Mission Statement
The Ohio Bluebird Society was formed in 1987 to support the return and the perpetuation of the Eastern Bluebird (Sialia sialis) and other native cavity nesting birds in Ohio. To this end, the Ohio Bluebird Society will strive for the best methods to use, conserve and create habitat for the protection of these species.

What’s Inside...
Bluebird of Happiness ..................1-2
OBS Area Contacts ..................2-3
Trail Tales ..................4
Ask Madame Wingnut ..................5
Blooming Bluebirders ..................6-7
Lake Metropark’s Day to Celebrate the Birds ..................8
Nest Box Report Form ..................9
Ohio Songbird Rehab Centers ..................11
Member News ..................12-14
Contact Block ..................15

Deadline for Submitting Articles:
Spring Issue - February 1
Summer Issue - June 1
Fall Issue - August 1
Winter Issue - October 1

Bluebird of Happiness
By Keith Kridler

To many people these birds are just like raising a human infant. A young, inexperienced teenage mother with no other humans to help will need to keep a closer eye on her first-born new baby than will an older mother who has run a daycare center for many years that was responsible for keeping hundreds of infants.

You learn by “hands on” doing, and reading a book on changing a cloth diaper won’t make the first stay on! An experienced mother knows what small objects to pick up and remove from the child’s area to keep it from getting hurt. An experienced Bluebirder can see that a Bluebird entering an active Chickadee nest is about to cause the loss of the Chickadees. Seeing Starlings or House Sparrows entering your nestboxes is going to be a problem you need to address.

When a baby Bluebird hatches out, every single day in its first few weeks’ growth is equal to one year in a human infant to a teenager’s life! Just like a human at 18 years old, the 18-day-old Bluebird is ready to spread its wings and leave the nest! EVERY day a miracle is happening to convert high protein insects into flesh, blood and feathers right before our eyes. If you only spend a day with your son or daughter once a month, will you EVER learn anything important about them?

You learn from other Bluebirders that high-pitched sharp whistles or squeaks will trick these tiny newborn babies into opening their mouths and begging for food from YOU! Their mouths are so tiny you cannot begin to try to catch insects small enough to feed them! Every single day the weather changes and affects food and shelter needs of these birds. Every day humans in search of greener lawns are using “weapons of mass destruction” right next door or across the block from you and nuking the insects and weeds.

Bluebirding should bring you Peace and Joy and not a guilt trip because you opened a nestbox and witnessed a miracle in your own yard. Bluebirds are

Continued on Page 2
not endangered in any state. By watching the numbers of Bluebirds lost in solidly built nestboxes, protected with all sorts of grease, guards, poles, traps, etc., learning all of this - does it make us wonder how the lowly Song Sparrow can possibly ever raise its young in an unprotected nest without our help?

By all means the miracle of the Bluebird eggs hatching to educate those two boys who probably NEVER knew that a baby bird grows inside of those blue eggs or that in 18 days they can fly out to live with their mother and father. Just like 18 year old humans who will depend on their parents for the next 1-8 years for schooling and money, the just-fledged Bluebirds will rely on their parents for food and safety for several more weeks (normally until next breeding season.)

Some Bluebirds will die whether we put up a nestbox, or not. Some Bluebirds will die if we monitor monthly, weekly, daily or hourly and we need to accept that too. I HOPE you understand that to truly find the “Bluebird of Happiness” will take a little bit of your time (the more time you spend, the quicker you will fit “it”) and people have experienced this joy before paper and pen were ever invented and the only guilt we should ever feel is NOT sharing the “miracle” of Bluebirds with others.

Reprinted from Bluebird-L

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### OBS Area Contacts (as of June 30, 2011)

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<th>Name</th>
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<th>Alt. Phone #</th>
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<td>Ashland</td>
<td>Lang, Linda</td>
<td>419.945.3005</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:nrws_lang@tccsa.net">nrws_lang@tccsa.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Darke</td>
<td>Luttmer, Bob</td>
<td>937.526.5477</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bonnie561@embarqmail.com">bonnie561@embarqmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Darke</td>
<td>Smith, Tom</td>
<td>937.996.1629</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bluebirdman@embarqmail.com">bluebirdman@embarqmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Tuttle, Dick</td>
<td>740.363.6433</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ohtres@cs.com">ohtres@cs.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Ziebarth, Paula</td>
<td>614.848.3784</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:paulaz@columbus.rr.com">paulaz@columbus.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>Sheldon, Dean</td>
<td>419.752.1451</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:seedbed@accononwalk.com">seedbed@accononwalk.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Bourne, Lum &amp; Meriam</td>
<td>614.882.1188</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:meriam.lum@worldnet.att.net">meriam.lum@worldnet.att.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Sillick, Darlene</td>
<td>614.761.3696</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:azurerails@columbus.rr.com">azurerails@columbus.rr.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Geauga</td>
<td>Brindo, Jay</td>
<td>440.343.9275</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jbrindo@aol.com">jbrindo@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>Williams, Pete &amp; Alice</td>
<td>937-848-2595</td>
<td>937-266-1857</td>
<td><a href="mailto:S10Pete@aol.com">S10Pete@aol.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guernsey</td>
<td>Barber, Tom</td>
<td>740.439.4284</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:klbarber62@roadrunner.com">klbarber62@roadrunner.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hancock</td>
<td>Nye, Fred</td>
<td>419.387.7465</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:evaferdy@tds.net">evaferdy@tds.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>Hawkins, Marcella</td>
<td>330.465.6987</td>
<td>330.276.0909</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gofish710@embarqmail.com">gofish710@embarqmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmes</td>
<td>Maurer, Kyle</td>
<td>330.317.4995</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:kylemaurer63@yahoo.com">kylemaurer63@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huron</td>
<td>Sheldon, Dean</td>
<td>419.752.1451</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:seedbed@accononwalk.com">seedbed@accononwalk.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>Glass, Dale</td>
<td>740.397.5573</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dglass@ezlinknet.com">dglass@ezlinknet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Watson, Mike</td>
<td>440.946.4400, Ext. 132</td>
<td>419.813.2628</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mwatson@holdenarb.org">mwatson@holdenarb.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas</td>
<td>Seaman, Tammy</td>
<td>419.868.5111</td>
<td>419.349.5162</td>
<td><a href="mailto:erictammy@sbcglobal.net">erictammy@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>Duecker, John</td>
<td>330.598.1576</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jduecker@neo.rr.com">jduecker@neo.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noble</td>
<td>LeVasseur, Doug</td>
<td>740.685.5220</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:emdlev@clover.net">emdlev@clover.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Coffman, Jim</td>
<td>419.448.4753</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:jruccoff@gmail.com">jruccoff@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Bolt, Mel</td>
<td>330.262.0448</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mellen@ssnnet.com">mellen@ssnnet.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayne</td>
<td>Lynn, Sharon</td>
<td>330.263.2437</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:slynn@wooster.edu">slynn@wooster.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fowler’s Mill Golf Course is a Pete Dye designed 27 hole golf course located in Munson Township, one of the superior rated golf courses in Northeast Ohio.

Three years ago Superintendent Keith Goodge and my husband Nick Trudick created a trail by placing 24 Bluebird nesting boxes adjacent to the fairways of the golf course at Fowler’s Mill.

It has been a successful project enjoyed by the golfers and supported by the management of Fowler’s Mill and is a part of the Audubon Society concerning the Bluebirds nesting and fledgling in this area. Fowler’s Mill is one of the first golf courses accredited by the Audubon Society.

Keith Goodge and his staff mow paths to the nesting boxes for the us to check each box and record the activity every two weeks from spring to fall and report the numbers to the Audubon Society. We are also members of the Ohio Bluebird Society and report the activity and numbers to them.

Over the past few years, Nick has relocated boxes which are not productive and selected better placement locations for them. This has resulted in the number of Bluebirds dramatically increasing from the year 2009 when 63 Bluebirds and 27 swallows were seen to 2010 the year when 123 Bluebirds and 14 swallows were fledged by the busy Bluebirds and swallows. The activity this year seems to be on par with last years’ nesting and fledglings.

Jay K. Brindo has visited the trail and is very impressed with the work done by all those who are involved here at Fowlers Mill.

Fowler’s Mill Golf Course
13095 Rockhaven Road
Chesterland, OH 44026
440-729-7569
You must all be very busy out in the field monitoring boxes. I have received no questions or comments from OBS members recently so I will take this opportunity to climb up on my nestbox and discuss a malady that plagues many of us. It is a subject near and dear to my heart and I am definitely afflicted. The disease is contagious and most of my neighbors now have it. No doubt they caught it from me: The Bird Bug.

Symptoms of The Bird Bug may include:
- Wasting an entire morning watching and/or photographing Eastern Bluebirds in your backyard.
- Housing live mealworms in your refrigerator.
- Storing dead House Sparrows in your freezer.
- Filling up your gas tank at over $4 per gallon to travel to distant trails in order to document and protect the birds nesting there.

I felt compelled to write about this after my neighbor somberly approached me the other day. He approached with a concerned look on his face and confided that he was very worried.

“What’s wrong?” I asked.

He replied, “My wife is standing by the window tossing little white feathers into the wind for a pair of Tree Swallows.”

“That is totally normal,” I told him with a smile.

He walked back to his house, shaking his head. “If it gets any weirder, I’ll let you know.”

On my way out into the field yesterday, another neighbor asked me to help her check her nestboxes. The last time she opened a box, a Carolina Chickadee flew into her face and scared her good. She stood back as I opened it up. Out flew the chickadee and she still had her 3 eggs. I pointed out the House Wren song I was hearing in the background and installed a House Wren guard on her box for her. She declared me “The best bird lady ever”, even complimenting me on my stylish Pyrethrin treated shorts and L’il Abner boots.

A boy down the street has an Eastern Bluebird incubating eggs. His mother tells me how excited he is.

The rain has abated for now. Seven Carolina Chickadee nestlings are thriving in a backyard nestbox. A Carolina Wren is singing proudly in the front yard. I love his voice and his repertoire; he is trilling now. He has 4 nestlings breaking feathers in my front porch Carolina Wren box. I inspected them carefully when they were eggs to check for Cowbird eggs. One year, they raised one very large nestling, but not this year. All is good in the ‘hood.

I hope you are all doing your part to spread The Bird Bug. This is the perfect time of year to catch it and infect as many as you can.

Bluely yours,

Paula Ziebarth
Aka Madame WingNut

An experienced monitor of more than a dozen trails in central and northern Ohio, Madame WingNut enjoys fielding your questions in a humorous, but informative way. Some believe she has a screw loose. Her questionable title notwithstanding, she insists that the only house of ill repute she presides over is the unfortunate nestbox that attracts the unruly, nonnative House Sparrow.

Send your questions to Madame Wingnut at info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org or by mail to PMB 111, 343 W. Milltown Road, Wooster, OH 44691.
“I’m a Daisy Girl Scout,  
And I’ll tell you something too,  
I’m a loyal Girl Scout,  
And my color is true blue.”

The above are lyrics to a Girl Scout song that I started singing one day while I was helping my father monitor his Bluebird trail. It happened either after we checked the first Bluebird box, or after Dad said, “Do you think learning about the Bluebirds would be something your troop would be interested in?” Regardless, an idea began to snowball.

My name is Sally Finger, and I help co-lead 16 Daisy Girl Scout 1st graders who attend a school located in Chardon, Ohio. Daisy scouts are represented by the color blue. Our troop’s head leader, Betsy Zemba, taught this song to our scouts long ago. Today, the words have an additional meaning, thanks to our recent Bluebird experience.

My father (Jay Brindo, Director of OBS) offered to host a field trip and visit selected boxes on his personal trail. Scouts came prepared with binoculars, bird books, and cameras. On our trip, they learned how to tell the difference between nests like Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and English House Sparrows. They learned other things like why predator guards are important, and that not all birds are friends with other birds. They also were given the opportunity to hold a baby Bluebird while Mr. Brindo demonstrated how to change a nest. Smiling from ear to ear, they giggled as the nestlings tickled the palms of their hands.

After hiking to the boxes on what was a beautiful day, the scouts shared time having lunch and talking more about what we saw that day. Mr. Brindo also gave the girls a pop quiz. In the end, they each received an OBS patch.

This was our first bird related nature trip, but I’m certain not our last. It was very educational and has sparked an overwhelming interest among some scout’s parents and other family members who inquired about helping monitor an existing trail, or starting their own.

As one parent said, “sometimes we need to just stop and look around us”. I feel very fortunate that we were able to connect our daughters with nature in such a unique and beautiful way. Thanks to Bluebirds, OBS, and my dad!
My name is Ben Hodapp and for my Eagle Scout Leadership project, I built over 20 Bluebird nesting boxes. The nesting boxes were delivered to the Kettering Parks and Recreation Department for use at their Pondview Park and to the Aullwood Audubon Society in Englewood. The Kettering Pondview Park is a teaching park and is set up to teach young children about nature.

As part of my project I requested funds from my parent’s friends to help cover the cost of the materials. The response was great and I received more money than was needed. I have enclosed a donation check for $87.00 representing the extra money I received. I have also included an additional check for $13.00 to bring the total donation to $100.00.

**Ben Hodapp’s Eagle Scout Leadership Project Sponsors**

**Cash Contributions**
- John & Amy Schomburg
- Jeff & Kathleen Rutter
- Gary & Julie Evers
- Ann Callin
- Dan Hodapp
- Mike & Denise Borns
- Ted & Barb Hecht
- Jim and Libby Balsamo
- Larry & Susan Hodapp
- Jan & Sandy Dickey
- Bill & Sondra Whaley
- Dave & Dawn Wilkening
- Dick & Shirley Harris

**Building Material Contributions**
- Lowes, Mennards
- Kettering Parks and Recreation Department

And a special thanks to Rick Hodapp for his valuable building expertise and for his patience in teaching me
Lake Metropark’s Day to Celebrate the Birds by Jay K. Brindo

This past May 15th, the Ohio Bluebird Society was invited to take part in Lake County Metropark’s 17th annual Migratory Bird Day Celebration. The event was open to the general public and free to anyone curious about why birding is so appealing. It was held at their picturesque Chagrin River Park facility, one of the most visited areas within the Park’s many facilities.

This year they highlighted the Eastern Bluebird and how people have helped its population recover by putting up and monitoring Bluebird nesting boxes. Many family-fun birding opportunities were available including a nest box hike, displays about the Bluebird’s natural history, a Bluebird trivia question game, counting Bluebirds display and an interactive display about what Bluebirds eat and how they capture food. Becky Parkin also worked with building a “human-sized” bird nest and teaching kids just how much work goes into building a nest prior to laying eggs. The local rescue/recovery program for raptor birds also brought along a few guests to welcome visitors and show off their feathers to the crowd. Jay Brindo representing the Ohio Bluebird Society spoke about how to properly establish a Bluebird trail and then pointed to the many responsibilities related to being a good steward and how this helps the Bluebirds’ recovery.

Many thanks go out to the good folks at Lake Metropark for their outstanding effort toward helping the Bluebirds through education and building public awareness. Please visit their web site for more information regarding the many family oriented activities they make available.

http://www.lakemetroparks.com/
### Ohio Bluebird Society Nest Box Report

**Cavity Nesting Species**

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**Ohio Bluebird Society Nest Box Report**

**Year:** ________________

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<td>Other:</td>
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**Name:** __________________________  **County:** __________________________

**City:** __________________________  **State:** _________  **Zip:** ______________

**OPTIONAL**

**Telephone:** __________________________  **Email:** __________________________

How many boxes do you manage?: _________  How many trails do you manage?: _________

Do you actively control House Sparrows and European Starlings? _________ Yes _________ No

What are your most serious predator/competitor/other problems on your trail?

____________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________

Do you believe Tree Swallows are becoming more numerous on your trails? _________ Yes _________ No

Are you an OBS member? _________ Yes _________ No

Any comments will be welcomed - thank you for taking time to complete this form.

**Mail to:** Ohio Bluebird Society, PMB 111, 343 W. Milltown Road, Wooster, OH 44691

**or e-mail completed report to:** info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org

**www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org**
Page left blank for mailing of nest box form.
## Ohio Songbird Rehab Centers

Information on rehabilitation for songbirds from ODNR Division of Wildlife - www.dnr.state.oh.us/wildlife

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Permit Conditions and/or Restrictions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>Barbara Seeley</td>
<td>Mammals, waterfowl and songbirds. Transfer raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Reily</td>
<td>(513) 624-9763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>Tracy Brewer</td>
<td>Songbirds/passerines and waterbirds and seagulls only. Transfer all other wildlife to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>New Richmond</td>
<td>(513) 797-7239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>Neva Broderick</td>
<td>Orphaned or injured mammals, and song birds only. Transfer all other avian species to another Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Moscow</td>
<td>(513) 875-3433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>Sheina Gilpin</td>
<td>Mammals (except adult raccoons), reptiles, and small song birds. Transfer all raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Pleasant Plain</td>
<td>(513) 875-3433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clermont</td>
<td>Jennifer Taylor</td>
<td>Neonate mammals, turtles, waterfowl, and small songbirds. Transfer all raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>(513) 875-3433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Linda Ott</td>
<td>Mammals, waterfowl and songbirds. Transfer raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>(513) 471-2025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Polly Bond</td>
<td>Squirrels, rabbits, opposums, woodchucks, and songbirds only. Transfer all other animals to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>(513) 791-3377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Marilyn Arn</td>
<td>Mammals and songbirds with limited initial care of raptors. Transfer raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator for further care and conditioning.</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>(513) 875-3433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Lynn Dunlap</td>
<td>Orphan or injured mammals and songbirds, refer or transfer all other wildlife to a Category II rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Perry</td>
<td>(440) 259-2292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>Susan MacGillis</td>
<td>Raptors and sonbirds only. As needed, transfer raptors needing special care or pre-release conditioning to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Wellington</td>
<td>(440) 315-9323</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preble</td>
<td>Donald “Chad” Smith</td>
<td>Primarily an avian rehabilitator. Due to the number of outdoor caging, limit the raptors accepted. Transfer raptors needing special care or pre-release conditioning to another Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>College Corner</td>
<td>(513) 524-4250</td>
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<td>Richland</td>
<td>Cynthia Murray</td>
<td>Mammals, reptiles, small avian species, waterfowl, and small &amp; medium raptors.</td>
<td>Bellville</td>
<td>(419) 886-2254</td>
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<td>Richland</td>
<td>Gail Laux</td>
<td>Avian rehabilitation, transfer mammals to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator. AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT STATE &amp; FEDERALLY ENDANGERED AVIAN SPECIES (valid until 3/15/12, per provisions specified in 3/1/09 letter).</td>
<td>Mansfield</td>
<td>(419) 884-4295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>Steven Pavelka</td>
<td>Emergency care, stabilization, and transport of raptors and avian species in association with the Medina Raptor Center. Transfer all animals to another permitted Category II rehabilitator within 72 hours.</td>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>(330) 283-4988</td>
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<td>Tuscarawas</td>
<td>Amy Lee</td>
<td>Primarily an avian rehabilitation facility. Transfer large raptors to another Category II Rehabilitator for pre-release conditioning.</td>
<td>Tippecanoe</td>
<td>(740) 254-9838</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>Julie Zickefoose</td>
<td>Song birds, reptiles, and bats only. Refer or transfer all other wildlife to another permitted Category II rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Whipple</td>
<td>(740) 473-1141</td>
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<td>Wyandot</td>
<td>David Balz</td>
<td>Mammals, small songbirds and waterfowl. Transfer large raptors to another permitted Category II Rehabilitator.</td>
<td>Upper Sandusky</td>
<td>(419) 294-4477</td>
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Among the many attributes of working with prothonotary warblers is that, after 20 years, they never cease to amaze me. This year’s curve ball is a male warbler seen feeding young grackles in their nest about 15 feed away from the nest jar that houses this bird’s female who is incubating a clutch of 6 eggs. I know the nest looks too neat for a grackle’s but the parent grack’s were seen going to the nest with food in bill upon our departure. I think the compact structure is due to the tight space above the natural grafting of the triple-trunked silver maple.

They don’t seem to mind the help from the warbler. Apparently responding to the “feed me” stimuli of nestlings, I hope this guy doesn’t ignore his own young once they hatch. I’ll know soon.

Even though the photo isn’t a Pulitzer Prize winner, I intend to report this to the North American Bluebird Society, The Ohio Bluebird Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Cleveland Bird Calendar and the Ohio Cardinal. Any other publication recommendations welcome.

Photos from Mel Bolt

I’d like to share these pictures of the Pileated Woodpecker feasting at the suet feeder at my neighbor’s house. We live in the north end of the city of Wooster in an allotment of 16 houses. Adjacent to his back yard is the huge West Hill Baptist Church with all its paved parking area.
I am new to the Bluebird world. My husband randomly bought me a Bluebird box setup for Christmas. We live in a standard suburban neighborhood in northern Westerville with the average 1/2 acre lot. I researched as much information as I could and thought that based on our lot conditions that I would never be able to attract these birds. Once March came around I have been consumed with trying to attract Bluebirds to nest. We fought bad weather and lots of House Sparrow issues but the end result is my Bluebirds produced 6 eggs and all 6 fledged this Sunday (06/19). Mom and Dad have the fledglings hidden off somewhere but show up every one-two hours for mealworms that they take away. They are also showing interest in their newly cleaned nestbox - I am hoping that they will attempt another brood. (To the right) are some of the pictures I have taken throughout this process.

The reason I am writing is that the way it has worked out, I unintentionally? inadvertently? accidentally have fed the grackles so much that they have softened their songs - thought you’d be interested.... but then this technique has worked with the neighbor’s cat - gave it some really good cat food & it stopped stalking my bird feeders - as a courtesy. ~ Jo Marie

Comment from our website visitor:
I was told that I would never get any blue birds to come in my area even though I put a blue bird nest box up. It took two years but I was able to tell all those who didn’t believe “if you build it they will come”. THEY DID. After putting up a sparrow spooker, I now have 5 fledglings, growing well and should be ready to leave the nest sometime next week. Lucky me!! ~Toni Montgomery

May 13 - Last week when I checked boxes there were little bluebirds in 9 boxes, eggs in 5 and a few empty nests. Lots of tree swallows - 25 -30 nests with eggs in three. I have been checking boxes this morning and found more swallow eggs. There has been one attempt by a wren and of course several sparrows. Sure hope this nice weather continues.

June 3 - I had eggs disappear from two tree swallow nests and the next week they both had bluebird eggs. I think this is a “first” for me. The bluebirds usually don’t take over swallow nests. I have Chickadees in one box. Sure hope to have some fledge - never have before as the wrens usually take over. Several of the bluebirds are on their second nesting. 21 have fledged. Lost several batches because of wet nests or lack of food. LOTS of tree swallows. I’m hoping for a good year. Most of my boxes are on electric poles so have been wading through grass and weeds three feet tall. Sure hope they get the ditches mowed soon. ~ Jean Rutan
Thank You

Thank you to Kendra Wecker, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife, for her support with the printing of the updated OBS membership applications.

Mel Bolt reports that one of the Bluebirds he monitors is incubating one egg.

Nestbox Monitoring

When I opened a nestbox recently, I was quite shocked to see a 2-inch yellowish caterpillar attached to one of my Bluebird chicks that just hatched out a few hours earlier. I pulled it off of the chick and threw it to the ground. Then I inspected the chick and put it back in the nest. I really wanted to take a picture of the caterpillar to have it identified, but couldn’t find it. If this happens again, I will try to remain calm and keep the specimen so I can see what it is. ~ Marcella Hawkins

Gift Memberships

For the Bluebird lover who has everything . . . except a membership to OBS.

Wanted:

Experienced OBS Representatives/ Volunteers in the Geauga County area to help work in the OBS kiosk on Labor Day weekend. Please contact Jay Brindo at 440.343.9275 or by e-mail at JBrindo@aol.com. This is a very busy event and more help would be appreciated.

Conference

The upcoming OBS Annual Conference will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 in Wooster, Ohio.

Your opinion matters! Please submit any ideas or suggestions to our e-mail address: info@ohiobluebirdsoociety.org.

Sparrow Napkins

...now, who’s going to buy them??

Facebook

Ohio Bluebird is now on Facebook! Search for Ohio Bluebird Society to join our group.
Ohio Bluebird Society Membership Application

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<th>Membership Class</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>3-years</th>
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<td>New membership</td>
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I am interested in participating in OBS activities

Ohio Bluebird Society is a 501(c)(3) Organization

Name: __________________________
Street: _________________________
City: __________________________
State: _______ Zip: ___________
Phone: _________________________
County: _________________________
E-mail: _________________________

Make checks payable to: Ohio Bluebird Society

Mail to:
OBS
PMB 111, 343 W. Milltown Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691-7214

OBS Board of Directors and Advisors

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You can now sign up online and pay your member dues via Paypal with your credit card or bank account. Go to www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/membership/become-a-member/ to sign up today!

OBS Communications Block

E-mail: info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org
Website: www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org
Phone: 330.466.6926
Address: PMB 111, 343 West Milltown Rd.
Wooster, Ohio 44691-7241

Annual Request:
Please send a “test” e-mail to OBS (info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org) so we can make sure we have your current e-mail address. Thank you.
Ohio Bluebird Society Website

Visit our website at www.ohiobluebirdsoociety.org and let us know what you think. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions please send us an e-mail at info@ohiobluebirdsoociety.org.

You will not need to have a username and password to view all of the pages. Passwords are for joining, renewing memberships, or updating contact info online only.

Please take the time to register on our website under “BECOME A MEMBER.” This will allow you to renew your membership or make changes in your contact information.