

Fall 2018 Edition



Photo by: Becky Boyd

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Donald Turner

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**Interested in becoming a
Tennessee Bluebird Society Life
Time Member? For more details
see the application on the last
page of this newsletter.**

BLUEBIRD QUOTES

*The bluebird carries
the sky on his back.*

Henry David Thoreau, Journal, April 3, 1852



PRESIDENT'S LETTER CHUCK CRUICKSHANK

As I write this, Labor Day is fast approaching, and while most of our local children are already back in school, it seems to be the official end of summer. 2018 has been an interesting nesting season with a late, cold and wet

spring, followed by a very hot and humid July and August, compressing our broods of bluebirds.

First, I wish to thank all of our nest-box trail monitors and our volunteers who have diligently observed and assisted our cavity-nesters. We are in the process of tabulating 2018 results, and will report them at our annual meeting and in our fourth-quarter newsletter. Thanks! I would also like to welcome our new newsletter editor and publisher Janet McDonald. In addition, I know you all join me in thanking Chuck James for being our editor and publisher for the past four years!

So what do we do now? Now is an excellent time to do an assessment of your local trails:

- What went well?
- Which nest-boxes were very productive?
- Which nest-boxes were not? Why?
- Are there boxes that need to be repaired? Moved? Replaced?

Late fall and winter are excellent times to clean-out, repair, relocate and replace non-productive nest-boxes. Please consider our corporate sponsors, Wild Birds Unlimited of Knoxville, and the Wood Thrush Shop in

Nashville for any of your feeding, repair and replacement needs. They have been very supportive of our Tennessee efforts!

Another season-ending event is our annual meeting on Saturday, November 3rd at the Oak Ridge Arboretum. There is abundant information in this newsletter, on the TBS website and on Facebook to give you the details, but we believe we have a terrific group of speakers, and a walking tour to augment the indoor activities. We received many positive remarks on the walking tour we held last year.

Please register and attend!

In terms of priorities and attention going forward, your Board of Directors has agreed to focus on State Parks, arboretums and golf courses as the primary areas of development for our expanding activities. Many of these locations already have, or may develop relationships with organizations that work with young people, which is one of our charter priorities. These public and sustainable partnerships, we believe, will provide forums that afford us the ability to attract and maintain volunteers, a critical part of our continued growth and success in the Volunteer state.

Happy Birding!

Chuck Cruickshank

chuck.cruickshank@gmail.com

Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting Saturday, November 3, 2018

We are pleased to announce the 5th Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Bluebird Society to be held on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge, TN.



Chuck James

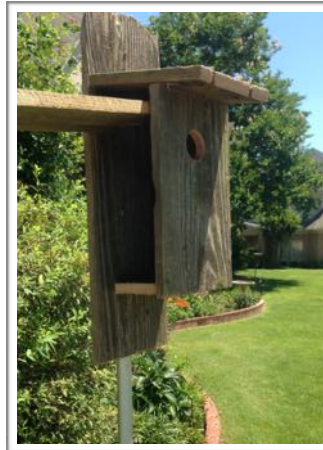
In the past the Tennessee Bluebird Society annual meeting has been held at the Nature Center at Warner Park In Nashville and I'm sure we will return as we move the TBS Annual Meeting around Tennessee. We would like to thank the staff at Warner Park for their support and help over the years.

Michelle Campanis UT Arboretum Program Coordinator has offered their beautiful event center located in the middle of the arboretum for this years TBS Annual Meeting.

In addition to three wonderful speakers, lunch and a walking tour we will have several folks showing and selling their crafts, art and photograph.

Beck Boyd's photo's are often posted on the Tennessee Society Facebook page and Bluebird Anonymous Facebook page. She will be selling some of her incredible photo's.

Fred Robertson will be displaying and selling his bluebird nestboxes. These nestboxes are made from old fence wood with a wonderful patina. Fred will be selling a yard ready system including nestbox and pole.



The following two pages provide all the needed information on the meeting agenda, location, date, time and how to register. The seating is limited for this event so we are encouraging folks to register early. There is a \$5 per person registration fee to cover a portion of the lunch expense.

If you love bluebirds and want to share information and stories about bluebirds, the Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge, TN will be where like minded bluebirders and conservationist will gather.

Happy Bluebirding!!!!!!

Chuck James



Event Center UT Arboretum



Photo by: Becky Boyd

Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting Saturday, November 3, 2018

Tennessee Bluebird Society 5th Annual Meeting Saturday, November 3, 2018

9:00AM -- Meet and greet reception,

Event Center

Refreshments available

9:30AM -- Welcome, Chuck Cruickshank

President, Tennessee Bluebird Society

9:45AM – 5th Annual Membership Meeting

- Roll call
- Last Meeting minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Committee reports
- Trail Results
- Recognition and Awards
- Nomination report
- Election of 2019 Officers
- 2018 President's Update

10:30 AM—UT Arboretum Program Coordinator -Michelle Campanis

"Bluebirds and Community Environmental Education"

11:15 AM—NABS VP Community Relations -Jim Burke

"History & Status of North American Bluebird Society and a Update On Bluebirds"

11:45 AM -- Lunch

12:30 PM - Park Ranger - Monica Johnson - Cumberland Mountain State Park

"Live Raptor Presentation"

1:30 PM –Michelle Campanis

"A Guided Walking Tour in UT Arboretum, Sights & Sounds"

Sharing Love For Bluebirds and other Birds

Please join us for a day of discovery and friendship as we share our bluebird experiences and our love for nature. Through discussion with your peers you will walk away from this meeting with new information that will help you become a better nestbox landlord.

Mail your check for \$5 to: [Chuck James](#)
[119 Talah Way](#)
[London, TN 37774](#)

What: Tennessee Bluebird Society 5th Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, November 3, 2018

Where: UT Arboretum
 902 South Illinois Ave.
 Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Time: 9am - 3pm

Other: \$5 Admission - Includes lunch.

Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting Saturday, November 3, 2018

Tennessee Bluebird Society 2018 Annual Meeting Registration

What: Tennessee Bluebird Society 5th Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, November 3, 2018

Where: UT Arboretum

902 South Illinois Ave. Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Time: 9am - 3pm

Price: \$5 per person - Includes lunch.

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

Name: First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____

Name: First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____

Name: First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____

Name: First: _____ Last: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: Home: _____ Cell: _____

Address/ Street _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Paid \$ _____

**Send your reservation and check payable to:
Send To: Tennessee Bluebird Society
119 Talah Way
Loudon, TN 37774
PH (865) 437-9732**

Website: www.TNBluebirdsociety.org / Email: TNSialia@gmail.com
Follow TBS on Facebook

Around Tennessee

Eastern Region

On September 6, 2018, the Cumberland County BB Club held their monitor wrap-up meeting with 26 in attendance. Don Hazel offered the following results for the 2018 season: "We had a very good bluebird year here on the Cumberland Plateau in Cumberland County. We added 88 new bluebird boxes to monitor over the previous year, for a total of 153 boxes in 2018. The number of bluebirds fledged increased from 161 to 427 this year. We have over 50 regular monitors that watch over 5 golf courses, 2 city parks, a sewage treatment plant and 12 individual boxes at residences. We have fun. At most of the golf courses we have to start monitoring at 6:30 in the morning before the golfers start because the courses are full all day. Even with the early start, monitor turnover is extremely low and we usually have a wait list to be a monitor. Some big news this year happened when the city of Crossville named the bluebird the official bird of Crossville. So if you pass through Cumberland County, look for bluebirds, we have lots of them."



Don Hazel sharing results from the 2018 nesting season.

At the July 17, 2018 Lions Club of Tellico Village dinner in Loudon, TN, Chuck James gave a bluebird presentation to nearly 30 members. After the dinner many gather around to ask additional questions and showed a real

interest in bluebird and other native bird conservation issues."



Western Region

In November 2017, the Germantown Garden Club, the West TN Bluebird Society and the City of Germantown joined together to establish a trail of 7 bluebird houses. To celebrate the joint efforts which resulted in a good nesting season and 4 successful fledgings, the city of Germantown declared August 30, 2018 as Eastern Bluebird Appreciation Day!



L-R Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo, TBS Board Member Fred Robertson, Germantown Garden Club Pres Phyllis Allen, Kathy Russo, Keith Paluso (in uniform)

Lessons About Bluebird Predators**By: DON HAZEL**

Don Hazel

If you monitor more than a couple of bluebird nest boxes you know that predation is unfortunately a fact of life. There are some things you can do to lessen the number of lost eggs or babies before disaster strikes.

The absolute best solution is to install nest boxes on poles with predator guards. You can look up "Kingston predator guard" and learn how to make them yourself. It is a lot cheaper than buying them already made and just as effective. Any boxes on wooden posts without guards or on trees are just wooden lunch boxes for snakes and raccoons.

We love all native birds, but house wrens, not so much. They are native birds and we can't harm them but they like to fill every nearby cavity with sticks hoping to attract a female. We can remove sticks (dummy nests) before a female accepts that spot and builds a nest cup. She can choose another cavity. Once a nest cup is in place we leave it. House wrens will poke holes in bluebird or tree swallow eggs and even remove newborn babies. If there are bluebird eggs with holes, or outside on the ground, or one or two new babies are missing, suspect a wren.

Rat snakes are hard to stop. They can climb anything. A properly installed Kingston predator guard is 98% effective against rat snakes. If a nest is perfectly intact but eggs or babies are missing suspect a rat snake. I have read that rat snakes are probably the number one predator of bluebird boxes in Tennessee.

You know about house sparrows. If a house sparrow wants a nest box they will kill any bird caught inside. This year we had a sparrow kill a bluebird, a chickadee, and a tree swallow before we caught it. If a bird is found dead in a box, and appears pecked to death,

suspect a house sparrow. A Van Ert sparrow trap solved our problem this year.

Raccoons can get to any box without a guard. If you find a nest pulled out through the hole, it is probably a raccoon. A Kingston guard or a Noel guard around the entrance can protect against raccoons.

One predator that we sometimes forget about is flying squirrels. Last year in our area they wreaked havoc on one golf course. We moved 8 of the 14 boxes over the winter away from large trees and didn't lose a bird on that course this year. If you find a dead bird in a nest box with its head missing, suspect a flying squirrel.

And last, but not least, how do you stop a bear. Very carefully is the answer. Actually not at all is the answer. We lost one box with 5 eggs to a bear. If you find a box ripped off the pole and ripped in half, suspect a bear.



So, remove those dummy stick nests, use predator guards where you can, trap non-native house sparrows, move boxes with flying squirrel problems, and watch out for bears.

*Don Hazel is a Tennessee Bluebird Society Board Member and lives in Crossville, TN
Email: don.hazel@gmail.com*

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Don Hazel - Crossville

Chuck James - Loudon

Jerry Rysticken - Farragut

Central Region:

Rosemary Chamberlain - Dickson

Andy Ecton - Lebanon

Beth Ecton - Lebanon

Rosalind Kurita - Clarksville

Duane Rice - Chapmansboro

Western Region:

Fred Robertson - Collierville

Farrell Roe - Jackson

Stacey Roe - Jackson

Joanne Watson - Collierville

Scientific Advisor: Dawn Wilkins,
PhD, UT Martin

Email: tnsialia@gmail.com

Website: www.tnbluebirdsociety.org

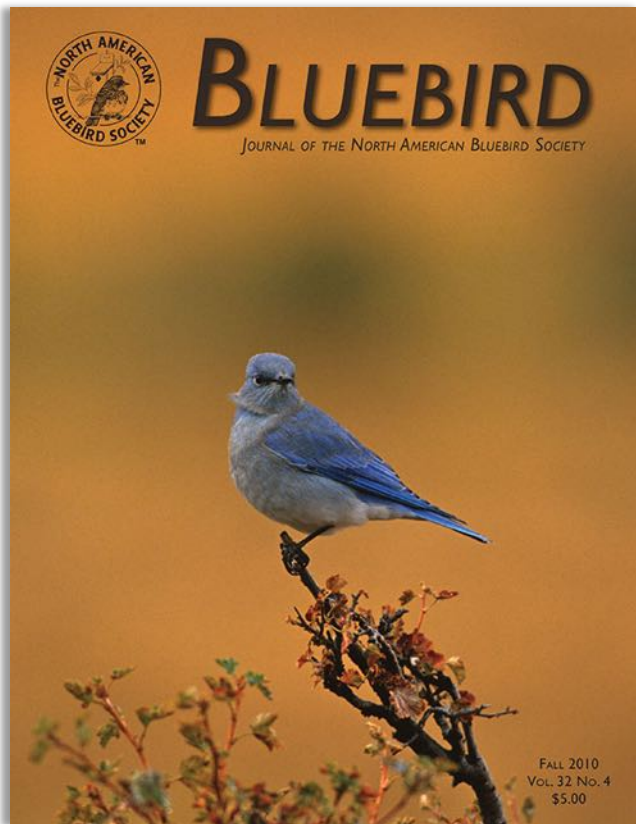
Facebook: [Tennessee Bluebird Society](https://www.facebook.com/TennesseeBluebirdSociety)

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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