

The Tennessee Bluebird

Fall Edition



Photo by: Stan Colburn

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Tennessee Bluebird Society Annual Membership Meeting

This years Tennessee Bluebird Society annual membership meeting will be held once again at the Warner Park Nature Center, 7311 HWY 100, Nashville, TN. Saturday, October 15, 2016 from 9:30am 3:00pm

In addition to a brief annual meeting we have 3 very good speakers you will not want to miss.

***Bob & Judy Peak** -

Over twenty years experience monitoring nest boxes at Land Between The Lakes State Park.

***Justine Cucchiara** -

Park Manager, Seven Islands State Birding Park, Kodak, TN

***Dr. Dawn Wilkins** -

UT Martin.

We hope to see you.

Chuck James

BLUEBIRD QUOTES

As one bluebird landlord to another, you should know that you aren't alone. Most of us have lost a "favorite" bird who had been with us for a



long time. It hurts like heck.

- Malinda Matsuko,
Bluebirding Forum, 2007

PRESIDENTS LETTER CHUCK JAMES

WOW!!! what a busy spring and summer. Unlike last year, spring came early and our bluebirds starting nesting in Mid-March.



Many of our nest boxes had 3 broods. One neighbor had 3 broods with 5 eggs in each clutch. We hope you have had the same success.

In the Spring we gave many presentations on “Basic Bluebirding.” Chuck Cruickshank and I went to Shelbyville, TN for a day in the park building nest boxes as a family activity. This was part of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology program.

Later in the Spring I traveled to Collierville, TN to work with Joanne Watson and Fred Robertson in getting the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society started. They got off to a great start and with their first nest box trail, see article later in this edition.

In the Summer Kathy Dooley, Jerry Rysticken and I were invited to Jellico, TN to the Indian Mountain State Park. Park Manager Jeff Nicholson is interested in starting a nest box trail for the children of the area. Aaron Dunn, of Vintage Millworks in Nashville, has agreed to make 20 nest box kits for the children of Jellico to assemble next spring. We thank Aaron for helping with this project.

In addition to all these activities, my wife Terry and I met up with her niece Kathy Hartke and husband Mike at the North American Bluebird Conference in Lacombe, AB, Canada.

Ellis Bird Farm, in Lacombe, AB, Canada put on a wonderful conference. We were able to learn much about the area and the Mountain Bluebird. To learn more about Ellis Bird Farm go to their website <http://www.ellisbirdfarm.ca> I have included a brief story about our trip with photo's later in this newsletter.

In August I had an opportunity to give a presentation to the Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithology Society. It was very nice to meet many of our fellow birders in the Nashville area. With the help of Rosemary Chamberlain, we hope to start a chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society in the Nashville area.

We hope all of our Bluebird Landlords had a great nesting season. Please join us at the Tennessee bluebird Society 3rd annual membership meeting on Saturday, October 15, 2016 at Warner Park Nature Center from 9:30am - 3:00pm. We promise you that you will enjoy the program and the fellowship and story telling from other like minded people that love our Eastern Bluebirds.

Chuck James

President

Tennessee Bluebird Society

NEW SHELBY COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

The TBS Newest Chapter in Shelby County, TN is off to a great start

Elsie Bloodworth (Shelby County TBS) and Mark Hueberger (Collierville PR Manager).

We are always pleased when a community is

On June 8, 2016 our Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society dedicated their first nest box trail in grand fashion at Hinton Park in Collierville, TN. The photo to the right shows on the left Joanne Watson, Chapter President along with Collierville Mayor Stan Joyner in a ribbon cutting ceremony.



The Shelby County Chapter took introducing a new nest box trail to a new level, involving the community leaders. In the photo to the right are from left to right: Stan Joyner (Collierville Mayor), Joanne Watson (Shelby County Chapter TBS President), John Adams (Trail sponsor Russell's Farm Supply), Fred Robertson (Shelby County & TBS Board Member, nest box builder),



conservation minded and understands the importance of their environment.

Joanne Watson a Tennessee Bluebird Society Board and Membership Chair wanted to start a TBS chapter in Collierville. She ask Fred Robertson if he would help. Fred thought this was a good way for him to support nature. He took a bluebird

nest box design (Carl Little box) he found of his father's and began building nest boxes. He then began looking at various areas around Collierville to see where trails could be located and came

NEW SHELBY COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

up with a number of locations.

The next hurdle was how to get funding for the nest box trail since TBS does not have the resources to fund trails. Often TBS looks to Friends of a Park for funding. In the case of Hinton Park there was not a Friends group. Fred Robertson put on his thinking cap and said perhaps I could get a corporate sponsor. Once he contacted John Adams at Russell's Farm Supply, it didn't take much for them to step-up and provide \$250 in sponsorship money.



In return for their generous contribution, a news story was published in the local newspaper and Fred had the sign above made to let people know that the trail at Hinton Park was sponsored by Russell's Farm Supply.

Fred's thinking will lead to many more trails being sponsored by corporate sponsors, great idea Fred.

After the formal ribbon cutting ceremony, Joanne Watson takes time to educate the children on bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds.

In about 5 months the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society has grown to 15 members. If you would like to start a TBS chapter, but don't know how to get started send TBS an email at

tnsialia@gmail.com we will be happy to sit down and help you form a chapter.

The Tennessee Bluebird Society has recently launched a County Coordinator program. We are asking interested bluebirders to share their knowledge of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters with people in their county. If you are interested in this program email tnsialia@gmail.com.

For more information on the Shelby County Chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society contact Joanne Watson at joanne.watson@fedex.com cell (901) 351-8402 or Fred Robertson nostrebor@bellsouth.net or phone (901) 612-0233.



3RD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

* Closing Remarks.

This should be a fun and interesting event for anyone interested in our native cavity nesting birds.

The 3rd Annual Membership meeting of the Tennessee Bluebird Society will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2016, from 9:30am - 3pm at Warner Park Nature Center, 7311 HWY 100, Nashville, TN.

There will be a meet and greet reception and coffee at 9:30am the program will begin at 10:30am:

*Welcome TBS President; Chuck James.

*TBS Annual Membership Meeting

*Bob & Judy Peak
"Protecting Bluebirds in the Winter."

* Lunch Sponsored by TBS

*Justine Cucchiara, Park Manager Seven Islands State Birding Park, Kodak, TN
"New Bluebird Nesting Trail Update and Results."

*Dr. Dawn Wilkins, UT Martin
"Wild About Woodpeckers."



2015 Annual TBS Meeting

This Membership meeting is FREE and opened to Everyone. If you are planning on attending please send us an email at tnsialia@gmail.com.

If you are interested in staying over night the nearest motel is the Baymont Inn & Suites, 111 Penn Warren

Drive, Brentwood

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF MOM - BY DUANE RICE

In late Summer Of 2015 I received a letter with a check from my sisters asking me to set up a bluebird trail in memory of our mother. Our Mother was an avid nature-lover and passed her love of the natural world on to her children. She was the main reason I became interested in birds and became a bluebird monitor.

Although it was late in the season, after scouting several potential sites for the trail, I decided Dunbar Cave State Park would be an ideal location for several reasons.

While the habitat

was not ideal for bluebirds, it had potential for several cavity nesting species, including bluebirds. My goal was to have as many cavity-nesting species as would use the nest boxes.



I installed eight boxes in different types of habitat. I also installed a hanging gourd (Photo below) in a tree overhanging the lake with the hope a pair of Prothonotary Warblers would use it.

The park has thousands of visitors a

year, so I saw this as an opportunity to educate the public I encountered while monitoring the boxes.

The first year (2016) of monitoring the nest boxes yielded 23 bluebirds and 6 Carolina Chickadees. Not bad for the first year. A total I'm sure it's benefactor (my Mom) would be proud of.



Duane Rice

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The North American Bluebird Society held its annual conference this year at the Ellis Bird Farm in Lacombe, AB, Canada, two hours north of Calgary. The conference was July 7 - 11, 2016.



In the 1950's Charlie Ellis after taking over his parents farm saw his first Mountain Bluebird and Tree Swallow, from that point on he was hooked and rimmed his fields with 300 nest boxes. He also, learned how destructive House Sparrows are and he began working on eliminating HOSP's.

In the 1980's Charlie's greatest fear was who would take care of his trail if he couldn't. In the meantime Union Carbide was looking at his farm for a chemical plant. Following a suggestion by the Red Deer River Naturalists, Carbide agreed to continue the Ellis legacy through a non-profit charitable company, Ellis Bird Farm Ltd. Union Carbide later merged with Dow Chemical and Dow continued to support EBF.

Today, Ellis Bird Farm works in four areas: To carry out summer nesting programs, winter feeding, conduct and support scientific research and develop and deliver public education programs.

The Staff at Ellis Bird Farm did an excellent job putting this conference together with two full days of very interesting speakers: Presentations included: "Bluebirding on the Canadian Prairies", "Tracking Mountain Bluebirds", "Nestbox Parasites" and "Engaging the Next Generation of Bluebirders."

The conference concluded with an informal evening including a banquet, music and quest speaker.



Please consider going to the next NABS conference we are sure you will enjoy the meetings and fellowship with other bluebirders from across North America.



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.*

** **Woodworkers** - Willing to build nest boxes.*

** **TBS Board Members** - We need people interested in taking a leadership role in TBS.*

** **Newsletter Publisher** - Must have past experience putting together newsletters.*

Email us if your interested in the above opportunities to:

tnsialia@gmail.com

Tennessee Bluebird Society Board of Directors

Eastern Region:

Stan Colburn - Loudon
Chuck Cruickshank - Loudon
Chuck James - Loudon
Kathy Dooley - Loudon
Jerry Rysticken - Knoxville

Central Region:

Duane Rice - Chapmansboro
Rosalind Kurita - Clarksville

Western Region:

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

Scientific Advisor: Dawn Wilkins,
PhD, UT Martin

Email: tnsialia@gmail.com

Website: www.tnbluebirdsociety.org

Facebook: Tennessee Bluebird Society

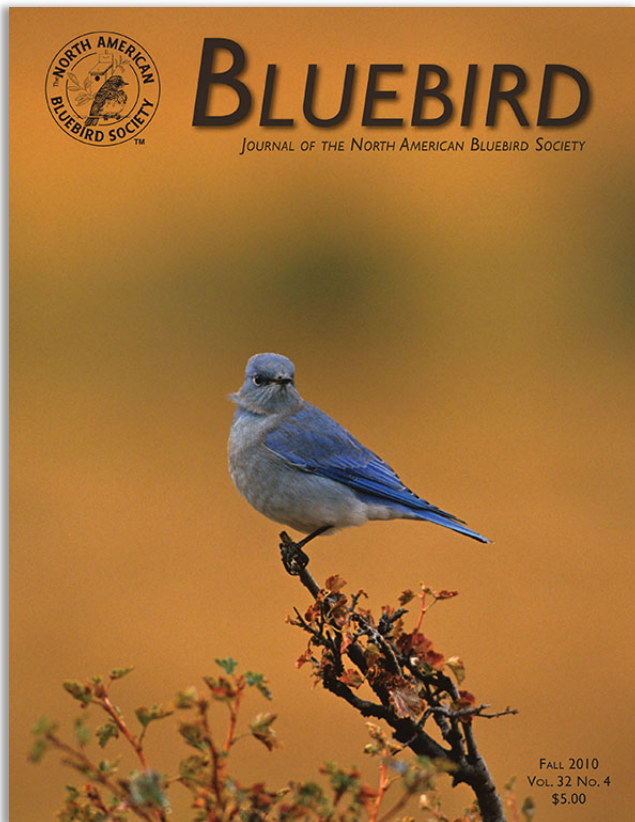
TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Did you know 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 4 TBS newsletters you will receive four issues of Bluebird from the North American Bluebird Society.

Don't miss this great savings.



Websites

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

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TENNESSEE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY APPLICATION

Category	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: _____

Last: _____

Organization: _____

Address/ Street _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

County _____

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 Bluebird Society _____

Send your application and check to: Tennessee
Bluebird Society

10350 Altona Cove
Collierville, TN 38017

Website: www.TNBluebirdsociety.org / Email: TNSialia@Gmail.com

Contact Telephone: (865) 437 -9732