

# The Tennessee Bluebird

## *Welcome To the Tennessee Bluebird Society Quarterly Newsletter*



Photo by Chuck James

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- New Board Members
- Stan's Word Puzzle
- Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting
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### Editors Notes

Here in Tennessee most of us are fledging our second brood as this newsletter is being written.

On this rainy day mom and dad continue to fly back and forth to the nest box. The fledglings will poke their heads out of the box, but I think they are telling mom and dad it's too wet, let's wait for a better day.

In this issue our feature article is on Seven Islands State Birding Park located in Kodak, TN. It's Tennessee's first birding park.

We will also, update you on our plans for our annual meeting set for Saturday, October 17, 2015.

Happy Birding!!!!

*Chuck James*

### BLUEBIRD QUOTES

*How the waiting countryside thrills with joy when Bluebird brings us the first word of returning spring. Reflecting heaven from his back and the ground from his breast, he floats*



*between sky and earth like the winged voice of hope.*

*- W.L. Dawson, Birds of Ohio, 1908*

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE BY FARRELL ROE**

The **Tennessee Bluebird Society (TBS)** will celebrate it's second anniversary this fall. It has been a very good experience for me. The TBS is divided into three regions;

East, Central and West, with three board members from each region. We have very capable board members from all across the state. They are very dedicated and resourceful, full of vision and energy. I am proud to be president of the TBS.

As I write this message we have 98 members. About a third are members of each of the two chartered bird clubs; The Tellico Village Bird Club Chapter and the Jackson Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. The rest, about a third, are individual members from across the state.

Our mission, as stated in our by-laws, is to support the recovery and perpetuation of the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds native to the Tennessee. From all indications our members are heavy into this mission and very capable of conducting educational programs, workshops and gathering data for research, which is also part of our mission.

**Projects needing our attention are Membership, Education and Research.**

**Membership.** This area is most important. I challenge each of us to sign up five (5) new members before the year closes December 31, 2015. I would like our Board members and Chapter presidents to consider organizing a Chapter with 15 to 25 members. Look on the TBS web site ([tnbluebirdsociety.org](http://tnbluebirdsociety.org)) and find the Membership Application. Add two lines at bottom of form (if not on it), one for your name as sponsor and another for identifying Chapter membership. It is recommended you also add, if appropriate, the cost of Chapter membership on the form (usually \$10 per year and this money remains in the Chapter). Along this line let's try for membership of a qualified individual in each of Tennessee's 95 counties.

**Education.** We have, prepared by Chuck James and Stan Colburn, a presentation adaptable to small and large groups. It's available on USB Flash Drive (memory stick). Several of our members have been conducting education and informational talks for clubs and organizations. Please report these meetings (date, time, group presented to, as well as the presenter(s)). Send this info to TBS at the address below.

**Research.** I urge all of us to submit data on numbers of Nest Boxes, Trails (1 or more nest boxes), nesting attempts, average number of eggs, total of fledglings and average nesting attempts. Please comment on the ways you are protecting the nest boxes. It would be great if those of you in Charter Clubs would total this info for your Chapter and individual members total yours and email to [tnsialia@gmail.com](mailto:tnsialia@gmail.com). Please email us for the appropriate form. Your data will be very helpful and shared with TBS, NABS and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

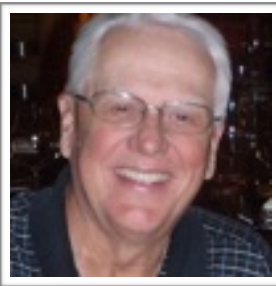
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## SEVEN ISLANDS STATE BIRDING PARK, KODAK, TN



In part the Tennessee Bluebird Society Mission

Statement reads *“Encourage and aid in the development of nest box trails and collecting data for research”*.



Chuck James  
VP Communications

This past February Stan Colburn and I were giving a presentation on basic Bluebirding at our local “Wild Birds Unlimited” after our presentation Billie Cantwell, a

member of the Knoxville Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society came to us and explained that our new state birding park, may need some help with their nest box trail. Both Stan and I looked at each other and said yes, we need to see if there is an opportunity for the Tennessee Bluebird Society to help.

The state took over the former Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge about a year ago from Knox County Parks and Recreation Department. The park encompasses 416 acres along the French Broad River in Knox County, approximately 19 miles East of Knoxville. This is a premier birding destination with over 180 species of birds sighted. Here is a link to a Tennessee Wild Side story on the park.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra34feduMg4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra34feduMg4)

Within a couple of weeks of our chance meeting with Billie, we met with Justine Cucchiara, Seven Islands State Birding Manager. Justine explained to us that the park had 54 nest boxes, some needed to be repaired and they did not have a formal monitoring protocol or volunteers.

We decided that the first order of business was to assess the nest boxes. After looking at all 54 nest boxes on two different 1 1/2 mile trails we realized that most could not be saved, however, a few were occupied.

Not knowing how we were going to get the funding and find the willing hands to build 50 nest boxes we decided to first organize a team of volunteers to train to monitor the nest boxes. Through working with the park and Friends President Morton Massey we were able to setup and train two teams to monitor the nest boxes weekly and record the data for future research, both local and at Cornell Ornithological Lab in Ithaca, NY.



Stan leading monitoring program at  
Seven Islands State Birding Park



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## SEVEN ISLANDS STATE BIRDING PARK CONTINUED

Our next task was to find help to build nest boxes. Both Stan Colburn and Mort Massey agreed to build some of the nest boxes but we needed additional help. Stan contacted the Tellico Village Woodworkers and asked for their help. They presented the idea to their club and agreed that it would be a good community project. They got to work and built 25 nest boxes. Through the efforts of Stan, Mort and the Tellico Village Woodworkers it saved the park about \$1,200 in costs.

Pictured at the nest box presentation at the Tanasi Grill in Tellico Village are from left to right: Tennessee Bluebird Board Members Stan Colburn, Chuck James, Tellico Village Woodworker Richard Bingham, Seven Islands State Birding Park Manager Justine Cucchiara, Friends of Seven Islands State Birding Park President Morton Massey and woodworker John Johnson.



Thanks to funding from the Friends of Seven Islands State Birding Park and the park we were able to cover all the costs of the nest boxes, poles and hardware necessary to install all 50 nest boxes.

Once all the pieces were put in place it was time to start constructing two new trails and taking down the old nest boxes. We thought this project would take through September to complete. Stan, Mort, Nick and I started putting up the first nest box trail of 25 nest boxes. The first day after cutting conduit and rebar we were able to install 20 nest boxes.

Special thanks to Nick Mann, a Summer Intern from University of Tennessee who took the project on and completed installing all the remaining nest boxes on the two trails of 25 nest boxes each.

One week after competition we were checking a few of the new nest boxes and a bluebird was already building



a nest.

Although this was a big project we are so pleased that Tennessee's first birding park would select the Tennessee Bluebird Society to manage this project.

Overall, our native cavity nesting birds make up a small part of the bird population in the park, but we believe an important part.



There are 57 State Parks in Tennessee. We need to make sure we continue this cooperative partnership in conservation with our state parks.

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## WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS



Joanne Watson

Joanne Adair Watson comes to the TN Bluebird Society from Collierville in East

Tennessee, but her roots take her back

to central Illinois where she

attended Eastern Illinois University. It might also be her roots which started a love of all kinds of nature, whether animals, plants or birds. For years she and her husband, Tom have been involved in cat rescue, and in 2006 she became a Master Gardener. Her interest in birds, particularly bluebirds came after one sighting. Their spectacular vibrant blue color happened to be her favorite color! She was hooked! In no time she had a bluebird house mounted and was busy monitoring the nest and kept detailed notes on a spreadsheet as to when the first egg was laid, the last egg so she had a timeline as to when they would fledge. Her endeavors have not only produced broods in her garden, but she has campaigned for her neighborhood encouraging neighbors to provide a good environment to protect and increase the bluebird population. While her employment has never been in direct sales she can certainly sell people on having beautiful song birds enjoying their gardens. She's had a background in

interior design, certified on programming four different phone systems and is currently at the FedEx Corporate Headquarters as a Senior Business Systems Analyst working with the vendor and the backend people to support the IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system on 1800-GoFedEx.

Gary Buchanan is a Graduate Of David Lipscomb University BS Degree. Member & on Board Of Nashville Junior Chamber of Commerce.



Gary Buchanan

Recognized as Man Of the Year with Nashville Junior Chamber & Director of Music City Pro

Celebrity Golf Tournament for 3 years!

Worked for Bell south/AT&T 43 Years retiring in 1996. During his Career with Bell Lived in numerous cities in Tennessee, & Alabama. Lived temporarily in New Jersey One year while working with AT&T/Bell Labs on developing Computer Project for all States. After retiring from Bell Worked for South East Financial CU & Tennessee CU doing Business Development work.

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## GARY BUCHANAN

Presently works For American Mail LLC & My 2nd Home Pet Resort doing Business Development work. Owned Farm for 16 years in Southeast Part of Williamson County Tennessee Named Blue Bird Hill had 9 Nesting boxes on Farm. Certified Master Gardner with State of Tennessee. Past & Present Board positions J L Clay Senior Citizens Center Franklin TN, Williamson County Fair, Williamson County

Chamber of Commerce Board & Ambassador recognized as Man of Year 1999 , NHC Health Car Cool Springs Franklin, Tennessee Chapter 21 AT&T State Pioneer Executive Board & Presently Life Member Representative For State Pioneers. In Past 30 years held various positions including state President of Pioneers in 1961.

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### Bluebird Word Puzzle by Stan Colburn

Find the words below in the puzzle  
to the left  
(They can be spelled forward, backward or diagonal)

F	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	B	L	U	E	B	I	R	D
E	I	P	S	R	L	S	O	N	I	U	A	I	A	R	R
A	N	I	H	C	T	A	P	D	O	O	R	B	I	F	I
T	G	N	B	A	I	L	P	E	T	E	I	B	O	E	B
H	G	F	E	C	A	L	S	A	C	M	E	A	R	A	E
E	G	E	F	P	A	J	I	R	Z	U	O	R	E	N	U
R	E	A	A	Q	E	E	E	P	L	A	M	C	K	E	L
S	E	T	G	Y	K	A	E	B	N	E	E	R	P	S	B
C	E	H	H	T	S	E	N	E	G	M	A	B	J	T	N
F	L	E	D	G	L	I	N	G	S	W	V	I	E	L	R
V	C	R	L	B	A	V	T	O	L	E	D	L	N	I	E
E	U	S	O	T	D	O	Z	C	I	I	P	X	X	N	T
R	M	Z	N	X	O	H	A	T	C	H	L	I	N	G	S
C	A	U	P	T	F	Q	F	M	B	E	Q	O	P	S	A
D	O	Q	H	Y	H	H	O	L	L	O	W	B	O	N	E
M	O	L	T	C	J	I	E	I	N	C	U	B	A	T	E

BEAK	INCUBATE
BROOD PATCH	MOLT
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
EGG	NEST
EGGTOOTH	NESTLINGS
FEATHERS	PINFEATHERS
FECAL SAC	PREEN
FLEDGLINGS	WESTERN BLUEBIRD
HATCHLINGS	WING
HOLLOW BONE	

## DR. BIRDSONG

**Q:** A friend told me he cleans out his nest box after each fledging. I usually wait 'til the end of the nesting season. I always thought removing the nest would discourage the bluebirds from returning. What do you think?

**A:** I clean out mine after each fledging also. Here's why. If the used nest harbors any parasites, they will infest the next brood. Used nests can get quite messy sometimes, depending on the chicks diet. It also helps me keep track of whether the nest I see, is indeed a new nest, and not abandoned. It also keeps the nest from being too close to the opening, which makes the contents less vulnerable to predators. If the birds are successful at a particular nest box location, they will return to that box, even if the old nest is gone.

**Q:** I see the bluebirds come to my box and look in, but they won't go in and build a nest. Why?

**A:** Take a good close look inside the top of the box. Paper wasps will build nests in the tops of nest boxes. Bluebirds will not risk getting stung. If there is a paper wasp nest, remove it in the early morning hours when it's still cool outside. Wasps are much slower when it's cold. Use a spatula or putty knife. Then coat the upper insides with a bar of soap. The wasp will not be able to get it's



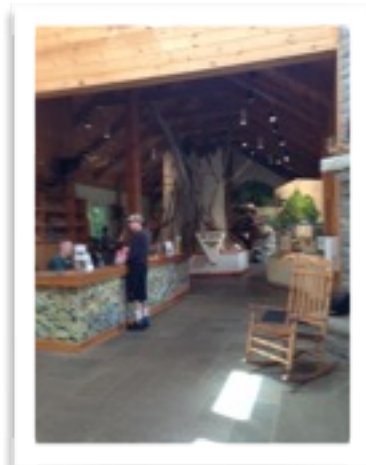
nest to stick to the wood. Be very careful, especially if you are allergic to wasps.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**North American Bluebird Society Annual Conference September 17 -20, 2015 Magog, Quebec, Canada**

Please join your fellow bluebirders for a wonderful three days talking, eating and drinking Bluebirds. More information can be found on the NABS website: [www.nabluebirdsociety.org](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org)

**Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Meeting Saturday, October 17, 2015 - at Percy Warner Park, Nashville, TN.**



Join us at one of our nations first bluebird trails for an afternoon of fellowship and discussions. A detailed program will be sent out via email. For now save the date.



**TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY**  
(An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society)

TBS is a 501(c)3 Non-profit

Email: [tnsialia@gmail.com](mailto:tnsialia@gmail.com)

Website: [www.tnsialia.org](http://www.tnsialia.org)





## PUZZLE ANSWERS

F	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	B	L	U	E	B	I	R	D
E	I	P	S	R	L	S	O	N	I	U	A	I	A	R	R
A	N	I	H	C	T	A	P	D	O	O	R	B	I	F	I
T	G	N	B	A	I	L	P	E	T	E	I	B	O	E	B
H	G	F	E	C	A	L	S	A	C	M	E	A	R	A	E
E	G	E	F	P	A	J	I	R	Z	U	O	R	E	N	U
R	E	A	A	Q	E	E	E	P	L	A	M	C	K	E	L
S	E	T	G	Y	K	A	E	B	N	E	E	R	P	S	B
C	E	H	H	T	S	E	N	E	G	M	A	B	J	T	N
F	L	E	D	G	L	I	N	G	S	W	V	I	E	L	R
V	C	R	L	B	A	V	T	O	L	E	D	L	N	I	E
E	U	S	O	T	D	O	Z	C	I	I	P	X	X	N	T
R	M	Z	N	X	O	H	A	T	C	H	L	I	N	G	S
C	A	U	P	T	F	Q	F	M	B	E	Q	O	P	S	A
D	O	Q	H	Y	H	H	O	L	L	O	W	B	O	N	E
M	O	L	T	C	J	I	E	I	N	C	U	B	A	T	E

### Help Needed

We need help in the following areas

- \* County coordinators - Give presentations to local civic groups and organize one community project per year.
- \* Data Collection - Must have strong spreadsheet skills. Collect trail data and collate for research.
- \* TBS Board Members - We need people interested in taking a leadership role in TBS.
- \* Newsletter Publisher - Must have past experience putting together news letters.

Email us if your interested in the above opportunities to:

[tnsialia@gmail.com](mailto:tnsialia@gmail.com)

## Tennessee Bluebird Society Board of Directors

### Eastern Region:

Kelley Atkinson-Loudon  
Stan Colburn - Loudon  
Chuck James - Loudon

### Central Region:

Gary Buchanan - Thompson Station  
Duane Rice - Chapmansboro  
Rosalind Kurita - Clarksville

### Western Region:

Farrell Roe - Jackson  
Stacey Roe - Jackson  
Joanne Watson - Collierville

Email: [tnsialia@gmail.com](mailto:tnsialia@gmail.com)

Website: [www.tnsialia.org](http://www.tnsialia.org)

Facebook: Tennessee Bluebird Society



## TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY APPLICATION

<u>Category</u>	1 Year	3 year	Lifetime
Household	\$15	\$35	\$150
Corporate	\$150		

Add an only \$15 to a household membership and become a member of the North American Bluebird Society a \$30 value. You will receive four issues of Bluebird, the journal of the North American Bluebird Society.

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

Name/ First: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address/ Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone/ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ NABS  
 \$15(Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: \_\_\_\_\_

I have interest in helping the following areas: Newsletter\_\_\_\_, Membership\_\_\_\_,  
 Education\_\_\_\_,  
 Website Management\_\_\_\_, Data Collection\_\_\_\_, Becoming a board member of Tennessee

Send your application and check to: Tennessee Bluebird Society

10350 Altona Cove  
Collierville, TN 38017

Website: [www.TNBluebirdsociety.org](http://www.TNBluebirdsociety.org) / Email: [TNSialia@Gmail.com](mailto:TNSialia@Gmail.com)

Contact Telephone: (865) 437 -9732