan Stump*

I have been a member of the Bluebird Society of PA for the past several years, since my husband signed me up at the PA Farm Show. I have been fascinated with bluebirds since I was a young girl, so when a pair started looking

had been flirting with Mrs. Blue, flicking his wings and such. I had actually seen him breed her, but didn't really connect this until I saw her dash out of the bird house one morning. On checking, I found that she had laid an egg and another

ones were not calling to him when he came with food. He would look in, but not feed anyone. Just sit on top and call and chitter constantly.

Friday morning, I decided I had to see what was going on in there, so carefully opened the front. What I found was one dead baby and four in a pretty bad way. I can't let anything die in front of my face, so I knew I had to do something. Using a dental syringe, I gave each baby a couple drops of water, as re-hydration was the most important thing at this point. A little later after evening chores, I gave each of them a couple drops of fresh goat's milk. I've used this to save chicks before and figured it is a quick source of protein and liquid.

Then I called my local BSP Coordinator to find out what else I could do...what could I feed them. He suggested fresh mealworms, but he had none at this time. So, I had to find something else. My cat eats canned minced chicken that has no fillers, etc. Since there was little else that I could think of, on Saturday morning I used a long jeweler's tweezers to poke tiny bits of cat food in the soft side of their beak and into their mouth. Saturday morning, I found the worst of the four had died during the night...but the other three looked much better and quite bright-eyed. As I gave them each a couple more bits of minced chicken, Mr. Blue returned and dive-bombed me multiple times...not that I could blame him.

He continued to come look in at the little ones, but he did not begin to feed them again until they began to chitter at him. I only supplemented them three times



Three young bluebirds

photo by Maria Prentice

around the wren house that I built, I went out and got a proper house for them. They have been using this house for about seven years now.

Since the bluebird house is right outside my back door and kitchen window, I am able to keep a pretty close eye on their activity. Most years, they raise two sets of young, so when I saw Mrs. Bluebird building a third nest, I was thrilled...it had been only a week since the second set of chicks had fledged. I've never seen her work so fast. The nest was done in less than two days.

This nest-building speed made me think about how Mr. Blue

each day, until there were five eggs. I made sure to use our front door to go to do barn chores, so I would not disturb her while she was incubating. This was during several very hot days, which had me worrying about the eggs.

The babies hatched on July 19...all five of them, and both Mr. and Mrs. were busy keeping up with feeding them. The following Tuesday, July 27th I suddenly realized I had not seen Mrs. Blue all day. Mr. was still bringing the chicks food, but not very often. He would sit atop the house and call... for Mrs., I presume. By Wednesday evening, I noticed that the little

My Three Bluebirds continues from page 14

a day, allowing Mr. to feed them throughout the day. Every day the little ones continued to improve, allowing me to give them their feeding. I was pleased at how calm they were...never fussing or fighting.

I had figured that under normal conditions, they would have fledged on Wednesday, but I knew that this was going to make them at least a few days late. I could see, through the little round doorway, that they were testing their wings, and Mr. Blue was coaxing them to follow him...often with a nice bug in his mouth. On Friday morning, just after 8:30 a.m. the first one popped out and flew to the rain gutter above my window. I had an appointment and had to leave, so did not see the other two fledge, but found the nest empty when I

got home a couple of hours later.

I can hear Mr. Blue singing and talking to the fledglings but have not seen them yet. The previous sets of young come around to the bluebird feeder, so I am hoping to see my three bluebirds in the future.

Update: 8/13- In spite of what I said about seldom seeing an entire clutch of younglings at the same time... At 6PM, I was getting my milking equipment together, when I looked out the kitchen window... and there sat Mr. Blue on the feeder with all three of the fledglings. So wonderful to see that they have all made it since fledging last Friday, as I saw all three of my bluebird babies.

Editor's Note: Hi Joan S.-So happy to hear that the three young

bluebirds have made it! Your actions were instrumental in their survival. It can be overwhelming for just one bluebird parent to feed a clutch of young. Note that there are wildlife rehabbers throughout Pennsylvania who can be called upon to assist with wildlife, including songbirds which are in need due to illness, injury, or abandonment due to the loss of parent(s):

<https://pawr.com>

Pennsylvania Association of Wildlife Rehabilitator

Professionals Caring for Wildlife of the Commonwealth of PA

Their link is also posted on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Reminder–Request for Annual Nest Box Reports

If you monitor bluebird nest boxes and have not yet submitted your Annual Nest Box Report Form to BSP, please do so by December 15th. Information

from the compiled report is very important to follow trends in nesting activity, habitat changes, potential threats, and climate changes which affect the timing of the nesting cycle. Printable forms are available on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org



We are happy that Marilyn Michalski has volunteered to serve as our new State Monitoring Chair.

Nest Box Reports can now be sent directly to her:

Marilyn Michalski, P.O. Box 662, Kimberton, PA 19442

Reports which were sent to the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 address have been, and will be forwarded to her.

Note: Unfortunately, BSP was not able to provide a compiled nest box report for nesting season 2020 because the nest box reports were lost in a residential fire.

BSP thanks Shirley Halk who served in this position for many years.

BSP County Coordinator Updates

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Darlaine Manning

(New County Coordinator-Welcome!)

267-606-5633 cell

e-mail: darlainemanning@hotmail.com

CLINTON COUNTY

Linda Frye

570-769-7375

New email address: vlfrye@comcast.net



LEBANON COUNTY

Shirley Halk no longer serves as BSP County Coordinator for Lebanon County.

BSP THANKS her for her many years of service as County Coordinator of Lebanon County.

My Beautiful Needle Felted Bluebird *by Joan Watroba*



Bluebirds are so captivating that they inspire people to incorporate them in songs, artwork, and all types of creative expressions. My sweet niece, Sherri Quagliato who lives in Alfred, New York, is very talented and enjoys creating many beautiful items using many types of media.

As she knows how much I love bluebirds, she gifted me with a wonderful Birthday gift, a beautiful needle felted Eastern bluebird. It has a special place on my desk and it inspires me every day to engage in activities which promote bluebird conservation.

Events Report *Bluebirds and Bluebird Boxes Make People SMILE!*

“Family Days on the Farm 2021” is an annual event sponsored by the Amish community in Lancaster County. Since 2017, BSP has set up an exhibition area where members talk about bluebirds and share information with attendees. Held at the farm of David Lapp in Gordonville, PA, on July 30 and 31, this popular event drew about 400 people. Many programs on healthy living were presented, and areas designed to entertain children were set up.

Board Member Dan Thomas, his wife Rachel, grandson Aaron, Ken Leister, and Marilyn Michalski represented the BSP. In conversation with many youngsters and adults, they provided information about the BSP and the importance of helping cavity nesters native to North America. On tables provided they offered free literature about Eastern Bluebirds. Sign-up sheets to join BSP were available. Aaron, who has helped at this event several years in a row, spoke with young folks who stopped by the BSP booth. We were able to sign up new BSP Junior Members. Aaron has earned his Eagle Scout award in the field of Bluebird Trails. The BSP booth

was visited primarily by young folks – ages 8 through 15 - but many adults talked with us as well.

“Family Days on the Farm” is a public service opportunity for the Bluebird Society of PA. Each time this event is held, the BSP is there to reach out and answer questions of all kinds. Out of respect for their lifestyle, we do not use any video or TV devices. We simply share the joy of helping Eastern Bluebirds and other beneficial cavity-nesting birds through our hand-outs and our conversations.

Marilyn Michalski



The Ned Smith Festival was held at the MYO Park in Millersburg, PA on July 31 (it's always scheduled for the last Saturday in July). The MYO Park is located along the banks of the Susquehanna River, making it a picturesque setting for this wonderful event which offers a variety of programs and

>> Events Report continues on page 17

Events Report continues from page 16

hands-on activities for people of all ages. The weather was gloriously beautiful the day of the event.

This year’s volunteers included Phil and Susan Durgin, Nancy Putt, Charlotte Knudsen, Joan Watroba, and Kevin Lutz and his buddy. Joan presented a well-attended seminar on how to attract bluebirds and monitor nest boxes; Phil, Kevin and his buddy helped children build 80 PGC boxes at the PA Game Commission’s box-building event; and Susan, Nancy, and Charlotte took primary responsibility for staffing the BSP booth and store. We were busy talking about bluebirds and fielded many questions about how to keep



House Sparrows from using the nest boxes, and about how House Wrens can interfere with the nesting activity of other species if nest boxes are located too close to the woods. We recruited four new BSP members and renewed one membership.

Phil Durgin, Event Chair



Bluebird Program at Simpson Meadows

On Sept. 23rd, Nancy Fraim presented her beautiful and educational Power Point presentation, “For the Love of Bluebirds” to an audience of 29 individuals at Simpson Meadows Retirement Home in Downingtown, PA. I’m writing to let you know the excellence of this presentation. It is well-organized and covers the life cycle of bluebirds with some amazing video and audio sequences. One example is a video showing the interior of a nest box with an adult bluebird locating and taking a fecal sac out of the nest box. There is also a video of bluebirds taking water from a birdbath during winter after a snowstorm. Nancy also included a video of a bluebird’s first flight out of a nest box. After explaining the life cycle of the bluebird, Nancy included segments on the threats to bluebirds and how to help them. This talk is very flexible and can be amped up for a more knowledgeable group, or amped down for a beginner audience.

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Events Report continues from page 17



Submitted by **Marilyn Michalski**,
 BSP State County Co-Coordinator
 who serves with **Nancy Fraim** in Chester County



Manheim Farm Show, “Make & Take” Box-Building Event

10/6/2021- A Great “Make & Take” Box-Building Event was offered by BSP volunteers at the Manheim Farm Show. Thirty nest boxes were built, and many instructions were given to participants to promote Bluebird nesting success!

Phil Louie, Dan Thomas & Aaron, Dean Rust and Judy Zurin



BSP Awards for 2019

With the two years of Covid cancelling the Annual BSP Conference, we have not been able to present the BSP Awards at the annual conferences, but we are excited to finally reveal and honor the worthy recipients of the BSP Awards which were nominated for awards for the year 2019.

Bluebirder of the Year PHIL DURGIN

I nominate Philip Durgin for a well-deserved Special Appreciation for Service Award. He has been among the most dedicated volunteers in the BSP.

Phil joined the Bluebird Society of PA at our joint NABS/BSP Conference in Grantville in 2009.

He checked the “willing to help” box on the form, the next year he volunteered to be on the BSP Board and in 2012 he began serving as VP.

As Vice President, he felt he was not doing enough, so he volunteered to take on the position of Chairman for BSP Conferences as a new duty of this office. He’s been doing a great job of coordinating the Conferences for the 5th year coming up. This involves selecting a site, booking it, contacting speakers. Conference publicity need put together to be sent out and making

each conference. Last year he had a huge success with the Friday night “hands-on” box building, with days of preparation with cutting out pieces.

In many areas, he would step up to help BSP. After we were evicted from our former “Rent Free” storage space, he took on the challenge of finding another storage unit to rent, doing the paperwork, and organizing the move from Rossmoyne to Dillsburg. He also volunteered to help set up and to be the contact person for the BSP Mini Grant Program and has created a Facebook Page for us and posts very nice pictures from his active bluebird feeders, nest boxes, birdbaths and BSP events.

He can always be counted on to volunteer at the Farm Show and Garden Show, Wetlands Festival, Cabela’s and Audubon Field Days and to help with box building at these events every year. For the Ned Smith Event, held every year in July, he has been the BSP event chair for many years and has been helping with the box building activity there.

At home, Phil has done many woodworking projects to supplement the needs of the BSP, making feeders, PVC and slot boxes, and sparrow spookers. He has built various nest boxes for his many trails and workshops for children. Also on his list of woodcrafts are items for the conference auction- bat box, flying BB mobile, Mr. Bluebird slot box, and Uncle Sam flag holder.

His trails that he maintains and monitors include several Cumberland Valley District Schools

(3 trails of about 15 boxes each), a trail at an industrial park near I-81 on Wertzville Rd. (8 boxes), and at Armitage Golf Course (15 boxes). He has been a woodworker in demand for his sister-in-law, BSP County Coordinator Wilma Light, who runs box-building events and a BSP education booth at events in Westmoreland County.

Now that Phil is retired, he is finding even more ways to help the BSP and the Eastern Bluebirds!

Nominated by Nancy Putt

>> **BSP Awards for 2019 continues on page 20**



Phil Durgin with wife Susan, BSP Merchandise Manager

all arrangements/ contracts for food /conference room set-up. This is a very big undertaking, and he appreciates all of his friends in BSP who help him stay on task and work together on details involved hosting

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Letter of Commendation-BILL STRAUSS

Bill Strauss resides in Harrisburg, PA and has served as BSP County Coordinator for Dauphin County for many years. In a prior BSP position, he served in the position of Woodworking Chair. In this position, he recruited volunteer woodworkers to cut out individual nest box pieces and then organized a group of BSP volunteers to attend an event to package them as nest box kits or to assemble them as nest boxes. There is an ongoing need for nest boxes for bluebird trails and for nest box building events, and Bill handled that activity

commitment to their bluebird trails.

Bill is also skilled in woodworking, and he offers both material assistance and labor to set up bluebird trails in suitable locations to promote nesting success.

For all that he does for the bluebirds and for BSP, Bill Strauss is a worthy recipient of a BSP Award.

Nominated by Joan Watroba



Letter of Commendation-JAY SMULLEN

Jay Smullen is an energetic, 13- year- old who lives with his parents, Marcel and Jill, in Harrisburg along with his two brothers, Joe & Nick. Jay has had a keen interest in Bluebirds for about 4 years and has learned from his Dad and brothers on their own Bluebird projects. Also, Bill Strauss, has been a mentor to Jay and those two make a great team!

Jay currently monitors 3 Bluebird Trails in Dauphin County: Lenker Park Trail, Skyline Park Trail and Hershey Rose Gardens Bluebird Trail. Just this past spring and summer Jay and Bill totally “revamped” that Hershey Garden trail with new boxes, better locations and conduit pipe.

Jay has also helped with the installation of the Fort Halifax Park Bluebird trail (along with his brothers) plus he built many of the boxes that were placed there. Looking to the future – soon a new Bluebird Trail at Pheasant Hill Estate as Jay and Bill have constructed 25 boxes and this trail will be up and running. Jay has participated in multiple BSP Box-Building events the last couple of years, including Willow Valley Summer Grandchildren’s Camp - June 2019, PA Farm Show box-building event – Jan 2019, West Hanover Township Fall Festival, and Frontier Days at Fort Halifax Park.

Jay is active in Boy Scouts and is working toward an Eagle Scout Award. He is active in his church youth group, and he plays the piano. Jay is one amazing kid, and I am pleased to nominate him for a BSP Award in 2020.

Nominated by Dean C. Rust



Jay Smullen and Bill Strauss

with enthusiasm and efficiency when that was the only option to replenish the supply. Bill attends all BSP Board/Membership Meetings and contributes his time and energy to activities which support the mission of the goals of the Bluebird Society of PA.

Bill is actively involved in educational outreach to motivate others to provide suitable nesting opportunities for bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting songbirds. He volunteers at many events at the BSP booth, and he also assists with nest-box building activities offered to people of all ages in Dauphin County and in surrounding counties in PA.

Bill understands the importance of getting young people involved in bluebird conservation activities and he has assisted many young people to set up, monitor, and rehab many bluebird trails. His patient, kind personality is a quality which motivates and encourages new bluebird landlords of all ages to learn about bluebirds and their nesting and habitat needs. They respond to his mentoring by demonstrating their

BSP Awards for 2019 continues from page 20

Blue Feather Award-NANCY FRAIM

REASONS FOR THIS NOMINATION:

1. During her teaching career in the Downingtown School District, Nancy developed a program of avian education, centering on Eastern Bluebirds, and taught it to all fourth graders. In this program she explained the nesting cycle of bluebirds and how to help them with nest boxes. Nancy got permission to install nest boxes on several Downingtown elementary school-grounds. She took students to these nest boxes and instructed them on the proper way to monitor. After school closed for the summer, she monitored (and still does) these nest boxes herself.



Nancy Fraim

2. The implementation of RING cameras in some of the nest boxes enabled students to watch, while inside the classroom, the process of bluebird nest-building, egg-laying, incubation, and feeding of nestlings.

3. Nancy has also helped several BSP members install and activate RING cameras at their homes and other locations. I am one of the beneficiaries of her expertise on RING systems which utilize WiFi signals.
4. Nancy accepted the position of BSP Membership Chair when Joanne Slavinski retired. Nancy then proceeded to update all membership records and initiate new outreach capability. She has established a "quick and easy" system of "Membership Renewal Reminders." Our membership numbers have been rising since Nancy Fraim took over this position.
5. Nancy is an active "County Coordinator" in Chester County. She reaches out to those who need help with bluebirds. She also shares the monitoring of Simpson Meadows Retirement Community with her "Co-County Coordinator, Marilyn Michalski.
6. Nancy is an accomplished speaker who has produced several top-quality bluebird Talks. Most recently, she presented a "Bluebird Talk" via ZOOM, for the Chester County Library System and Longwood Gardens. A total of 117 individuals signed up for this hour-long program.
7. Nancy is an expert on the Monarch Butterfly; she cultivates Milkweed plants at her home, and she has a talk on Monarchs and presents it upon request.
8. Nancy is active in the outreach to Junior Members – she created a variety of activities which are available for use. At a recent Bluebird Conference, she and Marilyn set up an assembly line, and interested BSP members could "build" a container of "Bluebird Suet" and take it home.
1. Nancy is a proactive, creative, knowledgeable, helpful, and dedicated individual in the BSP.

I cannot think of any other person who so well deserves a Blue Feather Award!

Nominated by Marilyn Michalski



Bluebird Society of PA Membership Form

Regular/Family (16-64yrs)	Senior/Couples (65+)	Organization/Corporate	Lifetime
1 year -\$15	1 year - \$12	1 year -\$100	\$375
3 years-\$40	3 years -\$30	3 years -\$275	

***When you Renew for 3 years, you can take advantage of our discounted rates shown above!**

*** See BSP website for Junior Membership opportunities.**

Mail to:
Bluebird Society of PA
P.O. Box 12
Exton, PA 19341

New Member Renewal Donation

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone No.: _____ (required in case newsletter is undeliverable)

E-mail Address: _____ (required if questions or e-mailed delivery of Newsletter)

Donation (optional): \$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

If you are a new member, have you received your new membership packet? Yes No

How would you like to receive your newsletter? Regular mail E-mail

Please tell us how you learned about us: _____

- I would like to help with:
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> Nestbox Monitoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nestbox Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers' Bureau | <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Show (Jan) | <input type="checkbox"/> BSP Conference (April) |

OFFICIAL USE ONLY: Check No. _____ Renewal year: _____



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BSP RENEWAL DATES/Address Changes - Please check your mailing label on your regular mailed copy to see your renewal date. You can renew for one year or for multiple years, which will provide a discount. Both e-mail and regular mail members will also receive a letter by regular mail notifying of your renewal date. *If you need to update your mailing address or your email address, please send changes to: BSP • P.O. Box 12 • Exton, PA 19341 or email: nancyfrain@comcast.net



Please submit your nesting data for 2021 and nominate a special Bluebirder for a BSP Award by 12/31/21.

The Annual Nest Box Report Form and the BSP Award Nomination Form are both included with this issue and are also posted on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

Share Your love of Bluebirds with Others!

A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO BSP is the perfect gift for a special person in your life.

It will bring them the seasonal publication, Bluebird Trails and Tales, and will deliver Bluebird Joy and Happiness to them all year long.

A Membership Form appears in this issue and is also available on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org



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