



BLUEBIRD TRAILS & TALES

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

An Affiliate of the *North American Bluebird Society*

Volume 14, Issue 1

Spring 2011

Editor: Joan Watroba • sunshinebb@msn.com

~ www.thebsp.org ~

A Message from the President

Dear BSP Members:

I am dedicating my message to our Conference Staff who have been working diligently since last August in planning our 13th Annual Bluebird Conference. The Conference will be held on April 1 & 2, 2011 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, 215 Innovation Boulevard, State College, PA 16803. This hotel is nestled in the center of our state and is a beautiful area to see and experience. Visit the Penn Stater online at www.pshs.psu.edu/pennstater to see the many attractions it has to offer. On behalf of our Conference Staff we are hoping you have made your reservations with the Penn Stater Hotel and are planning to attend and support our 13th Annual Conference. By February 14th, 2011 the Conference Membership Packets should have been mailed out to you. Please take a moment to read over the material, return your conference registration form, and make your reservation to the hotel by March 15th to receive the special room rate of \$91.00 per night by mentioning our reservation identification number BLUD11A. Also take advantage of our **Early Bird Special** conference registration of \$30.00 by mailing in your form postmarked on or before March 15th. (If you do not receive a conference packet please contact our Membership Chairperson- Joanne Slavinski, 19 Westfields Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 or call her at (717) 458- 5645 or e-mail her at: jmsbsp@comcast.net).

As President, I would like to stress to all our members that our annual conference is our main fundraiser for

the year. Even if you cannot attend the conference, there are many ways that you can help to support it. One way is to send an auction item to Joan Watroba at 2408 Bumblebee Hollow Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or by making a donation through the Amish Quilt raffle or by donating a door prize. We are also seeking bluebird-related items for our Bluebird Basket Raffle, and please send those items to: Lisa Wheeler, 129 Dunham Road, Claysville, PA 15323 or just bring them to the conference. There is much work and expense in planning a conference and we need your support to make it financially successful. But most importantly we would like you to support the conference by your attendance. The conference offers excellent educational programs, displays, fellowship with other bluebirders, and it is a great opportunity to learn something new about bluebirds and other interesting bird species.

I wish to thank our 2011 Conference Staff:

Lisa Wheeler –Conference Coordinator and Speaker Chairperson, Joanne Slavinski - Membership Chairman / Conference Registration, Ken Leister – Friday evening Social Chairman, Linda Frye and Andrea Wyman -Vendor Committee, Gregg Paladina – Publicity Chairman, Joyce Stuff - State County Coordinator- assisting with publicity across the State of Pennsylvania through the BSP County Coordinator Program, Philip Durgin – Promotion Chairman, Susan Renkel - Conference Program Chairperson, Nancy Putt – Amish Quilt Raffle Chairperson, Jane

Pietsch - Quilt Raffle Assistance, Harry Schmeider - Tech Support Chairman, Barb Cox and Michael Schmaus - Tech Assistance, Joan Watroba – Chairperson of Live Auction / Silent Auction / Door prizes, Dan Thomas - Nomination and Election Chairman, Shirley Halk –BSP Awards and Annual Nest Box Reports Chairperson, Kay Croll - BSP Webmaster and Roberta Cox - Web Assistant, Chuck Musser – BSP Research Chairman, and Doris Hoffman - BSP Store Manger. Thanks to Mercersburg Printing Solutions which will be printing and mailing out conference packets to all active BSP Members.

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On behalf of the Conference Staff, we thank ALL OF YOU for your support and hope that you can attend this year's upcoming conference.

Sincerely,

Harry Schneider,

BSP President



- From the Editor -

The weather is getting colder and the birds are now more active at our feeders. We provide a variety of supplemental food at this time of year, including nyjer seeds (thistle) suet cakes, crumbly suet, and sunflower seeds-both shelled and unshelled, and peanut hearts. This variety attracts a large number of species, including bluebirds, cardinals, titmice, chickadees, Carolina wrens, White-breasted nuthatch, and red-bellied, downy and hairy woodpeckers. Occasionally a male Pileated woodpecker comes in to snack on the suet, but he is very elusive. Since we have a small stream on the property, we do not set up or heat the birdbath during the winter.

Even though the weather is colder now, each morning we see a few bluebirds checking out the nest boxes in the yard. They also enjoy the crumbly suet, and we often see at least two adult males and females at the bluebird feeder at the same time. Outside of the nesting season, they are less territorial and will travel in flocks. Many hunters report seeing many bluebirds when they are out hunting in the woods. Many bluebirds will stay in the area as long as there is an adequate food supply and if the weather does not become too extreme. Periods of prolonged cold, including ice, can make natural food supplies quite scarce. For that reason, it is a good idea to provide some supplemental food for songbirds. It is best to mount feeders on smooth poles to keep climbing predators from accessing the food and the birds as they feed, and installing cone discs on the poles may also be helpful. Avoid setting up feeders in the wide open areas, and place feeders near bushes, deciduous trees or pine trees where birds can escape from predators like cats or hawks and rest between feedings. It is best to place the feeder in an undisturbed location in your yard away from traffic and noise. Birds will prefer feeders located near cover and natural environmental features over feeders placed out in the middle of the yard with no cover. Mother Nature does provide some food for songbirds year-round, but providing supplemental food items can help the songbirds survive a harsh winter and sustain them until the warmer weather and natural food supplies become available.

Joan Watroba

Editor



Artist - Susan Renkel

A BEGINNER'S INTRODUCTION TO BLUEBIRDING - LINDSAY DELP

I haven't always loved bluebirds, but I've always had a deep interest in nature and conservation. My background is in marine biology, and I have previously studied the bioacoustic behaviors of orca whales. I guess it makes sense that while I'm landlocked in Pennsylvania, I'd be attracted to the only other animals I know that sing.

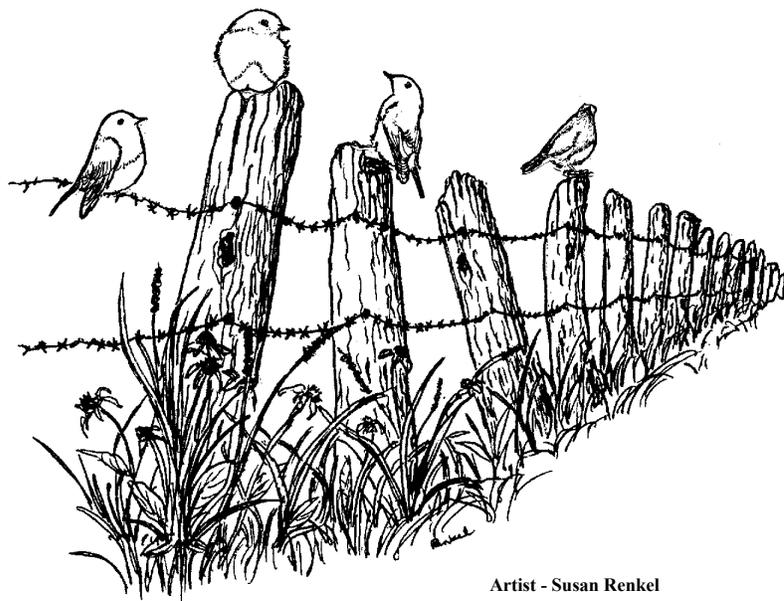
The first time I learned about the BSP was during the PA Farm show last January. I'm a Pennsylvania native and I like to take the opportunity to see all the Pennsylvania products, pet the animals, and of course sample the food. I usually don't spend much time in the section with booths, but as I was leaving, something about the bluebird society booth caught my eye. I was on the way out and didn't stop for information or ask any questions, but I thought to myself that I would look it up when I got home. I sent in my check to join just a few days later.

When I got my membership packet in the mail, I read the "All You Need to Know about Bluebirds" book, and learn about the difficulties facing native cavity nesting species. I was thrilled to learn that one of the best ways to help all the native cavity nesters was through nestbox monitoring, and I was excited to find a trail of my own. One thing I really missed after graduating college was research in my classes, especially field research. The chance to take notes on a regular basis while keeping track of the progress of the nestlings was a perfect way to add that missing piece back into my routine.

I got started picking up a trail formerly monitored by Jim Lenker in Dauphin County. It's a short drive from the Sierra Club where I work, and I met Joan Watroba once a week through the end of the season.

Joan was very helpful in showing me the ropes of monitoring. I'll never forget one of the first things she said was that opening each box was like opening a present every week. She was right! I had a great time checking the boxes and seeing how far along the hatchlings were or what type of bird was starting to make a home. It was also very encouraging to see our final numbers of hatchlings in the fall. So many cavity nesters were helped, and it was a great visual of how much their populations are improving from the dedication of nestbox monitors.

Ever since, I keep recommending bluebirding to everyone I know. Every box counts, and every bluebirder can truly change the future for these beautiful animals. I can't wait for this season!



Artist - Susan Renkel

**Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Financial Report 2010**

2010 Revenue:

Store	\$3138.04
Membership Fees	\$8994.00
Donations	\$663.14
Speaker Income	\$1249.00
Fundraising	\$4824.00
Nest Boxes Sold	\$690.37
Conference	\$2095.00
Total Revenue	\$21,653.55

2010 Expenses:

Administration	\$6370.94
Store	\$ 3836.68
Membership	\$ 830.42
Fundraising	\$1365.18
Nest Boxes	\$4549.42
Conference	\$4623.94
Education	\$1215.93
Newsletter	\$3414.40
County Coordinator Program	\$405.81
Research	\$73.00
Total Expenses	\$26,685.72

BSP Financial Statement as of 12/31/2010

Checking Account Balance 12/31/09	\$21,943.08
2010 Revenue	+\$21,653.55
2010 Expenses	\$26,685.72
Checking Account Balance 12/31/10	\$16,910.91
Certificate of Deposit-12/31/2010	+ \$8,848.77
Graystone Bank-Harrisburg, PA	
Cash On Hand	+ \$200.00
TOTAL REVENUE 12/31/10	\$25,959.68



*Don't Forget -
BSP has a Facebook Page!*

Google Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania / Facebook

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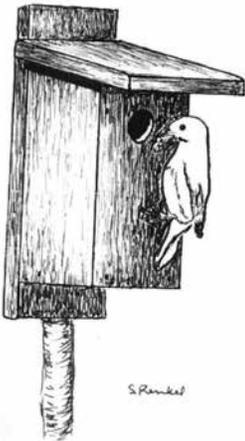
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BLUEBIRD TRAILS WANTED & BLUEBIRD TRAIL MONITORS NEEDED

There are many BSP members who would like the opportunity to monitor a bluebird trail in their area, and other bluebirders who already have a trail and would need to get a monitor to take over their monitoring activities on an existing trail. BSP can post this information in the newsletter so that nest boxes on bluebird trails will be able to be monitored on a continuous basis.

If you would like to monitor a bluebird trail or want to find someone to monitor your trails, please submit the following information:

Name, Phone Number, E-mail Address, Number of nest boxes requested to monitor or need to be monitored – requested location - Town, County and State.



*Indicate whether you are requesting a trail or need a monitor for an existing trail

To submit your request: e-mail to: sunshinebb@msn.com or send to: BSP, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 Attn: BSP Newsletter Editor

Bluebird Trail Wanted

John Woodward

Enola (Cumberland County, PA)

(717) 732-4349

would like to monitor a trail in the Enola, PA area

NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE BLUEBIRDER FOR A BSP AWARD

Each year at the annual conference, the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania is proud to recognize those who have made a significant contribution related to bluebird conservation, propagation, or educational outreach by presenting them with a BSP award.

There are three award categories:

Bluebirder of the Year • Blue Feather Award • Letter of Commendation

We really need your assistance to identify the person(s) who you would like to nominate for one of these awards. To nominate someone who you feel has made a significant contribution to bluebird conservation or has inspired you or others to get involved in bluebirding, please submit the following information:

1. Name of person to be nominated
2. Contact information for you and them- addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses
3. A brief write-up of their activities related to bluebird conservation that would make them a good candidate for the award.

Please send this information by **March 10th, 2011** to: BSP, P.O. Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 Attn: Shirley Halk, BSP Awards Chairperson.

PA FARM SHOW EVENT-THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to the following BSP members and friends of the bluebirds for volunteering at the BSP Booth and for assisting with the nest box building activity. This event provided a great opportunity to educate the public about the nesting and habitat needs of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesters. The booth was very active, and people asked many questions, told many stories, enjoyed viewing the educational items and videos, and also purchased many bluebird-related items from the BSP Store.

During this event, BSP increased membership by adding 81 New Members and 7 Renewing Members.

Special Thanks to Barb Cox, Event Chairperson, and to Joanne Slavinski for preparing the event reports.

Bill Strauss	Harrison McCan
Dale Cook	Dan Farber
Nancy Putt	Linda Smitz
Doris Hoffman	Bill Bowers
Joanne Slavinski	John Grauel
Joan Watroba	Bill Franz
Ken Leister	Shelvy Moorehead
Dave and Barb Cox	Lindsay Delp
Deb Carmen	Chuck & Bonnie Musser
Carol McCall	Bill Cuppett
Randy & Nancy Schriver	Deb Hershey
Kathy Clark	Sandy Bittenbender
Kellie Raub	Brenda Dove
Sara Stoops	John & Cathy Everhart
John Woodward	James Trail
Phil & Susan Durgin	Terry Hoffman
Bruce & Naoma Gearhart	Al Delio

Annual Nest Box Report Contest Winners

Each year, BSP randomly draws three Annual Nest Box Reports that were sent in and awards prizes.
Congratulations to the following winners:

1st - **Marion Mamula**, Crawford County, PA / Binoculars

2nd - **Scott & Ida Parry**, Beaver County, PA / Choice of clothing item from the BSP Store

3rd - **Richard & Alice Saunders**, Huntingdon County, PA / Choice of book from the BSP Store

BSP Store items can be viewed at www.thebsp.org and contact Doris, BSP Store Manager at 717-766-3877 regarding the item of your choice and to verify mailing instructions.

HAPPY HOUSE HUNTING FROM “A BIRD’S EYE VIEW”

by Marci Swanson



It’s been a long winter and we have used bird houses in backyards and on the golf course to shelter us from wind and snow. But now is the time for us to find the perfect nest box for raising our family. What are we cavity -nesting birds looking for?

First we look at “location, location, location!” Is the house near an acre of lawn where delicious, high protein insects live in the spring and summer? If it is, then our young will get a good nutritional start in life. An added attraction would be a mealworm feeder in the general vicinity. A real plus would be a homeowner who regularly puts out mealworms. That means there will be times when we won’t have to go far and wide looking for food for our youngsters.

Is the house easily accessible to a bubbling water source from which to drink and in which to bathe in the hot summer days to come? If all the above criteria are met, we inspect the box to see that it is clean on the inside, free of ants, wasps’ nests, field mice, and signs of winter occupation. How has the box weathered over the years? Does it have leaks or a rotting roof? If it does, we might consider looking elsewhere.

We also look at protection for the family. Does the house have a snake guard, a guard against cats and raccoons, and a one and half inch hole small enough so that birds who prey on young cannot get into the snug home? Is there a shrub or tree less than 100 feet from the box where our fledglings can land and rest for a moment after taking their first scary flight? Is there a tree or a sheltering bush in the general vicinity of the box where we can hide when hungry raptors fly over, and are there perches nearby from which we can hunt for insects on the ground? If so, we may have found our dream home.

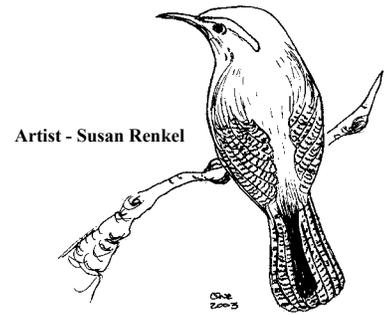
But one more feature we would really appreciate is privacy in which to raise our family. Are there feeders for seed -eating birds nearby? That is not so appealing since it is wise to keep as many other species as possible away from the house while our young are growing up, especially when Mockingbirds, English House Sparrows, and other bullies are present.

When all our criteria are met, we know we have found just the right house and neighborhood for raising a family. It is time to drop a dry wisp of grass into the box of choice as a down payment, while waiting for some warmer days to begin the important task of nest building.

Editor’s Note: Marci and her spouse, Brian are members of BSP and also very active with the Virginia Bluebird Society and NABS. They often cross state lines to volunteer at bluebird events. Thanks for all that you and Brian do to promote bluebird education.

Nothin' Could be Finer than to Free a Carolina . . .

By Lorrie Preston



I had spent the better part of the November afternoon in the kitchen and I was feeling tired, but pleased, as my husband, Bob, and I sat down to enjoy our dinner. The roasted chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans looked and smelled delicious. We prepared our plates, savored the first wonderful bite, and then the doorbell rang.

There at the door was my sweet little blonde-haired, blue-eyed, 6 year old neighbor and friend, Sophie. Her tall daddy, Ed, stood behind her. She had a big smile on her face and proudly extended her arms, holding a big plate with two pieces of homemade pumpkin pie, each with a dollop of whipped cream on top. "Thank you, Sophie!" I exclaimed. "This will go perfectly with the nice dinner Bob and I are having tonight!" That didn't take long, I thought. How nice of them! I was anxious to get back to the dinner table, started to say good bye and got ready to close the door.

Almost as an afterthought, Ed gently tipped his head and said "Lorrie, it looked like birds flew into your house when you opened the door." I hadn't seen any birds coming in! Could he be right? I remembered that the previous evening, just as dark had fallen, I had exited my front door and saw two birds explode forth. I assumed they must have been roosting in the wreath. "Oh dear," I said. "Well, if they got in, they'll just have to wait until after dinner to get out, because we are just sitting down to eat."

But as I returned to the kitchen, I heard something in the dining room. I turned on the light. Sure enough, there was a Carolina Wren hopping along the top edge of my china cabinet! There was no mistaking this compact, energetic, rusty-brown bird with his little buff belly, white eyebrow, and short tail. He didn't look happy and he flew to the chandelier and grasped the vertical chain with his little feet above the dining table. From there, he flew to the top of the 2 story window in our foyer. No one could reach him there, and he flew from one end of the window treatment to the other and back again.

Bob ran outdoors to the deck and got the pond skimmer with extendable handle. I ran upstairs and shut every door in the house to minimize the number of places the bird(s) could fly. Each time Bob would get anywhere near the little bird with the skimmer, it would fly to the other end of the window. For a few minutes, it looked hopeless. Finally, the little guy flew to the large brass chandelier in the foyer and once again grasped the chain with his little feet. From the upstairs landing, Bob took a deep breath and held the pond skimmer out steady near the bird. Almost as if the wren had been trained, it stepped onto the edge of the skimmer obediently. I opened the front door. Bob gingerly came down the stairs, the little bird blinking and looking around as it perched on the extended skimmer. Once outside, it flew off into the darkness. Whew! One down, but was there another?

We quickly surveyed the other rooms of the house. "Here it is!" yelled Bob. The bird had made it upstairs and was in the bonus room above the garage on the other end of the house. Our gray cat, Misty, was already on the case! This was an indoor cat's dream! The bird flew back and forth, landing only on the house plants, a silk arrangement of twigs and greenery on the wall, and a metal wall decoration of oak leaves and acorns – the most natural items the wren could find in the room. I finally caught it in the tip of a butterfly net, opened the window, and off it flew.

As we sat down to our lukewarm meal, we breathed a sigh of relief. It could have been a lot worse. I realized that after all of the excitement, I wasn't tired anymore! And the pumpkin pie was delicious!

Editor's Note: Lorrie Preston has been gardening to provide healthy habitat for birds, butterflies, and other critters for the past 25 years and has been observing and studying nature for as long as she can remember. Her 3/4 acre property in the middle of a south-central PA neighborhood is an official Backyard Wildlife Habitat with the National Wildlife Federation, a Bird Habitat through the Audubon PA Audubon-at-Home program, and a Monarch Waystation through the University of Kansas. Lorrie enjoys inspiring people to understand, respect, and protect nature and the environment. She is the immediate past president of the Appalachian Audubon Society in the Harrisburg, PA area.

Vital Habitat Features for Songbirds

● By Joan Watroba

Birdwatching and gardening are two of the most popular hobbies in America and many nature enthusiasts are adding features to their yards and gardens which promote songbirds to visit and linger. Nature photography is also very popular, and by providing a suitable habitat you can create more opportunities to attract them, observe their behaviors and photograph their beauty.

It is important to preserve natural cavities in old trees as well as to add nesting boxes of different sizes with a variety of entrance holes to accommodate the many types of cavity-nesting species. Cavity-nesting birds often use nest boxes in the winter months for roosting. I have seen downy woodpeckers roosting in nest boxes, and some bluebirders have reported finding multiple bluebirds in their nesting boxes during the winter months to stay warm and get out of extreme weather conditions. By planting a variety of trees, preferably native species, you will be providing both nesting sites and a food source, as many native plants also produce fruits or berries. Conserving natural snags in corners of the yard and adding perches can provide places for birds to land prior to entering their nesting sites.

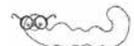
Adding supplemental food sources can be very important to sustaining the birds, especially in the winter or in early spring. During these seasons the supply of natural food sources like insects, berries, and fruits is very limited. Supplemental food offerings can include mealworms, which are a favorite of bluebirds and they also will feed on some commercial suet cakes, especially the berry, fruit, or peanut types. A crumbly mixed suet can be made using melted suet, corn meal, peanut butter, wheat flour, shelled sunflower seeds, and raisins. This suet can be placed on a flat dish on a platform or placed in an enclosed bluebird feeder which will restrict access by the larger birds and other critters, such as squirrels.

A habitat feature which is often overlooked and may be the most important is water. Songbirds need water year-round, not only for drinking, but for bathing and preening their feathers. Water serves to cool down the bird's body temperature in warm weather and birds preen with water to remove dust, loose feathers, and parasites. Preening with water also restores the insulation factor of their feathers. Remember to change the water in the birdbath often and keep it circulating, which will prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs in the birdbath during the warmer months. I use a Water Wiggler, which is battery-operated device which constantly jiggles the water in the bird bath. Moving water also attracts more birds, and adding a dripper or mister to your birdbath in the summer will attract more songbirds. A mister is also a magnet to hummingbirds,



Artist - Susan Renkel

and they will repeatedly fly through the mist. We are lucky at our house to have a small stream which runs along the front of our property, and many times in the winter months we have observed flocks of bluebirds and other small songbirds drinking and bathing in the stream. Adding a small heater to your birdbath in the winter will provide them with access to water even in below- freezing temperatures. Winter food sources tend to be dryer than the soft-bodied, moist insects like cutworms which are available during the summer months, so water helps them to wash down and to digest their food. The water in a birdbath should be shallow-not more than two or three inches deep and a rough, textured surface will allow them to get a good foothold. Placing a couple of small rocks in the bird bath will provide the birds with a surface to stand on. By adding some of the above habitat features, you will be creating a wonderful Bed and Breakfast for the Birds. They will appreciate it and you will, too.



Grab Your Party Horns & Bye-Bye, House Sparrows!

By Lorrie Preston

Few things are more frustrating to a person trying to attract bluebirds to nesting boxes than the arrival of House Sparrows. Sometimes called “English Sparrows,” these non-native pests were introduced from Europe in the 1800’s and are now well-established across most of the United States. They thrive in our suburban backyards.

Why are they such a concern to bluebird enthusiasts? House Sparrows are persistent and very aggressive and they compete directly with Eastern Bluebirds for nesting sites. If they find a nesting box that is already inhabited by bluebirds, House Sparrows will not hesitate to kill the bluebird nestlings by pecking them to death or dropping them out of the box. They will kill adult bluebirds on the nest by decapitating them. They don’t give up easily and unless we intervene, our native bluebirds always come out the losers.

That’s why I was so concerned one morning last summer when I sensed a lot of activity near a nesting box in my yard and heard a loud, sharp, annoying “chirp, chirp, chirp” being repeated endlessly by a male House Sparrow nearby. A bluebird pair had chosen this box as the perfect place to raise their next brood, and the female had spent the previous 4 or 5 days building a cupped nest of fine grasses inside.

I knew if I didn’t take action, these precious bluebirds and their chance to reproduce were doomed and I needed to do something fast! There are many tips on deterring House Sparrows out there, which result in various levels of success. I remembered hearing about a homemade deterrent called a “Sparrow Spook” which uses white ribbon, tinsel, or shredded metallic strips from mylar balloons attached to a dowel rod, then erected to the top of a nesting box. It could be the motion, the reflection of light, or the rattling noise these materials make blowing in the breeze, but for whatever reason, House Sparrows don’t like it and Eastern Bluebirds don’t seem to mind.

Then I had a light bulb moment! I quickly went inside and rooted around in the closet where I store holiday decorations and came back outside with 3 party horns of various colors and a roll of duct tape. You know those party horns with a plastic whistle on one end and shreds of bright, shiny-colored mylar hanging off them about 4” long that make obnoxious noise on New Year’s Eve and the tassels move exuberantly when blown?

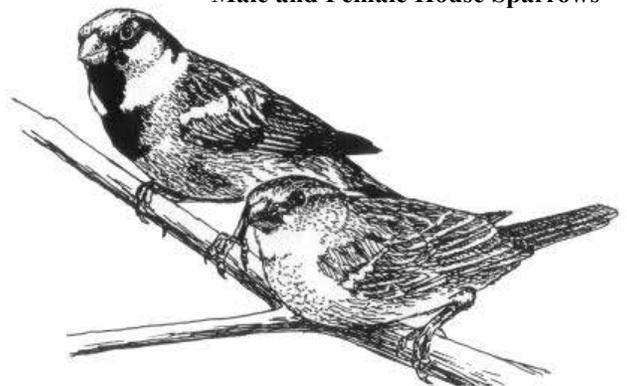
I taped the three party horns evenly-spaced, whistle-end down and mylar tassels up, along the back edge of the top of the bluebird house with a broad strip of duct tape. Voila! Sparrow problem solved. The nest box looked like it was decorated for Christmas, but the House Sparrows gave up immediately and moved on.

The bluebird pair was soon back in calm control of the box and they went on to successfully raise and fledge 4 beautiful babies - another happy bluebird success story.

Note: Eastern Bluebirds begin staking out nesting sites as early as February, so clean out existing boxes or erect new ones if you hope to attract these joyful birds “with the sky on their back” to your own property. They generally raise 2 broods a year with 3-6 young each time.

Editor’s Note: Using various devices to deter House Sparrows has been effective in many cases, but House Sparrows differ in terms of their persistence and the level of bonding that they have developed with the nest box. Since results may vary, no method to deter House Sparrows will work 100% of the time, but many bluebirders who have used Sparrow Spookers on their nest boxes have reported good results.

Male and Female House Sparrows



Artist - Susan Renkel

Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania County Coordinators

Joyce Stuff, State County Coordinator: bspcc@innernet.net, 717-328-3411

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ARMSTRONG Cathy Beer 724-763-8637 bbeer@windstream.net	CHESTER Ken Leister 610-696-5271 kenapeg@aol.com	FRANKLIN Joyce Stuff 717-328-3411 bspcc@innernet.net	MERCER Carol Gravatt 724-253-2254 Ed Palmer 724-458-5682 plife@zoominternet.net	SOMERSET Bill Cuppett 814-479-2230 cuppetts@verizon.net
BEAVER Scott Parry 412-841-5071	CLARION Vacant	FULTON Florence Pyle 610-269-5571 PYL1026@verizon.net	MIFFLIN Vacant	SULLIVAN Vacant
BEDFORD John & Cathy Everhart 814-623-8852 everhjih@localnet.com	CLEARFIELD Vacant	GREENE Lisa Wheeler 724-222-1311 law64@hughes.net	MONROE Rose Schoch 570-992-7500 rschoch@epix.net	SUSQUEHANNA Amber Zygmunt 570-869-2353 perennialacres@epix.net
BERKS Terry Gerhart 610-775-9474 gerhartsat@aol.com	CLINTON Linda Frye 570-769-7375 vfrye@kcnet.org	HUNTINGDON Alice Saunders 814-667-4437	Deron Erney 610-657-4653 derongolf@pga.com	TIOGA Dale Aulthouse 570-724-1962 daulthou@epix.net
BLAIR Kelly Baronner 814-696-3945	COLUMBIA Margret Pickin 570-784-2633 mpickin@ptd.net	INDIANA Michael Schmaus 814-938-0928 bluebird_acres@yahoo.com	MONTGOMERY George Romasco 610-584-4357 romageo@verizon.net	UNION Cricket Klinger 570-966-9887
BRADFORD Donald Bates 570-746-3803	CRAWFORD Bill Wenger 412-279-8732 w.wenger@comcast.net	JEFFERSON Marsha Harris 814-265-1231 mlharris@penn.com	MONTOUR Donna Kreischer 570-437-3649 dkteacher@verizon.net	VENANGO Carl Hohmann 814-676-2782 hohmann@comcast.net
BUCKS Ron Freed 215-536-7293 ronfreed@comcast.net	CUMBERLAND Melvin Lantz 717-732-4337	JUNIATA Virginia Banks 717-436-6518 sknabb@embarqmail.com	NORTHAMPTON Doris Heil 610-262-5085 heil18067@verizon.net	WARREN Alan Hillyard 814-484-0248 earthn_one@yahoo.com
WASHINGT Lisa Wheeler 724-880-5812 dognurse64@comcast.net	DAUPHIN Jan Kappenhagen 717-896-2745 kiaa6@comcast.net	LACKAWANNA Marcia Yaticilla 570-451-5077 ibbmatrix2@yahoo.com	NORTHUMBERLAND Vacant	WAYNE Vacant
BUTLER Darrell Daubenspeck 724-735-2363 daubie@zoominternet.net	DELAWARE Alice Sevareid 610-544-9057 alicesevareid@hotmail.com	LANCASTER Dan Thomas 717-786-7893 adthomas10@comcast.net	PERRY Pat Kessler 717-589-3076	WESTMORELAND Joanne McIlhattan 724-523-9203 ejmci@comcast.net
CAMBRIA Phil Andraychak 814-886-7279 PAGC221G@aol.com	ELK Wayne Bryndel 814-772-4604 wbyndel@windstream.net	LEBANON Shirley Halk 717-865-2650 zebrasallowtail@juno.com	PHILADELPHIA Irene Owens 610-399-1294	WYOMING Ray Massacesi 570-836-0173 agnesma@frontier.com
CAMERON Robert Kerner 814-486-3484	ERIE Bernie Connelly 814-734-5446 goldfinch@usachoice.net	LEHIGH Vacant	PIKE Thomas Deluca 570-296-7638 ladder173@aol.com	YORK Nancy Putt 717-432-2647 bluebirds@pa.net
	Andrea Wyman 814-398-8384 awyman@edinboro.edu	LUZERNE James Trusky 570-788-0883 trusky5@ptd.net	POTTER David Hauber 814-274-8946 haubers3@penn.com	

BLUEBIRDS AT GREEN RIDGE VILLAGE-CLETUS BENJAMIN

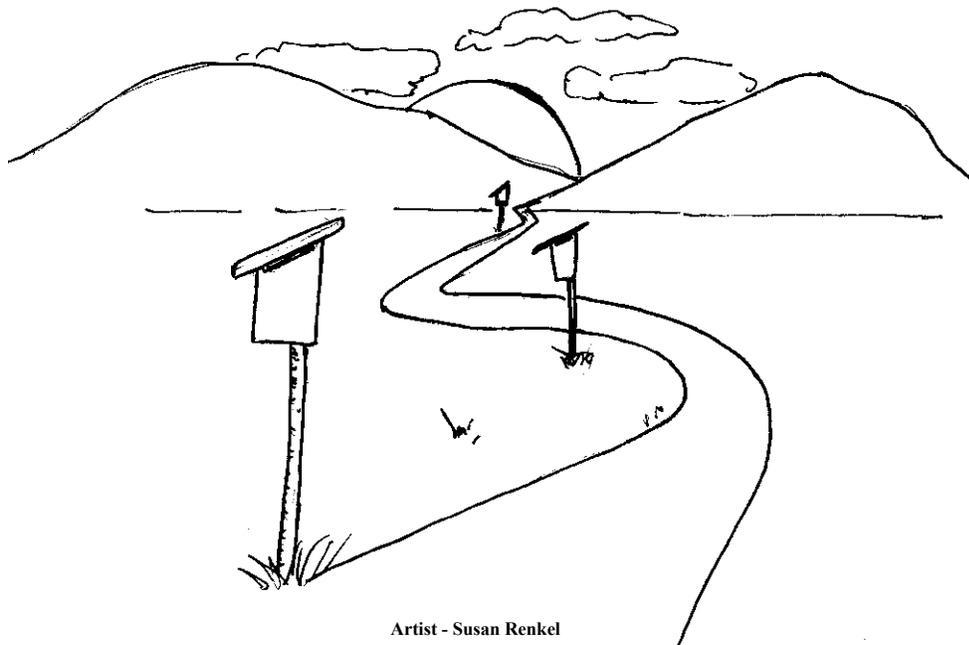
There are three bluebird houses on the entrance road to Green Ridge Village, a continuous care retirement community bordering Newville, PA. The entrance road from Route 233 curves between a huge expanse of tillable fields and a rolling pasture dotted with Black Angus. The hundred and forty acre campus is mostly covered with trees, leaving room for eleven circles with two to five duplex cottage units in each for independent living residents. There are also seven lodges, personal care, and skilled nursing buildings. Another two hundred and thirty-five vacant acres have been added to the original campus.

Residents have enjoyed seeing bluebirds perched on the fence along the entrance road, so Cletus Benjamin, a birder and four-year resident of the community, thought a bluebird trail with twenty-five to thirty bluebird houses would add to the residents' enjoyment. He asked a fellow church member for enough old boards to make ten bluebird houses. Four other residents volunteered to cut the boards to the proper size and to build the houses.

Ofelia Vander Bosch, another resident who is also a member of the fund-raising Auxiliary, suggested that the bluebird houses be sponsored by members of the community. Bluebird houses were quickly sold for \$40 a pair with \$30 going to the Auxiliary and \$10 to be used for building material, mounting posts, and hardware. At this time in the process, Dan and Carol Cash moved into the community and volunteered to be the bluebird trail monitors/coordinators. They are avid birders and reported thirty-nine species of birds on campus for this year's Backyard Bird Count.

Joan Watroba was invited to present her program and about fifty residents attended and were enthused about the bluebird program, houses, and trail. Since then more lumber has been scrounged or bought so there are now thirty-two bird houses to be mounted soon in addition to the six already mounted around the campus. We expect to attract many bluebirds as well as other cavity-nesting birds this spring.

*Editor's Notes: - On Saturday, November 13th, 2010 I presented a program to this group of 50 enthusiastic community members who are funding and adopting the nest boxes, which will be placed and monitored weekly by community members. After the program, which included viewing the Stokes Bluebird Basics video, a demonstration of various types of nest boxes and predator guards, nest and egg identification, and various handouts, we toured the village property. The habitat includes open fields, tree-lined trails, wooded areas, and a pond. It was a very productive and enjoyable experience on a sunny, beautiful fall day. I thank Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Benjamin and Dan and Carol Cash, lead monitors, and the residents of Green Ridge for their interest in helping the bluebirds, and for making me feel so welcome. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin provided a delicious lunch of homemade soup and salad. Bluebirders get hungry, too!
Good luck with your trail!*



BSP CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 1 & 2, 2011

**Location: Penn Stater Hotel
at State College PA**

215 Innovation Blvd., State College, PA 16803

Lisa Wheeler, Conference Coordinator;

law64@hughes.net, 724-222-1311

Harry Schmeider Co-Coordinator;

harryschmeider@gmail.com 724-285-1209

*Conference Registration and information will be sent out in early February to all members or check the BSP web site www.thebsp.org closer to the event.

****Please mark your calendars to attend this special event, which will feature excellent speakers, a bluebird social, demonstrations, educational displays, vendors, a delicious luncheon, and a live auction of wonderful bird and nature items.*

Special Conference Feature

“FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE”- Stump the Bluebird Panel

Plan to attend the 13th Annual BSP Bluebird Conference and on Friday night, April 1, grab your seat for the discussion about unusual happenings on trails and obtain answers to questions you never asked, but should have! A panel will field questions from the audience and tackle questions which were submitted by the membership.

Your host will be Ken Leister,
Chester County Coordinator

ON THE HORIZON:

BSP Board Meeting Dates For 2011

April 28th • July 28th • October 27th

Plan to attend the meeting to learn about upcoming BSP activities and events and to share your ideas about a variety of issues related to bluebird conservation. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, we can arrange for you to attend via conference call. Contact BSP President: Harry Schmeider at harryschmeider@gmail.com or (724) 285-1209 to make arrangements.

Request for Storage Space for BSP Trailer:

BSP has an enclosed 6' x 8' trailer which is used to transport BSP educational items and supplies to large events. We would like to get it under some cover—either a carport or enclosed space such as a garage or barn so that it can remain in good condition.

If any member could donate covered storage space in the Harrisburg/Mechanicsburg area, please contact: Bill Strauss at 717-756-5914 or e-mail: mbstrauss@verizon.net.

Thank you

Words of Thanks!

Thanks so very much, **BSP Member Valerie Varnauskas** from Newville, PA for stopping by the BSP Booth at the Farm Show and donating an assortment of your beautiful photos of adult and juvenile bluebirds. We have placed them in the BSP photo book. They were enjoyed by visitors to our booth at the Farm Show and will be displayed at future events for others to see. Thanks, Valerie for what you do for the bluebirds!

THANKS!



BSP Newsletter

Submission/Wiggly Worm Contest

Congratulations to the Contest Winner Lindsay Delp

Please select a book from the BSP Store at www.thebsp.org and call BSP Store Manager, Doris at (717) 766-3877 regarding your book choice and to arrange delivery.

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

Contest Rules:

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

The latest date to submit items is the following:

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

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

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

2008 - 2011 Membership Rates

	1 Year	2 Years* *Renewals only	3 Years* *Renewals only
Student (17 and younger)	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$15.00
Senior (65 and older)	\$8.00	\$15.00	\$21.00
Individual	\$10.00	\$19.00	\$27.00
Family	\$15.00	\$29.00	\$42.00
Corporate Memberships	\$100.00		

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

New Member _____ Renewal _____

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

Mailing Address: _____

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

Telephone (optional) _____

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

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

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

Member Interest Survey:

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

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

Special Events Help:

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

Please tell us how you learned about us: _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Paid by: Cash ___ Check ___ Money Order ___

2012 BSP MEMBERSHIP RATE INFORMATION

***Advance notice: Please note that starting on January 1, 2012, there will be uniform rates and renewal period options for both new and renewal memberships. Since the operating costs for the organization have greatly increased since its inception in 1996, there will be a slight increase in the rates for both new and renewing members. Please check the label of your most recent newsletter, as it displays your renewal date.

***If you would like to renew under the 2008-2011 membership levels listed above, your current membership will then be extended to the renewal period of your choice.

Renew for 3 years at the rates listed above to capture the discounted renewal rates in effect until 1/1/2012!

2012 BSP Membership Rates:

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

Website: WWW.THEBSP.ORG

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 15
Mercersburg, PA



PO Box 756
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0756



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