



The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

AN AFFILIATE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

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*Dr. Dean C. Rust,
BSP President*

A Message from the President

Golf courses can be havens for all sorts of interesting wildlife, especially Bluebirds.

Golfers often say they enjoy seeing birds and other wildlife on the courses they play. Golf courses provide a valuable and landscaped greenspace for people to enjoy the sport they love while walking or golf carting in an outdoor habitat. Birds are particularly visible residents of golf courses and few are more attention-grabbing than the EABL. The Eastern Bluebird prefers to nest and forage in areas at the intersection of forest and field. Manicured golf courses, of which there are around 15,000 in the US, with juxtaposed fairways and trees, are prime real estate for Bluebird homes (nests).

It is mid-January and I am already anticipating another season of Bluebird monitoring activity on my trails. One of my goals is to FLEDGE 1,000 Bluebirds in one nesting season—2019 could be the year? Three of my favorite BB trails are located on golf courses: Lancaster Country Club (LCC), Hershey Country Club and Spring Creek Golf Course in Hershey. I want to share with you why these BB trails are “A-Listers” for me and encourage you to research a golf



course bluebird trail in your area very soon.

As you may or may not know, the number of golf courses in the US hit a high-watermark in 2009 of 16,052 courses. Since that time many courses have closed over the past decade due to fewer and fewer people playing golf! Currently the number of courses is around 15,372. In 2010 the LCC gained Audubon Sanctuary Program certification and one important criteria was to have a BB trail with yearly monitoring reports. That is the year

I started weekly checks on the LCC trail. The club also posts photos in the clubhouse golf shop and writes articles about their BB trail in their monthly newsletter. They have had local newspaper articles about their BB trail success which is good public relations for them. Their members know they are interested in ecology as well as golf. And many members have also added Bluebird boxes at their own properties as a result of the LCC BB trail.

One of the reasons I like BB trails

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on golf courses is the natural beauty of golf courses in the spring and summer. The fairways and greens are mowed short and the grass is lush and green. The spring flowering trees and shrubs come alive each year to add color. With daily metered irrigation systems, there is rarely any dryness observed. I often remark facetiously, “even though I am a weekly volunteer - I would probably pay to monitor this golf course each Monday morning”. The Lancaster Country Club is closed on Mondays and it is a great time to make my rounds on 400+ acres with only their maintenance staff on the course. On special Mondays there are Golf Outings and I must respect foursomes of golfers all over the 18 hole expanse.

Secondly, so many more people can witness Bluebirds nesting and foraging for insects on a golf course BB trail. Many golfers each day see firsthand Bluebirds flying to boxes and perching all around the course. On an average day golf courses may have 50+ foursomes scheduled for tee times – that is 200 or more golfers who may see your Bluebirds. Special holiday tournaments may bring even more golfers, caddies and fans. In 2015 at the LCC, which hosted the US Women’s Open, 135,000 fans toured the golf course over a one week period. The staff at a golf club are very courteous and helpful because they know what a blessing it is to have a BB trail and Bluebirds as golf course greeters. When I think of my other BB trails at state parks, churches, schools, local city parks, athletic fields, etc. — most days I rarely see anyone visiting.

Thirdly, electric golf carts are always available. A cart can carry my



tool bag, extra boxes, conduit, coffee or iced drink, boots, 5 gallon bucket for trash, Noel guards, baffles, camera and notebook. Most of these golf carts have roofs and windshields which really help on rainy and hot days. I can



mount my Bluebird Patrol sign on the cart. Whether the trail is 9, 18 or 36 holes, a golf cart facilitates the process and keeps me organized. I get the job done quicker which really helps on hot humid days in June & July. Traveling from one box to another with speed is refreshing on those hot days!! And I don’t have to pay to play!!

Fourthly, box placement on golf courses is easy. Today’s golf courses have “no-mow” areas of fescue grasses that are great areas for box placement. They do mow these areas but only 3 or 4 times per year. Areas of rough or taller grass along fairways is a good

location or behind the tee box. Almost any location on a golf course is a good choice—a word of caution here: do NOT place a box on a green or anywhere close to a green or 20 yards right in front of a tee box. You will not be popular if you do and may be invited immediately to meet with the golf course Superintendent!!

Finally, golf course BB trails are relaxing and calming. There is no score card and no bad shots or lost balls in the water, tall grass or woods. No reason to be upset with your game because every day is a Bluebird Day when you are a monitor and “Life is good”. People will want to tag along with you in the cart and they will see, learn and experience more about Bluebirds than they could ever imagine in two short hours. I invite you to give a golf course BB trail a try—you will NOT be disappointed.

Bluebird on <><><>

Dean C. Rust, DDS President of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania/
Spring 2019

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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.

WE NEED YOU

The Officers and Board members of this great organization feel strongly about the above statements. It probably goes without saying that the BSP membership also feel the same way. Whether you monitor a trail, interact with other Bluebirders, build your own boxes, or provide educational activities, consider sharing your experience and knowledge by serving on the Board of Directors of the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania. Serving on the Board gives you the opportunity to support and promote our mission, provide your personal experiences, valuable ideas and perspectives regarding the direction of the BSP, and to forge new relationships.

You will also enjoy working with a vibrant and dedicated group of individuals. We have a number of openings for Board positions beginning next year. If you feel that you want to contribute your time, knowledge and experiences regarding Bluebirds, please consider this offer as a nominee to the Board.

If you want to learn more about the BSP and serving on the Board, please do not hesitate to contact me. Looking forward to hearing from you!

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Wonderful Web Site

Here is a wonderful web site from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It includes Resources for Educators, how to select the correct nest box for specific songbird species, and also includes other useful tips to observe and report your nesting data: <https://nestwatch.org/>

Download nest box plans for your region and habitat.

Vintage Bluebird



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Dorene Scriven

Dorene Scriven, renowned Minnesota bluebirder and author of the comprehensive guidebook, "Bluebird Trails, a Guide to Success" passed away on June 25th, 2018. Dorene had been a featured speaker at one of our annual conferences, and was one of the founders of the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota. She was an enthusiastic educator who shared her knowledge of bluebirds with everyone she met. We are sad to learn of her passing, but her contributions to promote bluebird education will continue.

Volunteer for the Wyomissing Bluebird Project

Thanks, Bill Strauss for submitting a copy of a wonderful article which he received from a friend along with his Christmas card. It appeared in the Reading Eagle on December 5, 2018. It is an inspiring story about Kitty Heist of Wyomissing, who has dedicated herself to providing suitable housing for Eastern Bluebirds in the Wyomissing, PA's Park System for

35 years. Here is the full story, which demonstrates how just one person can be so instrumental in helping the bluebirds: <https://www.readingeagle.com/life/article/wyomissing-resident-dedicated-to-bringingbluebirds-to-the-park>
To volunteer with Wyomissing's Bluebird Project, e-mail Borough Secretary, Marti Hozey at: mhozey@wyomissingboro.org

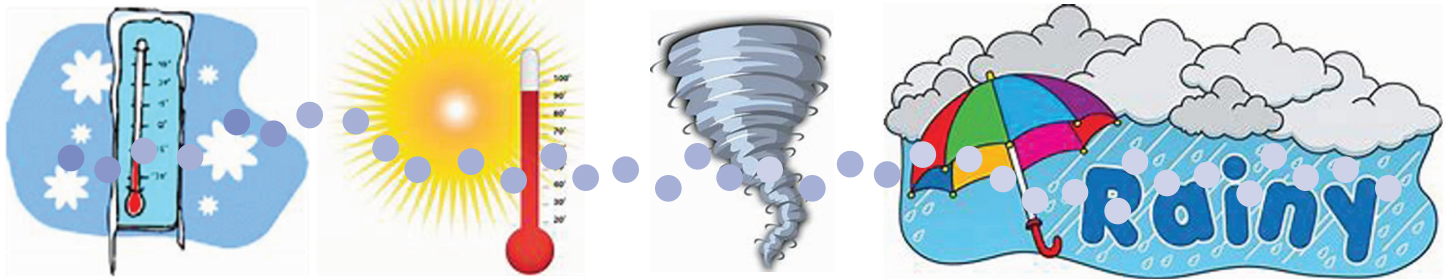
Lunchtime in Chester County 12/06/18



photo by Nancy Fraim

From the Editor

Joan Watroba, Editor



The 2018 nesting season was influenced by extreme weather which brought record highs, record lows, record heat waves, and a record amount of rain. Whether it is due to global warming caused by human activities or natural, predictable climate change which occurs in cycles, it is having an effect on the nesting of songbirds. The abc27 weather Almanac which tracked the weather patterns for southcentral PA in 2018 outlines the severe weather swings as shown below:

What's a bluebird or bluebird monitor to do?

On my bluebird trails, the bluebird nesting season started later than usual and ended earlier.

When it did start, there was more competition for nest boxes from other native songbird species such as Tree Swallows and House Wrens. It seems that they all started their nesting activity at the same time. In past years, the Chickadees start their activity first, followed by the Bluebirds, then the Tree

Swallows and then the House Wrens when they return a little later in the Spring. I only had one second nesting of bluebirds in the same nest box this past year. Maybe they were worn out after their first brood fledged.

Bluebirds need to perform many activities to promote a successful nesting result. They need to collect dry nesting material- dried grass or pine needles, and the excessive rain seemed to slow down the completion of their nests. I also found more

January

- Record Low- New Year's Day... -2°
- January 4... +1°

February

- Record High...77° on February 20
- All-time warmest February
- 79° on February 21
- 5th warmest February on record
- 5th wettest February on record

March

Record daily snowfall

- 11.9" on March 21
- 4th biggest March snowstorm March 20-21

- 3rd biggest spring snowstorm March 20-21-14.1"

April

- Record snow-3.9' on April 2nd
- Tied record snow-trace on April 17th
- 6th snowiest April on record

May

- Tied record high 90° on May 3rd

July

- Wettest July on record-12.09"

August

- 2nd wettest meteorological summer (June-August) 21.37"

September

- Warmest September mean low temperature on record...63.7°
- 10th warmest September
- 11th wettest September

October

- Largest number of tornadoes ever recorded in October across PA...14
- 4th largest single day tornado outbreak for PA
- Temperatures 15-20 degrees warmer than average

From the Editor continued from page 5



photo by Nancy Frain

incomplete, abandoned nests and unhatched eggs of all songbird species than in previous years. Songbirds also need to find a steady supply of food for themselves and their young, and the main source of food for their young is insects. Torrential rain can greatly reduce the activity of insects, especially flying insects.

For the bluebird monitor, it was a challenge to conduct weekly nest box checks due to torrential rain and excessive heat. For nest boxes in wet habitats, I wore my knee-high rubber boots. In the previous Fall, I had gathered a large bag of dry pine needles and placed a handful of them in several nest boxes. This provided some

insulation from the cold for birds roosting in the nest boxes over the winter. Some of the birds used the pine needles as a base to construct their nests. I also provided supplemental food, including dried mealworms and the homemade peanut butter suet mixture during prolonged days of cold and wet weather.

For more information about how Global Warming is affecting birds, check out:

[https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/c;o,ate-change/effects-of-climate-change-on-birds](https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/c/o,ate-change/effects-of-climate-change-on-birds)

Joan Watroba
Joan Watroba
Editor

*An Invitation to BSP Junior Members from Marilyn Michalski and Nancy Frain

At the upcoming 2019 Bluebird Conference (April 26 & 27, 2019) we invite **BSP Junior Members** to attend a **Bluebird Project** on Saturday, April 27th. This Bluebird Project will enable Junior members to make something special for Eastern Bluebirds – and it's not a nest box. It will be a "take-home" item they will prepare at our **Junior Project** on Saturday, April 27th. The program will start after lunch.

This **Junior Project** is a "hands-on" event and will take about one-half hour to complete. It is FREE to all Juniors. WHAT IS IT?

We won't keep you in suspense any longer: We are going to make a large batch of **BLUEBIRD SUET**. Every Junior Member at the Conference can participate. At the end of the project each Junior Member will take home a small container of the suet – for giving to bluebirds at home. This is going to be FUN!

BSP Junior members pay only \$15 for entry to the 2019 Bluebird Conference.

This Project is a Free Event to Registered Junior Members.

Note: Your parents need to register you for the BSP Conference. We will send you a separate e-mail in a few

weeks to remind you of this Junior Member Project. Note: If your e-mail has changed, please let us know at emeraldmm@verizon.net We hope you will attend! We look forward to meeting you and sharing bird stories!

*** Please note that we will be using peanuts and peanut butter in the suet recipe, so please do not participate if you have any peanut allergies.**

Marilyn Michalski
and Nancy Frain

Pennsylvania Farm Show 2019 - January 5 - 12 *by Nancy Putt, Event Chair*

Another year at the Farm Show for BSP has been wrapped up, and all went very well, including the weather.

We enjoyed answering questions and talking to everyone about bluebirds and how to discourage their enemy, the house sparrow.

very involved with educating people about bluebirds, and Jay was very helpful with the box building event on Thursday, January 10.



photos by Nancy Putt

A total of 64 new members joined the Bluebird Society of PA this year, and we welcome them all into our family. Many did purchase a nest box kit with hopes of attracting bluebirds. With all of the information gained from our booklet and coming newsletters, they will surely be good landlords to our favorite birds.

Our booth is always popular! I want to thank everyone who helped out at the Farm Show. Special thanks go to Bill Strauss, County Coordinator for Dauphin County, as he filled in as needed and contacted numerous volunteers from his county and also signed up 6 new volunteers.

Our youngest volunteers, Jay Smullen and John Shemwell were



Someone from the Plowman cider brewery gave this bottle of "Bluebird Day" cider today, and took our pictures with the bottle!

Thanks to our 45 Volunteers:
 Bill Strauss • Dale Cook • Philip & Susan Durgin • Cindy Self • Michelle Zandome • David Price • Bill Cuppett • Dave & Barb Cox • Nancy & Joseph Fraim • Joyce & Steven Shemwell • Dianne Kripas • Debra & Loren Carman • Chuck & Bonnie Musser • Dean & Shirley Rust • Richard & Joyce Covey • John Woodward • Jim & Darlene Crone • Bill Frantz • John & Susan Wesley • Anita Culp • Debra Hershey • Carol McCall • B. Fagt, Jay Smullen • Peter & Denise Reinhart • Terry & Sandy Gerhart • Joan Watroba • Doris Hoffman • Kelly Peck • Wilma Light • Joyce & Carl Stuff • Marilyn Michalski • Ken Leister • and Nancy Putt.

Nancy Putt, Event Chair

A Few Hints for Bluebird Presentations

by Andrea Wyman, BSP County Coordinator, Erie County

Have you ever been asked to give a talk about bluebirds but weren't sure where to begin or how to put a presentation together or even what to present?

I remember my first bluebird talk very well because I was so nervous, and I was also wondering if anyone would show up. That first talk was back in 1998 at a small public library in southwestern Pennsylvania. I had moved to that part of Pennsylvania and encountered bluebirds for the first time when I bought a farm where there were already bluebird boxes. Driving up the driveway with the real estate agent, a whole family of six or eight bluebirds was there to greet me, chattering away, and I was charmed on the spot and became a dedicated bluebirder!

By 1998, 18 more boxes had been added and I gave one or two presentations starting that year and continue to this day. Last Spring I was asked by the local library to give presentations to the five branches of the Erie County Public Library. As scheduling would have it, I gave three talks: Edinboro Branch Library in Edinboro, Millcreek Branch Library in Erie and Fairview Branch Library in Fairview. All totaled, I spoke to 45+ adults and children and each of the branches was pleased with the turnout.

For those who are new to giving presentations, I thought I might provide information about the talks just in case it would be helpful for new BSP County Coordinators. The



library director and I had learned from previous years that the timing of the talks that worked best was for late March into mid-April. Any later than that and people have become too busy with yard work or spring activities.

The Introduction

Many years ago, NABS would send out sets of slides for presenters to use in slide projectors. Now with the Internet, they've become obsolete. But the very first thing I do is explain my affiliation with BSP as County Coordinator and have a slide and handout with BSP contact information. Then I usually ask people if they have bluebird boxes up in their yards or if anyone monitors boxes to get a feel for the audience. I like to talk about the joy and beauty that the bluebirds bring with their courting, pairing and the fastidious care they take of their babies.

The following hints describe some of the things I have learned over the years:

1. The More Pictures the Better!

Quite a while ago, I put together a PowerPoint presentation and update it each year because there are always new pictures to add. I've

even incorporated some YouTube clips as well and the one where it shows about 30 bluebirds flying up to window feeder filled with mealworms is definitely a favorite. There are also a couple of clips that I've used to show nest building, wing-waving, and BSP President, Dean Rust demonstrating how to incorporate a skylight in a box lid to keep away house sparrows. The one picture that got the most attention was when I had a slide of predators for bluebird boxes and it showed a snake very skillfully slithering right up a pole. That always produces a gasp!

2. Take Stuff for Show & Tell

One item I try and take is an example of a Peterson bluebird box because the shape is so different from the traditional box along with a slide showing other types of nesting boxes. I also bring along a little stuffed bluebird that can make bluebird calls. Their call is so cheerful and so lyrical that it can really draw people into dedication to a bluebird commitment. I find that children in the audience are usually fascinated and like to squeeze the stuffed bird to make the bird call.

Two books I usually bring along are *The Bluebird Book* by Donald and Lillian Stokes and Lawrence Zeleny's *The Bluebird* and, of course, I mention that more material is also available on the BSP website as well as the NABS website. When I was monitoring the eighteen boxes on the farm, I kept a journal and I leave that out with the other things so that people can have an idea of what can be recorded from season to season along

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A Few Hints for Bluebird Presentations continued from page 8

by Andrea Wyman, BSP County Coordinator, Erie County

with the map I made showing the location of all the boxes.

A few mealworms in a sandwich bag are always a good idea, too, because it has been surprising for me to see how many people do not know what real, dried mealworms look like. I always mention, as well, that the mealworms are available at places like Wild Birds Unlimited, Lowes, and Tractor Supply and even online. A couple of seasons ago, I had ordered some live mealworms and I brought those to a presentation. That was clearly an eye-opener as the attendees, all during the talk, could hear the mealworms crawling around in the bag!

3. Provide Handouts

Usually the library helps out with photocopying whatever handouts I make available, so that helps with the expense. But some of the examples of handouts that I provide are a sheet with the BSP address and NASB website information and even BSP membership applications. I also take a handout with "how to" instructions for building a one-board bluebird box and the best height for mounting the box. I make sure my contact information is on the handouts and after my session at the library, interestingly, I have had people call me later into the season with questions.

I've also made bluebird bookmarks and taken in old nests to show. And I definitely take back-issues of the BSP newsletter. At the last talk, I brought a poster I purchased through NABS and that was

a big hit along with some coloring pages for the little ones.

4. Be Prepared for Questions You Might Not Have Answers To

One question I routinely get asked has to do with why house sparrow nests can be removed from bluebird boxes, but others cannot. And then there are the questions about what direction the opening should face

point of vigilance to clear out the box after a fledge. When I do get a question that I don't know how to answer, however, I sometimes turn to the Zeleny or Stokes book or throw the question to BSP or NABS. I've worked on a question or two after a talk and then contacted people much later as well.

Conclusion

The way I finish a talk can depend entirely on the crowd. I always make sure people have contact information either for me or for BSP or NABS. The people who have come to these talks are truly dedicated to bluebird survival so I just want to make sure they have the right support services regardless of whether or not they're new to bluebirding or seasoned veterans. At the end, I linger with all my regalia completely available for people to look at and review; books, boxes, mealworms, fuzzy bird to push. A few pick up a bluebird box pattern or maybe check out the poster. It's a time that opens up for conversations for how many active bluebird boxes they already have or what their

future plans are for their property and bluebirds for the summer. Regardless, it's always an enjoyable experience. My jitters about talking to every group are usually over and we begin talking as though we might be neighbors. But our common denominator is to the health of the bluebird population and that's the best part of all...to see all the people so dedicated to bluebird health and longevity.



Bluebird Poster by Roberta Lee

and how to get rid of blowflies. If you're going out to speak for BSP, the Fall 2018 newsletter would be a good issue to take because people always ask how many nests can a pair of bluebirds have in one box in a season.

Carole Walsh's article in issue three (Fall, 2018) is a wonderful success story with their watching three fledges from the same box. And the article brings home the

A Bluebird of a Different Color *by Nancy Fraim*

May 25, 2018 would prove to be a very exciting day for my husband and me. We began monitoring Bluebird boxes at Boot Road Park in West Chester, Pennsylvania the way we usually do, starting with box number one. Upon opening box number two, we discovered two white-tufted and three black-tufted newborn Bluebirds. The eye area of the white-tufted newborns was flesh-colored, not dark like their siblings. At first, we thought that another species might have laid two extra eggs in the nest box. Upon closer examination, we saw that the newborns resembled their clutch-mates in bill shape, head size and body size. These were, in fact, Bluebirds!

Time would tell if these newborns could possibly be albinos. Not being able to find anything on the internet about albino newborns, I began visiting the nest box every two days in order to document their growth. By day five the unusual newborns had pinprick dark spots going down their spines as well as up their wings. Day seven revealed the eruption of pinfeathers. The regular nestlings had greyish fuzz on their sides while the lighter ones remained bald. By day nine, a few white feather sheaths exposed cream colored feathers while the other birds' feathers were dark blue. When I opened the box on day 14, I was met with two pairs of pink eyes and sand-colored, spotted feathers. The other nest-mates exhibited dark eyes and dark feathers. It was evident that we were witnessing an unusual group of

nestlings. On day 16, I noted a difference between the two light-colored birds. One was cream colored with white speckles on its chest, while the other was slightly darker with light tinges of blue on both the tail and wing feathers. Both birds' legs, bills and feet remained flesh-toned while its siblings' were dark. Day 21 would be the last time my babies would be photographed. When the box was checked on day 22, it was empty; all that remained was a well-used nest.

The big question was would these parents nest again? We quickly learned the answer; yes! On July 18, I found one white-tufted newborn and three normal-colored Bluebirds in a different nest box within the same park.

Research suggests that there are two types of "white" abnormalities; one is albinism and the other is leucism. Both are inherited genetic traits. In both cases, parents must carry the recessive gene even though they may or may not exhibit the trait. Albinism is rarer than leucism, occurring only once in every 1,764 avian births (Miller, 2010).

In albinos, melanin is completely inactive. The albino shows no color in its feathers. The legs, feet and bill will be pale while the eyes will be pink or reddish.

Leucism affects only the birds' feathers, and typically only those with melanin pigment; usually the dark feathers. A leucistic bird with different colors may show some colors brightly, especially red, orange, or yellow, while feathers that should be brown or black are

pale or white. Their skin eyes, legs, feet and bills exhibit normal colors. (Mayntz, 2018)

Albinos rarely live past fledging. The lack of melanin pigment causes weakened feathers that reflect sunlight rather than absorbing it, resulting in an increased risk of hypothermia (Tickell, 2003). The pink-eyed albinos often have poor eyesight and are sensitive to the ultraviolet rays of the sun (Smith, 2013). Lacking the protective coloration of its species, albinos make easy prey for predators (Smith, 2013).

In addition, albino males and females are often rejected by mates, decreasing their chances for reproduction (Smith, 2013).

As a layman, lacking a strong background in Biology, I can only try to interpret the research. What I did find is that even the experts often do not agree on a precise definition of albinism and leucism. That is not what is important. What is, is that I was able to witness these incredible birds' growth. Odds are against my little fledglings' survival; however, nothing would make my heart sing more than to see these remarkable birds return to nest in the park next spring.

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A Bluebird of a Different Color *by Nancy Fraim*



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PHOTOS

Photo 1: The male and female parents of the unusual babies

Photo 2: Two white-tufted babies and three black-tufted

Photo 3: White-tipped feathers emerge from sheaths

Photo 4: Reddish/pink eyes indicative of an albino

Photo 5: Two light colored newborns are slightly different; one sand colored, the other exhibiting tinges of blue

Photo 6: Two babies with normal coloration and two with light coloration

Photo 7: Last picture before fledging.

All photos by Nancy Fraim

Joanne Slavinski Receives Special Service Award in 2018

On 10/25/18 at the BSP Board Meeting, Joanne Slavinski was presented with a Special Service Award for her many years of service to BSP. Joanne has served as BSP Membership Chair, BSP Mascot (Blue Belle) has handled the Annual Conference Registration activities and also the BSP Mail distribution since the incorporation of BSP in May of 1998.

Joanne is relocating to Virginia to be closer to her family members, and we wish her much happiness in her new surroundings. Her new home has a very large yard, and many places to set up a bluebird trail.



Joanne Slavinski (left) is the recipient of the Special Service Award, presented by Shirley Halk, BSP Award Chair. BSP also honors Joanne for her many years of Service to BSP with a BSP Lifetime Membership.

BSP Newsletter Submission Contest

The BSP Newsletter Committee is very excited 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, and field observations, we will be able to offer a wider variety of articles and materials which are of interest to our readers.

Contest Rules:

1. Your entry can be a general question or article about bluebirds or other nature topics, a write-up about something that you observed in your yard or on your trail, an original poem, a trail monitoring tip, or any non-copyrighted material. Please send copies only of printed materials or PDF's/word documents of electronic submissions and jpeg files of photos.

2. To submit by regular mail, write: Attn: Newsletter Submission Contest on the front of the envelope and send to: BSP, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756

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

One submission will be randomly drawn at the cut-off date for each newsletter edition, and the person whose entry was randomly picked will have their choice of any item offered in the BSP Merchandise Store -website: www.thebsp.org

4. The latest date to submit items is the following:

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

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

Congratulations! Spring Newsletter Submission Contest Winner – Nancy Fraim

Please select an item from the BSP Store at www.thebsp.org and then contact Joan Watroba, Newsletter Editor at 717-766-2102 or e-mail her at bluebirdhappy365@outlook.com for delivery of your prize.

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania Financial Report 2018

Submitted by Joyce Stuff, BSP Treasurer

Revenue

Store.....	\$ 1,024.00
Membership Fees.....	9,372.50
Donations.....	901.60
Speaker Income.....	990.00
Fundraising.....	2,226.50
Woodworking.....	2,869.00
Conference.....	4,266.25
Total Revenue.....	\$21,649.85

Expenses

Administration.....	\$ 2,722.44
Store.....	602.57
Membership.....	2,661.89
Fundraising.....	189.67
Woodworking.....	4,897.39
Annual Conference.....	6,825.44
Education.....	557.19
BSP Newsletter.....	3,563.94
County Coordinator.....	94.00
Research.....	330.69
Total Expenses.....	\$22,445.22

BSP Financial Statement Summary for 2018

Checking Account Balance.....	12/31/17	\$41,453.88
2018 Revenue.....		+21,649.85
2018 Expenses.....		-22,445.22
Checking Account Balance.....	12/31/18	\$40,658.51
Certificate of Deposit Balance.....	12/31/18	+10,550.14
Cash On Hand (store cash box).....		+ 100.00
Total Cash Assets.....	12/31/18	\$51,308.65

2018 Bureau of State Parks Cavity Nesting Summary Report

Thanks to Teresa A. Kromel, Chief Outdoor Programming Services Division for sharing the 2018 Bureau of State Parks Cavity-Nesting Trails Summary Report with BSP. We want to share a condensed version of her report with our members:

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff, 45 state parks monitored 1,757 boxes and fledged a total of 6,590 birds, including eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, purple martins, American kestrels, and several other species. This slight decrease in fledgling numbers, compared to 2017, is likely due to the extremely wet weather across the state during most of the breeding season. Since the program's beginning in 1980, volunteers have fledged over 133,000 individual birds and over 19 species.

This year's annual Cavity-nesting Monitors Meeting was held on Saturday, September 29, 2018 at the Wildlife Center at Sinnemahoning State Park in Austin, PA. Gary L. Campbell, also known as "Soupy," was awarded the 2018 Monitor of the Year. Over the past 13 years, Gary has monitored and maintained nest boxes at Oil Creek State Park, provided suggestions on how to improve the cavity nesting program, and kept the park aware of maintenance issues with the poles and boxes. According to park staff, when you see Soupy while he's working with the nesting boxes he'll give a big friendly wave and always has a kind word when you talk with him. We would like to thank Gary for his dedication to the Cavity-nesting Trails Program at Oil Creek State Park.

Feel free to contact Carly Broder (cbroder@pa.gov, 717-783-3344) with any questions or concerns related to your trail.

Partial Summary of Native Songbirds Fledged in PA State Parks

Eastern Bluebirds.....	1916
Tree Swallow.....	2622
House Wren.....	1393
Chickadee.....	157
Purple Martin.....	313
American Kestrel.....	5

Editor's Note: Many BSP members monitor nesting boxes within PA State Parks. If you would like to volunteer in 2019, please contact: Carly Broder (cbroder@pa.gov, 717-783-3344)

Upcoming Events

MARK YOUR CALENDAR — PLAN TO ATTEND!

2019 Membership/Board Meeting Dates:

April 23, 2019 (Tuesday-6: 00 P.M.)

July 25, 2019 (Thursday-6:00 P.M.)

Oct 24, 2019 (Thursday-6:00 P.M.)

Location:

**Giant Conference Center Upstairs Community Room
Camp Hill Shopping Center 3301 E. Trindle Road**

All BSP Members are invited to attend board meetings to learn about upcoming BSP activities and events and to share your ideas about a variety of issues related to bluebird conservation. If you cannot attend the meetings in person, we can arrange for you to attend via conference call. Contact Dean Rust, BSP President to make arrangements to join BSP meetings by phone right from your home. Dean's contact number 717-669-0167 e-mail Dean at: july7ds@aol.com
Come join us at our meetings.

Saturday March 16, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Bluebird Box Building

Cabela's Store-Hamburg, PA
(upstairs conference room)
100 Cabela Drive
Hamburg, PA 19526

<https://www.cabelas.com/stores/Pennsylvania/Hamburg>

Stop by and visit us today and learn how you can attract bluebirds to your property. The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania will be on hand with seminars and information about these beautiful birds which are beneficial to the environment and in need of nesting boxes. The Society is very excited about bringing their building booth to the store which will enable kids to build their very own bluebird house which they can then mount in their backyard and start attracting bluebirds. We look forward to seeing our members at this event-Bring children or grandchildren to this fun event. To find out more, or to volunteer, contact Dean Rust: july7ds@aol.com or call 717-669-016

April 26-27, 2019 -

The 21st Annual BSP Conference

Location:

Toftrees Resort in State College, PA

<https://www.toftrees.co>

The BSP Annual conference offers excellent speakers, demonstrations, vendors and an opportunity to learn from, and socialize with people who share your love of bluebirds and enjoy the wonders of the natural world. A special mailing regarding the conference, including registration information, speaker bios, and itinerary was sent out to all active BSP members in early February. Registration Forms and Itinerary are also posted on the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

BSP has reserved a block of rooms at the Toftrees Resort at a group rate, so please let them know that you are attending the BSP Conference when you reserve your lodging.

Friday evening

7- 8 p.m. Build a BSP nest box, bird feeder, or predator guard to take home. BSP will provide the materials.

Scheduled Conference Speakers:

Friday Evening

Ken Leister - The Basics of Monitoring a Bluebird Nest Box

Saturday

Wayne Laubscher -The Falcons of Clinton and Lycoming Counties

Robyn Graboski from Centre Wildlife Care will speak about the important work of Wildlife Rehabilitation caring for injured, orphaned, sick, and displaced wildlife with the goal of releasing them back in the wild.

Harry Schneider will entertain and inform us with his extensive knowledge and love of Bluebirds during his beautiful bluebird program, The Fledgling Experience.

Mailbag



From: James Steffy
 Hello Dr. Rust,
 Subject: **Mother's Bluebirds**

My name is Jim Steffy. I live over in Highland Acres. My brother purchased your book "The Beloved and Charismatic Bluebird" for my soon-to-be 87 year old mother who lives in Landisville, for Christmas. Mother currently

has 12 bluebirds feeding several times a day at her feeder. They are like ghosts in that they seem to materialize out of thin air seconds after suet and meal worms fill the feeder 5 feet outside the kitchen door. My mom delights in the show they put on for guests at her kitchen window as they line up on the overhead telephone wire and wait (sometimes) their turn to get their share of the fare. We have all gained new insight as a result of the bounty of information in your book.

Thanks!! Sincerely, Jim Steffy

From: Dean Rust
 To Joan Watroba
 Subject: Mother's Bluebirds

Joan, Once in awhile one gets an unexpected e-mail that is both heartwarming and encouraging. What is really special is when you do not know the person who sent it. I hope you can find a spot in The Mail Bag for this e-mail. It proves that an 87 year old can have fun with Bluebirds just outside of her kitchen all the year 'round and share them with others.

Dean

November 13, 2018

Dear Joan Watroba-I must announce the passing away of my father, Robert E. Early, on the eighth of November. You may remember that you wrote about him in your Summer 2017 issue. He always enjoyed talking about his bluebirds and even inspired others to take an interest in them. One of your newsletters was left on his bookcase, and when I looked for it after his death, I could not find it. What was heartwarming was that one of his aides had colored on the bluebird picture, and I can only imagine that he had given the

newsletter to her to keep. Always a champion for the bluebird to the end, he made arrangements for donations to be made to the BSP in lieu of flowers. He was buried at Ft. Indiantown Gap, where I know there are many bluebird boxes. He will be surrounded and watched over by his many blue friends in his final resting place.

Sincerely, Patty Early
 (Bob Early's daughter)

Editor's Note: Bob Early was age 95 when he passed, and has been an inspiration to us since the formation of the Bluebird Society of PA. His

sense of humor and passion for the bluebirds was very inspiring, and he remained an active member of BSP until his death. He even named BSP to receive donations in lieu of flowers, and for that we are grateful that he continues to support BSP education, for which the funds will be used. To read more about Bob's dedication to bluebirds, go to the BSP web site: www.thebsp.org

On the main page, select More... then select Past Newsletters from the dropdown box. Select the Summer 2017 issue, View story about Bob Early on Page 12.

2019 BSP County Coordinators Ken Leister, State County Coordinator - kenapeg@aol.com

BSP Thanks the members who volunteer to be a contact person regarding bluebirds and their nesting needs within their counties. If you have a question about bluebirds or wish to volunteer with bluebird activities in your county, please contact the County Coordinator in your county. Note that there are a few counties which do not currently have a County Coordinator. If you would like to learn more about the BSP County Coordinator program, please contact Ken Leister, State County Coordinator at : kenapeg@aol.com or call him at 610-696-5271

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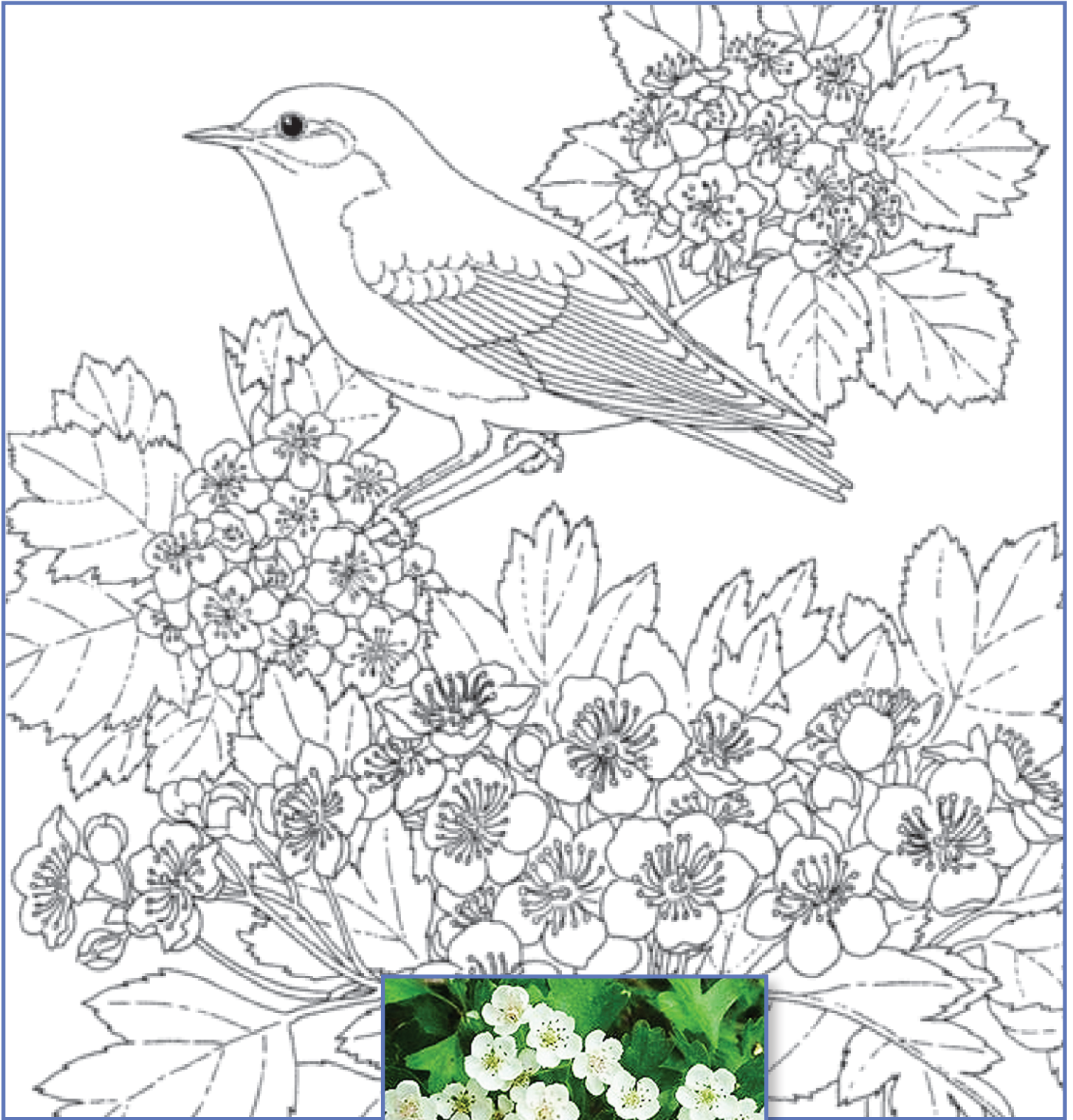
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Color this Bluebird



*Missouri Hawthorn
reference for your
coloring pleasure*





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

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

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

E-mail Address: _____ (required if questions or emailed 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 Email

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/Mailing 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, please send changes to: BSP • P.O. Box 12 • Exton, PA 19341

Happy, Happy, Happy Spring

March 1-3, 2019 PA Garden Show of York

York Expo Center/ Memorial Hall, 334 Carlisle Road York, PA



Theme "Flowers On Parade" web site: pagsy.com/

Friday, March 1: 10am – 8pm. Saturday, March 2: 10am – 8pm., Sunday, March 3: 10am - 5pm.

Attend this event to see thousands of flowers, walk through enchanting display gardens, and shop at a bustling garden market with anything relating to gardens.

Saturday, March 2: 1:00 P.M. Seminar Room-BSP presents "How To Attract Bluebirds to Your Yard" followed by a Nest Box Building Workshop-Bring Your Children for this fun event!

Volunteers are needed to host the BSP Educational Booth. Contact Nancy Putt, Event Chair at 717-432-2647 or e-mail: bluebirds@pa.net to volunteer

BSP RENEWAL DATES

Mailing 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, please send changes to:

nancyfraim@comcast.net

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