

Spring 2019 Edition



Photo by Don Hazel

Tennessee Bluebird Society
Honor Roll
(Life Time Members)

- Margaret Beasley
- Sue Bradley
- Stan & Linda Colburn
- Shoshanna Cooper
- Chuck & Cecelia Cruickshank
- Mary Cushman
- Kathy Dooley
- Raymond Dunavant
- Roger Givens
- Chuck & Terry James
- Rosalind & George Kurita
- John Langley
- Mort Massey
- Bob & Judy Peak
- Farrell & Jane Roe
- Jerry & Dianna Rysticken
- Donald Turner
- Joanne Watson
- Dr. Heather Wilkins

In This Issue

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BLUEBIRD QUOTES

*But no blue, not even the
brightest summer sky, seems
as blue as the bluebirds of
spring. Ron Hirschi*



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Well folks, here we are, the ides of March as I write this. Weather patterns have been crazy here in the southeast, but nothing like the Midwest. That being said, our temperature shifts must have our feathered friends

a bit confused! Here in eastern Tennessee, our bluebirds are busy at feeders, investigating nest-boxes and doing a lot of wing-waving. I've had some reports of nests actually being built. The tree swallows are back scouring golf courses and meadows for bugs. I hope Mother Nature doesn't play a nasty trick on them!

Our volunteers around the state have been busy repairing, replacing and relocating nest-boxes in preparation for the 2019 season. Several new boxes and trails have been added on the plateau. Multiple general and monitor training meetings have been held across the state in anticipation of another good year!

If you haven't done it yet, now would be a good time to inspect your personal nest-boxes... are the old nests taken out and the boxes clean? Do the roofs or entrance holes need to be repaired or replaced? Is the vegetation around the mounting pole removed to deter predator access?

Do you have a clean water supply available for all our nesters? Do you have an ample, daily supply of food for our feathered friends? All of these things will contribute to another positive nesting season for our birds.

Happy Birding!

Chuck Cruickshank

chuck.cruickshank@gmail.com

Keeping Raccoons From Getting Too Fat

Golf courses are excellent locations for bluebird nest boxes. Wide open spaces, short grass, and small trees for perching, are just the kind a territory that a bluebird likes. Strategically placed lunch-boxes with tasty morsels are just what pleases a raccoon. Sometimes bluebird nest boxes are just a little too convenient for raccoons.

You already know that placing a nest box on a tree is never a good idea, but a pole with a predator guard is always the best choice. However, we can't always put Kingston or cone guards on a golf course for either aesthetic or cost reasons. One of the golf courses that we monitored in 2018 had 183 bluebird eggs but only 51 birds fledged due to raccoon and rat snake predations. What to do?

We are going to try Noel predator guards this year. The Noel guard was invented by Jim Noel and it keeps, raccoons, hawks, and cats, from being about to reach the eggs or babies. The Noel guard is about five inches of wire mesh, (hardware cloth) that surrounds the hole. I've read that the bluebirds might avoid a box with a Noel guard, but, if the installation of the guard is delayed until after the first eggs are laid, the birds will not abandon their eggs, and accept the guard. Kind of like bad tasting medicine...you might not like it, but it is good for you.

You can find instructions on how to make Noel predator guards on www.Sialis.org.



Don Hazel



Around Tennessee

UT Arboretum Bluebird Trail News

The UT Arboretum Bluebird Trail’s “Bluebird Buddies” monitoring group has started their second season of nest box monitoring. We have 4 teams and 2 back up “buddies” for when a team is not able to cover their assigned week. We added five new nest boxes for a total of 13 nest boxes! UT Arboretum staff member, Yvonne Hitchcock, has made some nice signs to for trail designation.



A *Backyard Bluebird Basics* was held at the UT Arboretum Auditorium on Thursday March 21st. Chuck Cruickshank and Michelle Campanis conducted the program.

Program for Harrogate Garden Club

Michelle Campanis presented a Bluebird Basics class for members of the Harrogate Garden Club on February 27th. There were 8 members in attendance. The meeting was held in the Organic Garden Classroom at Lincoln Memorial University.



Bristol, TN Bird Club Presentation



Adrianna Nelson, high school senior, giving a bluebird presentation to the Bristol, TN Bird Club.

Getting Young People Involved



High School Senior Adrianna Nelson, gives her second bluebird presentation to Girls Inc. Getting young people involved in bluebirds.

Around Tennessee

Knoxville Presentation



Wild Birds Unlimited store owner Liz Cutrone and TBS Pres Chuck Cruickshank present "Bluebirds 101" to a full house crowd at the store location on Kingston Pike in Knoxville.

Full House Hears about Bluebirds at UT Arboretum



UT Arboretum Education Program Coordinator and TBS BOD member Michelle Campanis presents "Bluebirding Basics" to a full house crowd at the Arboretum auditorium.

Loudon Preparation



Tennessee Bluebird Society Treasurer Kathy Dooley replaces a nest-box on the Tanasi golf course in Loudon in preparation for the 2019 nesting season



Around Tennessee

From Fred Robertson around Memphis, TN

In late February I was installing a nesting box in a Germantown backyard and the couple kept repeating "we have a lot of bluebirds around here" over and over. After installation we walked about 25 feet to the screen porch and turned to look.... There were ten, yes 10, blue birds, 6 males and 4 females, all checking out the "new" house.

From Tellico Village



Nest-box trail coordinator Elton Pierson replaces a bluebird box at the library in Tellico Village

Bluebird Monitoring Training in Crossville, TN



Don Hazel sharing info with monitors



Peggy Flierl gives updates to monitors in Crossville.

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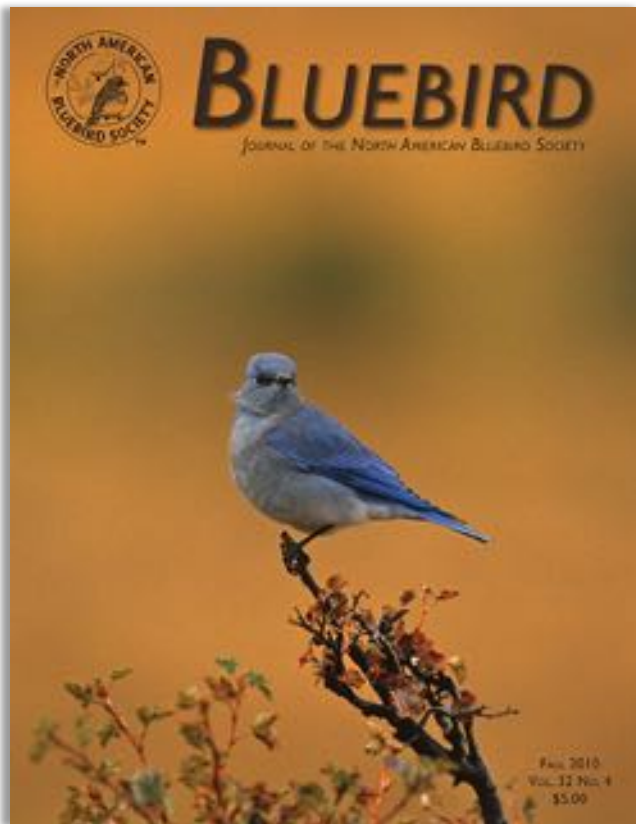
Facebook: Tennessee Bluebird Society

TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Did you know that when you become a member of the Tennessee Bluebird Society there is an additional benefit? Once you become a TBS member, for an additional \$15 you qualify for your first membership into the North American Bluebird Society at a 50% savings. Only \$15 instead of \$30. Fill out the Tennessee Bluebird Society application on the last page of this newsletter. Indicate that you want a TBS Household Membership for \$15.

Then by the NABS circle (Y) and add \$15 for a total of \$30 and send in your application. We will submit your membership to NABS.

In addition to receiving our four TBS newsletters you will receive four issues of Bluebird from the North American Bluebird Society.



Websites
Tennessee Bluebird Society
www.tnbluebirdsociety.org
North American Bluebird Society
www.nabluebirdsociety.org

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TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY APPLICATION

<u>Category</u>	1 Year	3 year	Lifetime
Household	\$15	\$35	\$150
NABS	\$15 (First Time Member with a TBS Membership) \$30 Value		
Corporate	\$150		

Add only \$15 to a household membership and become a member of the North American Bluebird Society a \$30 value. For first time NABS Members. You will receive four issues of The Bluebird Journal of the North American Bluebird Society.

Please send your application and payment to the address at the bottom of this form

Name/ First: _____
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I have interest in helping the following areas: Newsletter _____,
Membership _____, Education _____,
Website Management _____, Data Collection _____,
Becoming a Board Member of Tennessee Bluebird Society _____

Send your application and check to:
Tennessee Bluebird Society
206 Chota Landing View
Loudon, TN 37774

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