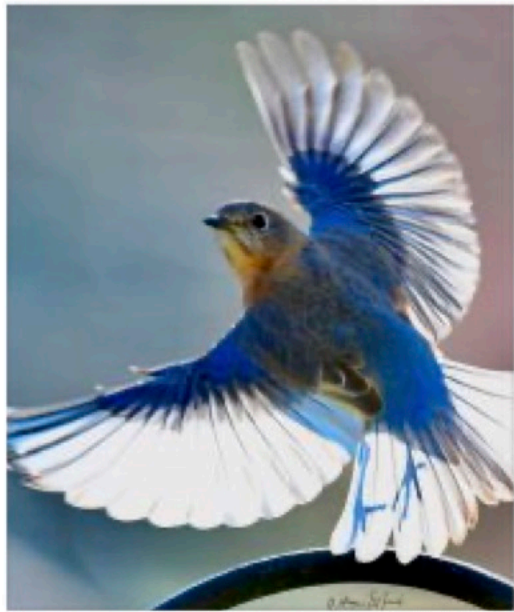


TN Bluebird Newsletter

A Quarterly Publication for Members of the TN Bluebird Society



Hurray sunshine!



House hunting!

Photos Courtesy of Bill Merrick



President's Corner

Don Hazel, TBS President (don.hazel@gmail.com)

Winter is over and warm weather has arrived. You know what that means...bluebird season is finally here. Over the winter, I had a group of nine regularly coming to my feeder for mealworms. But now the bluebirds have paired off, territories have been established, and babies will soon be here.

Here, where I am, on the Cumberland Plateau, the bluebirds begin to build nests around the 4th week of March. They may start earlier where you live. By now, I'm sure your nest boxes are once again beginning to fill up with cheerful bluebirds, tree swallows and Carolina chickadees.

In our area we added Kingston predator guards or Noel guards to every nest box, to keep those raccoons and snakes eating lunch elsewhere. Once the nests start, we sprinkle Diatomaceous Earth under the nests to eliminate ants, blow worms, earwigs, and other nest box insects.

We love tree swallows, Carolina chickadees, and a few other native cavity nesting birds, but we remove house wren sticks before a nest is built, so the wrens can choose another hole full of sticks in the woods. We don't harm house wrens, but we encourage them to keep their egg destroying habits away from bluebird boxes.

At least weekly monitoring of nest boxes is critical. Boxes that are monitored regularly have a greater chance of successful fledging of our native cavity nesting birds.

Here is wishing everyone a fun, and successful bluebird nesting season!



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