



Bluebird Monitor

OBS encourages good stewardship
by **Monitoring** our Trails

Volume 24, Number 4 • Winter 2010



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...

View from the Directors.....	1-2
Blooming Bluebirders.....	3
Trail Tales.....	4-6
Ask Madame Wingnut.....	7
From Our Members.....	8
Financial Report.....	9
Conference Registration.....	10-11
Holden Arboretum Grant.....	12
Frost and Freezing Temperatures.....	13
Aldo Leopold Festival.....	14
OBS Contact Map.....	15
Robert Frost Poem.....	16
Fledgling Map.....	17
Member News.....	18
Contact Block	19

Deadline for 2010 - 2011 Bluebird Monitor Articles

Spring 2011 - February 1, 2011
Summer 2010 - June 1, 2010
Fall 2010 - August 1, 2010
Winter 2010 - November 1, 2010

2010 OBS Recap - View from the Directors

by Mike Watson

Now that 2010 is winding down, the OBS Directors would like to take a moment to reflect on what was accomplished this year and think about what we hope to do in 2011.

Thanks in large part to Marcella Hawkins' persistence and patience, OBS has four (4) new Directors. The previous board members' terms expired in 2008 and 2009 and the organization was "Board"less for several months. Because all of the current Directors are relatively new to the organization, we decided that it was important to appoint some advisors - folks with a long history with OBS who could help us move the organization forward. These advisors have been invaluable in 2010 and we will continue to rely on their knowledge and advice in the future.

During the restructuring of the County Coordinator (CC) program we have relied heavily on our advisors. OBS must provide one-on-one, personalized support for members and others who are looking for help with Bluebirding. Unfortunately, the CC system was no longer providing that service. The new Area Contact (AC) system is a streamlined version of the CC system that is intended to provide quick and personal guidance when needed. The list of AC's has grown to seventeen (17) and we expect to add more names in 2011.

Two of the most visible changes to OBS in 2010 are the improved website and the redesigned Bluebird Monitor newsletter. The website improvements include a complete redesign, updated content, and improved interactivity (paying membership fees online, for example). The Monitor has been redesigned and is now available electronically (which saves OBS money and saves space on your shelf). The Monitor is also being archived on our website. We will be adding member pictures to the website very soon.

Communication with members has also improved this year. Many questions have been taken care of by sending a message to our OBS e-mail address. This has improved the speed by which matters can be addressed. OBS has a

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

phone number that people can call and then, depending on the matter, it will be directed to the person best suited to help. We have business cards available that list the website and e-mail addresses and phone number - members can pass these out to people so they have a source of reference if they need it.

Finally, OBS hosted two very successful and well-attended conferences in 2010. Both of these conferences provided interesting and informative presentations, vendors, and the opportunity to talk to old friends and meet some new bluebirders.

Looking forward to 2011, the OBS Board will continue to expand and strengthen the Area Contact system, establish or re-establish contacts and partnerships with other conservation organizations, and work to recover some of the membership losses that we've seen over the last few years. And of course, we're all looking forward to February's conference in Wooster. We hope to see you there!



A Note from Jay K. Brindo:

I'm not a person who equates success with how big the bank account is or how long the membership mailing list is for any organization. For that reason over the past many months, I've been contemplating the mission statement of OBS, asking myself how we measure our success, and thinking about what priorities our organization should focus on during the upcoming new year. Besides the obvious, one big question has been going through my mind over and over.

That question is, how can we get more young people involved? It seems that in all organizations young people bring fresh ideas, enthusiastic energy and also help teach us older folks with their youthful perspectives.

Well, it was not in a dream or while on some weekend spiritual retreat that I got my enlightenment. I was wide awake and talking to students from Perry School when the answer came. You see, this past April I helped these students install a new Bluebird trail at their school but had not had an opportunity to speak with them until I attended the recent Grant Symposium held at Harvey High School. We talked about nesting characteristics, defending behavior of parent Bluebirds, bird instinct and the importance of keeping accurate data while monitoring their trail. I was blown away at how much they had learned in one nesting season and how appreciative they were toward their teacher.

I came home that night and told my wife that I had been asking myself the wrong question. ***The question should be, how can I (we) get involved with young people, not how can we get them involved with us.*** I know this is a no-brainer to all you school teachers out there, but not to me who is not a teacher by profession. I now know if we encourage young people and show interest in what they are doing, they will want to be involved.

So, the challenge I've made to myself and hopefully also you, is that in this new year we find young people in schools, scout groups, clubs, camps or wherever they just hang out, and introduce them to a Bluebird. It is my experience that the Bluebirds will take it from there.

Blooming Bluebirders

By Kisha Wernet

Photos by Jay K. Brindo

My name is Kisha Wernet and I teach Science (general bio, AP bio and integrated science) at Willoughby South High School located in Willoughby, Ohio.

I became interested in Bluebirds when my friend Sally (Brindo) Finger invited me to walk the trails that she monitors. She knew I was into animals and nature and thought I'd enjoy it. I then attended a workshop at the Lake Metro Parks Environmental Learning Center where one of the activities for teachers was to build a Bluebird nesting box and then look in on the trail there at the Learning Center which OBS helped implement. I thought that my students would enjoy something like that so I thought up a plan and took steps toward obtaining a grant.

This involved applying for a grant from the Partners in Science Excellence Super Grant program.

Partners in Science Excellence-Lake County, Ohio (from their website: <http://mopedler7.brinkster.net/3268.html>)

Formed in 1989, the Partners in Science Excellence team is comprised of local business representatives and members from the Lake County Educational Community. The mission is to unify the effort of educators and businesses to improve, expand, and promote science education in Lake County, Ohio. Our primary purpose is providing yearly grants of up to \$2,500.00 for hands-on, inquiry bases science materials to K-12 teachers. The secondary purpose is to provide high quality professional development opportunities for local science educators that encourage best practices in the teaching of science.

I will be using the trail as part of a larger project to provide students positive interactions with their local neighborhood wildlife and to encourage scientific inquiry into nature.



Trail Tales

Grassland Fire Management and a Tree Swallow Nestbox Grid

by Dick Tuttle, Delaware, Ohio



I maintain two nestbox grids for Tree Swallows that stand in the Delaware Wildlife Area (DWA), 6,875 acres managed by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife (ODOW) for hunting, fishing and wildlife

viewing. One grid along Panhandle Road

at the south end of the area has 25 nestboxes that are spaced at 25 yards apart and stand in rows of 2, 6, 6, 5, 4, and two boxes, respectively.

Grasslands within the area are periodically burned to stop succession by woody plants to benefit birds that require grassland habitats, not only game birds such as pheasants, but also nongame species valued by a broad spectrum of nature enthusiasts. Blooming prairie wildflowers are icing on the cake for those seeking signs of nature's diversity.

In 2009, the field hosting my Panhandle Road nestbox grid was due for a prescribed burn, and I was to learn that a fast-moving grass fire posed no threat to my nestboxes or to the Tree Swallows that claimed them for nest sites. The floors of my nestboxes stand six feet above the ground, so high that I need a hand-held mirror to monitor their nest chambers. The height of nestboxes protects them from jumping house cats that are occasionally dumped on public land by the irresponsible among us, but the nestbox mounts stand tall for reasons not related to cats. The ODOW had supplied the poles for the Panhandle Road grid in 2005

when I approached the agency with the idea to add nest boxes to several of their fields. The division had a stock of eight-foot-long U-posts, most commonly seen supporting stop signs. The division uses the sturdy posts throughout their hunting areas to support Wood Duck boxes. The massive posts weigh sixteen pounds each and require thirty strikes from my 28-pound post pounder to sink them two feet into the ground. It would be easy to bolt nestboxes directly to U-posts, but in order to

hang capped, 30-inch-long predator baffles made from four-inch PVC drainpipes, I bolt lengths of recycled pipe to the channel side of each post to hold a nestbox. An electric conduit clamp surrounds each pipe and rests atop its post so its baffle can swing ever so slightly in all directions to further deter dew-soaked raccoons and other night-climbers.



To avoid hunting seasons, I remove nest boxes and baffles from their posts before September 1 and store them for the winter while the signposts are left to stand year-round. On March 2, 2009, I arrived at my grid to reinstall its nestboxes and baffles. I had reinstalled six nestboxes before I noticed that a brush hog had been used to mow a path around the field hosting my grid, followed by a plow that cut three furrows in the earth, all signs that the area had been prepared for a burn. To be sure, I returned to my car and soon found two wildlife personnel that confirmed that their team was waiting for the proper weather conditions before they set fire to the grassland. They promised to call me since I

wanted to record the event. I returned to the field where I removed only the PVC baffles from their posts since I feared that the plastic might melt during a burn. My only experience with a grassland fire took place two decades before when a non-thinking picnicker in a state park discarded smoldering charcoal briquettes that ignited an unscheduled burn across one of my bluebird trails. Surprisingly, the fast-moving fire barely melted some of the chassis grease that I had applied to the pipe mounts. (Grease is an excellent deterrent to furry climbers, but should not be used where the sticky stuff is brushed onto swaying vegetation that might tarnish clothing or hunting dogs, etc.)

I got a call two weeks after my discovery on March 2, 2009, announcing that the burn through my grid would take place during the morning of March 17. When I arrived, wildlife personnel were already setting fires along the field's mowed and plowed borders to create a fire break so when the main fire reached the charred zones, it would not find enough "fuel" to jump to protected areas. A slight breeze from the southwest was going to push the fire toward a cliff overlooking Delaware Lake that merged close to Panhandle Road. A tractor with a large water tank and other fire fighting equipment was used to make sure that small fires on the field's edge did not grow to reach the road or the tree line near the lake. Wildlife personnel knew what they were doing; the result of much training, practice and experience, but my purpose was to watch my six nestboxes left standing to see how they would fare in a grassland fire. More important, the same boxes had been claimed by swallows, even though not much nest material had been added yet. As the wildlife workers

used drip torches fueled by a mixture of diesel fuel and gasoline to start a fire line hundreds of yards away, some swallows continued to glide and snatch insects from the air throughout their truncated grid as others perched on their roofs and watched the approaching inferno.

I stood on the road and photographed the event. One

of my first impressions was how loud the burning was with lots of cracking and hissing and a constant roar as flames advanced and danced four to ten feet in the air. As the yellow and blue flames approached the nestboxes, the swallows launched high above the torched earth and circled behind the smoke that was quickly flowing north to dissipate into a haze. Within minutes of the flames passing through, the swallows landed on their boxes as if nothing had happened.

Prior to the burn, the wildlife workers cautioned me not to work in the field until after a rain since they had suffered lung irritations in the past after breathing in charcoal laden dust stirred by their

follow-up activities. Fortunately, it rained the next night and I was back on March 19 to reinstall my grid.

Even though flames had tickled some boxes, I found no signs of scorching — the boxes remained unscathed. I went about reinstalling PVC baffles to the six boxes that I had left standing during the fire, and then row-by-row, I installed the remaining boxes. Loud chirps from excited swallows spread the word and soon the sky above me was filled with swooping birds. In the swallows' world, I was late since I usually have the grid boxes up by March 15. I got a strange feeling that the birds were excited at



Continued on Page 6

seeing their boxes, even when I was carrying them under my arms!

Birds have excellent memories, and during a quest to band and identify female swallows from more than two thousand nests between 1980 and 1992, I learned that Tree Swallows tend to select the same nestbox year after year. So, I was not surprised as a swallow stood on post No. 12 and waved its wings like a male bluebird seeking a mate. The swallow and its mate circled me as I tightened No. 12's bolt. I stepped back two steps and both birds landed on the nestbox; one landed on the roof as the other peaked in the entrance. Yes, I am sure it was the same box they had nested in the year before. I had a glorious time with the birds as I worked to return their nest sites above the blackened earth.

To summarize, I found no conflict between fire management of grasslands and managing nestbox grids for Tree Swallows. And, to further simplify management on areas where nestboxes and baffles stand year round, I recommend using metal stovepipe baffles like the Ron Kingston baffle found on page 115 of *The Bluebird Monitor's Guide* by Cynthia Berger, Kridler, and Griggs. Metal baffles are more expensive, but their use would eliminate the need to dismantle a grid for a scheduled burn.

My first monitoring visit in 2009 took place on April 11 and most of the first nests had charcoal laced grasses that emitted a slight odor. As the nests matured before the first eggs appeared during the first week of May, cleaner grasses, followed by white and gray feathers topped their nests. From the first egg on May 2 until the last fledgling on July 26, a period of 82 days, and 122 swallows fledged from the Panhandle Road Grid for an average of 4.5 birds for each successful nest. For the first time since the grid was installed in 2006, all nestboxes produced swallows. And, after applying values found by ornithologists studying Tree Swallow diets, starting at five days before the first egg until fledging, the colony's

families consumed 8.4 million flying insects to pay their rent in full.

During my visits to the grid to monitor every nine days or so, I not only enjoyed interactions with birds, but it was fun watching the prairie plants grow. In 2009, ten Prairie Dock plants towered over my boxes, compared to only two in 2008. And, my favorite flower, Butterfly Weed was showing its clumps of small orange petals in many more locations as if the fire had freed them to do so.



As a conservationist, I promote the idea that Tree Swallow grids should stand in tallgrass prairies and wetlands to mimic ecosystems created by beavers like those found across North America five hundred years ago. In Ohio's flatter regions, grasslands encircled beaver wetlands, a time when wolves, buffalo, and elk were also common. Gradually, and sometimes abruptly, the European fur market wiped

out the beavers' influence, then, decades passed before waves of settlers moved into former beaver territories that had succeeded into forest over time. In Ohio, settlers became common in the late eighteenth century.

Before the dramatic influence of the fur market, wooden skeletons of girdled or suffocated trees stood in open water and the water-saturated beaver meadows that surrounded them. Throughout Ohio, seven or eight species of woodpeckers whittled cavities in the wetland pockets of dead trees that became nest sites for bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and many other species, a common sight experienced by Native American and French trappers, but missed by the settlers that arrived decades later. Each time I check my nestbox grids standing in the managed tallgrass prairies on the Delaware Wildlife Area, I find myself imagining how it must have been when flat-tailed engineers constructed ecosystems in ancient times, and beautiful prairie wildflowers blooming among nesting Tree Swallows and bluebirds help me leap back in time.



Ask Madame Wingnut

How do I deal with ant infestations?

by Paula Ziebarth



How do you deal with ant infestation while there are eggs in the nest and also after the eggs have hatched?

Before I attempt to answer this question, let me ask you one. Did you remember to clean out the old nest in your nestbox after

young fledged the last time? A little wag of the finger if you did not because a well used nest can contain bacteria, bird feces, unhatched rotting eggs, or uneaten insect or berry parts that can easily attract ants. They can smell the goodies using special nerve cells on their antennae and up they climb.

Before the ants get in the nestbox, there is a reason why they went there. The only two reasons I know for an ant infestation are: 1) easy meal, or 2) searching for a dry place to raise their colony. Remember that before they reach their nestbox destination, the ants have to come from some where. I cannot remember ever having ants in nestboxes placed in good Eastern Bluebird habitat away from tree edges and in open mowed grass areas where ants are seldom found. Keep the rotting, smelly stuff out, site box in good Eastern Bluebird habitat, and ants are seldom a problem. Keep your nestboxes well away from wood edge habitat, and not only do you eliminate House Wren competition, you also greatly reduce the likelihood of ant infestation.

Now, if you have ants in a nestbox, don't panic. We are Ohioans after all, and the dreaded fire ant does not live in these parts. Fire ants live in the southern states and are quite a danger to nesting birds. Ohio ants are not as aggressive or voracious. I have opened nestboxes with ant infestations to find chicks and ants living in apparent harmony with chicks sitting on their nest on top and ants tending to their nest on the bottom of the box. It is a little like opening the refrigerator door when the light comes on though, because most nestboxes open from the side or front and the monitor disturbs the ant colony when they open the box. Disturbed ants bite. Stick your hand in a colony and let them crawl up your arm and experience it if you don't believe me. I have opened nestboxes with older chicks and observed disturbed ants bite the young, evidenced by chick eye flinches.

Back to the original questions. **How do I deal with ant infestations when there are eggs in a nest?** I leave them be. Eggs are tough little vessels and an ant is not going to harm

an egg. If I disturb ants during a nest check with female on eggs, she can easily leave for a quick break until the ants settle down again. I would never risk performing a nest change with eggs in a nest. The risk of my sweaty fingers rendering the eggs nonviable or my clumsy fingers breaking eggs is not worth it. I simply make a field note and have a new nest ready along with an ant barrier planned for the next nest check.

How do I deal with ant infestations after the eggs have hatched? Let me start by saying I am not a proponent of pesticides or other chemicals in nestboxes or elsewhere. Concern for the health of the birds I am monitoring as well as concern for my own health keeps these things out of my monitoring bag of tricks. A little housekeeping and a fairly innocuous ant barrier do the trick.

Fashion a new nest out of clean, dry pine needles or dried grasses. Only use materials that the parent bird uses as manmade materials can be dangerous. Have your new nest in a shoebox or other container that will hold the nest shape fairly well. Carefully transfer the chicks to the new nest and cover them with box lid or rag while performing nest change. Young naked chicks should be shaded from the sun during this process as they can develop a bad sunburn in a very short time. Older chicks should be gently covered to keep them calm.

Remove and discard the old, empty nest and scrape out the box well, removing all ant eggs, larva and other detritus. Place the new nest with chicks back inside the box. Install an ant barrier on the pole to keep ants from reentering the box. Ring pole directly under nestbox or under baffle with about a 4-inch swath of Vaseline or automotive grease. Placing this barrier directly under the box or under the baffle will keep adults from brushing up against it and soiling their feathers. This barrier will harden over time and become ineffective, but it should work well for the remainder of this nesting. Barrier should be scraped off and reapplied for subsequent nestings if needed.

Bluey Yours, 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.

WELCOME - TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

(August 16 through
December 6, 2010)

- Sally Finger
- Dan & Lyn Jones
- Todd & Courtney Lorenz
- Ralph Ottensmeier
- Donald Sampson
- True North Ministry/
Circle of Influence
- Edward Young

OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY DONATIONS

Our thanks goes out to
the following donors:

**Mary Ellen Bolt Memorial
Bench - \$50** (as of November 29,
total is \$1,275)

- Teter, Carol

**In Memory of Gail Novak Knee
- \$660**

- Carmeuse Lime & Stone
- Hushour, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald
- Hushour, Renea
- Knarr, Robynn
- Loar, Todd
- Nelson, Mrs. Norma & Family
- Pentek, Phyllis
- Weiss, Joseph H. Jr.

General Donations - \$50

- Vacariello, Sheilah

From Our Members

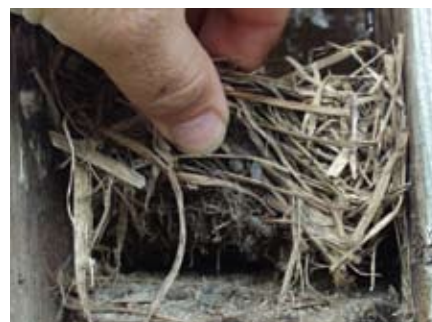


I was making a last check of my boxes and when I opened this one it was full of acorns. The hole, 1-1/2" in diameter, was not made bigger so I know a squirrel didn't do it so it must have been a mouse or chipmunk.

~ Mel Bird

The same pair that gave us two girls earlier this year just had three leave the nest today. Also, they nested in a different house. Check out the picture of blow fly larva still in the nest.

~ Rod Scheidler



An OBS sticker used to cover a rust spot on a member's RV

~ Photo from Jo Marie

Bluebird Winter Treat (Meriam Bourne)

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 c. Flour | 1 c. Crunchy Peanut Butter |
| 1 c. Lard | 1 c. Currants |
| 4 c. Yellow Cornmeal | 1 c. Sunflower Hearts |

Mix together by hand.

Pack into yogurt cups to mold, then pop out to use.

OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

Fiscal Year (10/1/2009 to 9/30/2010) Report by Quarter

Marcella Hawkins, Treasurer

Financial Report for 10/1/2009 through 12/31/2009

Beginning Balance as of 9/30/2009 26,324.25

Receipts:

Donations.....	120.00
Interest.....	12.08
Membership Dues.....	1,525.00
Reimbursements.....	24.90

Total Receipts 1,681.98

Expenses:

Business Office.....	(3.22)
Membership Expenses.....	(194.09)
Newsletter.....	(948.00)

Total Expenses: (1,145.31)

Ending Balance as of 12/31/2009 26,860.92

Financial Report for 1/1/2010 through 3/31/2010

Beginning Balance as of 12/31/2009 26,860.92

Receipts:

Annual Conference.....	2,607.00
Grant - Wachovia.....	100.00
Interest.....	49.04
Membership Dues.....	1,680.00
Rebate.....	10.00

Total Receipts 4,446.04

Expenses:

Annual Conference.....	(3,517.99)
Business Office.....	(1,462.21)
Education.....	(135.00)
Membership Expenses.....	(52.95)
Newsletter.....	(750.00)

Total Expenses: (5,918.15)

Ending Balance as of 3/31/2010 25,388.81

Financial Report for 4/1/2010 through 6/30/2010

Beginning Balance as of 3/31/2010 25,388.81

Receipts:

Donations.....	2,455.00
Interest.....	36.13
Membership Dues.....	893.00
Rebate.....	10.99
Voided Checks.....	83.53

Total Receipts 3,478.65

Expenses:

Business Office.....	(393.46)
Education.....	(62.32)
Newsletter.....	(970.00)
Website.....	(912.00)

Total Expenses: (2,337.78)

Ending Balance as of 6/30/2010 26,529.68

Financial Report for 7/1/2010 through 9/30/2010

Beginning Balance as of 6/30/2010 26,529.68

Receipts:

Donations.....	850.00
Interest.....	36.47
Membership Dues.....	1,029.00
Summer Conference.....	1,634.00

Total Receipts 3,549.47

Expenses:

Annual Conference.....	(99.46)
Business Office.....	(933.78)
Dues.....	(350.00)
Education.....	(134.11)
Membership Expenses.....	(94.99)
Newsletter.....	(1,240.00)
Summer Conference Expenses.....	(2,690.44)
Website.....	(830.00)

Total Expenses: (6,372.78)

Ending Balance as of 9/30/2010 23,706.37



OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 26, 2011

The Arden Shisler Center for Education & Economic Development
1680 Madison Ave., Wooster, Ohio 44691

For map: <http://www.shislercenter.ohio-state.edu/secondary/Location.htm>
Wayne County Visitors Bureau: www.waynecountycvb.org

This Is A Free Educational Event Provided By The Ohio Bluebird Society

AGENDA

Light refreshments will be provided throughout the event.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 8:00 - 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 - 9:15 | Welcome - Jay Brindo, OBS Director
- Marcella Hawkins, Special Events Chair |
| 9:15 - 10:00 | Dan Best, Senior Naturalist with
Geauga Park District - Setting The
Swamp on Fire with the Prothonotary Warbler |
| 10:00 - 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 - 11:15 | Chuck Jakubchak, Certified Volunteer
Naturalist in Ohio - Cute Chicks |
| 11:15 - 11:45 | Break |
| 11:45 - 12:00 | Presentation of Blue Feather Award
and Wildlife Conservation Award |
| 12:00 - 12:30 | Medina Raptor Center |
| 12:30 - 1:45 | Lunch - Raffle - Vendors |
| 1:45 - 2:30 | Larry Rosche, Field Researcher
(Cleveland Museum of Natural History);
Avian and odonate biologist for BHE
Environment, Inc.; and author - Birds of
Northern Ohio |
| 2:30 - 2:45 | Break - Last Chance for Raffle |
| 2:45 - 3:30 | Mike Watson, Conservation Biologist and
Coordinator for the Bluebird Program
at Holden Arboretum - Holden Arboretum
Bluebird Program |
| 3:30 - 3:45 | Break |
| 3:45 - 4:30 | Information Exchange - Q&A Session
Dean Sheldon, Darlene Sillick and
Paula Ziebarth; Dick Tuttle - Moderator |
| 4:30 | Door Prizes - Announce Raffle Winners |

LODGING

Accommodations for the Conference -
be sure to mention "OBS"

**CUT OFF DATE FOR RESERVATIONS
IS JAN. 23, 2011**

Rooms for Friday (25th) and Saturday (26th)
night are reserved at each location

Hotels

Hilton Garden Inn – Phone: 330.202.7701
(across the road from Shisler Center)
959 Dover Road, Wooster, OH 44691
Fax 330.202.7781
\$89/night plus tax

Best Western Wooster Plaza Hotel (downtown) –
Phone - 330.264.7750
243 E. Liberty Street, Wooster, OH 44691
bestwesternwooster@gmail.com;
www.bestwestern.com
\$69/night plus tax

Econo Lodge – Phone: 330.264.8883
2137 E. Lincoln Way, Wooster, OH 44691
econolodgewooster@yahoo.com;
www.choicehotels.com - search for Wooster area
\$49/night plus tax

Bed and Breakfasts:

Market Street Inn – Phone: 330.262.4085
www.marketstreetinnwooster.com
Special OBS rate \$81-\$99

Mirabelle Bed & Breakfast – Phone: 330.264.6006
www.bbonline.com/oh/mirabelle
Special OBS rate \$75/night includes tax

OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) for name tags: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Number of People Attending: _____ E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Boxed lunch(es)? Enter number for each. All lunches are \$10.00 and come with macaroni salad, chips and a cookie. Prepared by Honeybaked Ham.

_____ Turkey Classic

_____ Chicken Salad

_____ Veggie Delight

_____ Ham

Walk-ins welcome!

Make checks payable to OBS

Mail to:

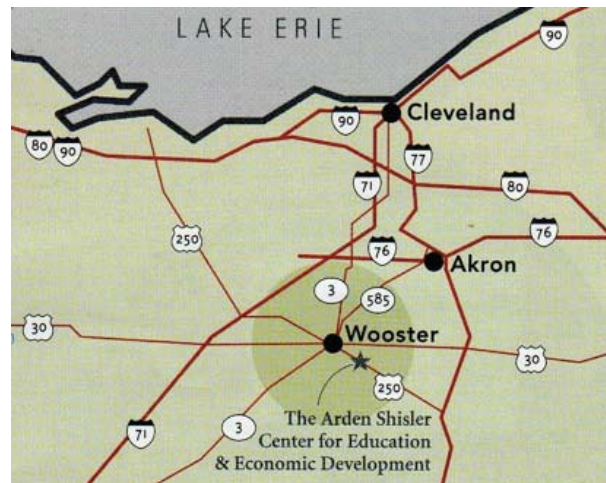
Ohio Bluebird Society, PMB 111, 343 W. Milltown Rd.
Wooster, OH 44691-7214

To use PayPal, please send request to info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org

Questions?

Please call Marcella Hawkins at 330.465.6987 or send
e-mail to info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org

*This Is A Free Educational Event Provided By
The Ohio Bluebird Society*



If you would like to have a vendor table at the conference, please send an e-mail request to info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org or call 330.465.6987.

*Don't forget to bring a raffle item. The money we raise helps us with our conference costs and allows us to keep this a "free" educational event.

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Holden Arboretum Receives Grant



The Holden Arboretum was recently awarded a grant from the Kenneth A. Scott Charitable Trust to build and install 140 nestboxes and to purchase and install 12 Purple Martin houses. The Scott Trust provides funding to non-profit organizations for projects focusing on animal welfare and education of animal

welfare issues. Holden will use the new nestboxes to replace old and worn nestboxes on its trail system, improving the nesting conditions for birds using those sites. Although Purple Martins have been seen at Holden, it does not currently have any martin housing on site. This funding will allow Holden to install housing and establish a nesting population of Purple Martins. Holden's application to the Scott Trust was aided by a letter of support from the Ohio Bluebird Society.

Mike Watson
Conservation Biologist
The Holden Arboretum

Frost and Freezing Temperatures

by Keith Kridler - Mt. Pleasant, Texas



National weather maps are beginning to show more and more frost and freeze warnings. As each region or area experiences a hard freeze a portion of the insects in that area will be killed, removing them as a food source for local wildlife. More of the birds that rely on these insects will then drift on further south or they will have to

switch to other types of non-insect food.

Tender annual and even perennial plants will freeze back and their blooms and or fruit will be damaged. Many common fruits will begin to rot very quickly after a hard freeze.

We all know that most of the fresh fruits and vegetables that we humans eat would be totally destroyed if we brought them home from the store and then froze them solid in our freezer only to thaw them out and leave them sitting on the counter at room temperature! Well the same thing happens to much of the tender, juicy types of wild fruits and berries. Each species of plant can withstand a certain degree or hours of “cold” temperatures before the sugars and starches in the fruit begin to break down into other compounds as the flesh and pulp rot away leaving behind the seeds of these plants.

Ultimately, wild plants that produce fruits and berries have evolved so as to provide a food source to various animals as they need these different species of animals and birds to eat the fruits and then carry off the seeds within these “ripe” fruits. These animals

and birds will drop and or scatter the seeds to a new location far from the original plant so that there will not be any competition in following years between the mature plant and the offspring from it’s own seedlings.

Observe the different fruiting trees and bushes in your area and watch when you see the fruit beginning to disappear from various species of plants. Then, gather a few of the fruits, crush them, and wash off the pulp to see how many and what kinds of seeds are within these fruits. Often times you will find that the seeds within are so hard that it will take a hammer to crush through the hard outer seed coating that protects the actual seed from the crushing force of animal teeth. Many of these “hard coated” seeds are also resistant to the acids and other destructive chemicals found in the intestines of animals. Many of the harder seed coatings are resistant to the grinding/abrasive forces in the rock filled gizzards of some species of birds. Some of these seeds actually NEED to pass through either the intestines of animals or they need to survive a trip through the gizzard and digestive system of a bird in order for these hard seed coating to “wear down or thin out” in order for these seeds to sprout and grow next year. This is why some seeds will survive for many years, lying dormant out in a flower bed, field or woodland before they will sprout and grow into a “new” weed or plant.



CARE TO SHARE

(Marcella Hawkins)

I recently received a Christmas letter from fellow Bluebirders - Pete and Alice Williams. When I read this paragraph, it made me smile.

“Pete has been busy with his part time job and his bluebird projects. It has been a good year with many successes with his bluebirds. We got to attend an Eagle Scout ceremony for the young fellow Pete worked with on the project of a bluebird garden at a local rehab center. Several young men became Eagle Scouts and it really was an impressive ceremony.”

One of my clients contacted me a couple of months ago and told me about a male Cardinal that went to every window in her house - every day. It would bump up against the glass like it was trying to get in. I asked if she had seen its mate because it may be looking for it. She had not. She tried putting screens on the windows - with no luck. This went on every day and she was becoming very frustrated with the whole situation. I consulted with my birding friends and gave suggestions but nothing seemed to work.

A few weeks later, this woman's 24-year-old nephew - an Army 1st Lt. - was killed in Iraq. . . he had only been there for two weeks. A week after the funeral, my client called and asked if I remembered about the beautiful bright red Cardinal that had been trying to get into her house. I assured her that I did. She told me that the day her nephew was killed, it never came back. We both paused for a few moments and had to wonder what this all meant. Could the Cardinal have been trying to convey a message? There are often things like this that happen and there is no explanation. For whatever reason it happens, we will always remember the circumstances - I know I will.

OBS participates at the Aldo Leopold Festival held in October at the Lake Metro Parks Environmental Learning Center

This past October 23rd, the Ohio Bluebird Society was invited by the Lake Metro Parks Environmental Learning Center to participate in the Aldo Leopold Festival. This included OBS (along with other conservation organizations) each reading a chapter from Aldo's book called *The Sand County Almanac*. This public reading was done while other conservation displays were being presented in adjacent class rooms and a movie about Aldo and his life were being shown to attendees. About one hundred people helped with hands-on construction of more than forty Aldo Leopold observing-benches. These volunteers included students, their parents, teachers and staff from the Learning Center. OBS presented an educational display and answered questions about Bluebirds, other cavity nesting birds, nest boxes, trail stewardship and the Ohio Bluebird Society organization.

Learn more by visiting:

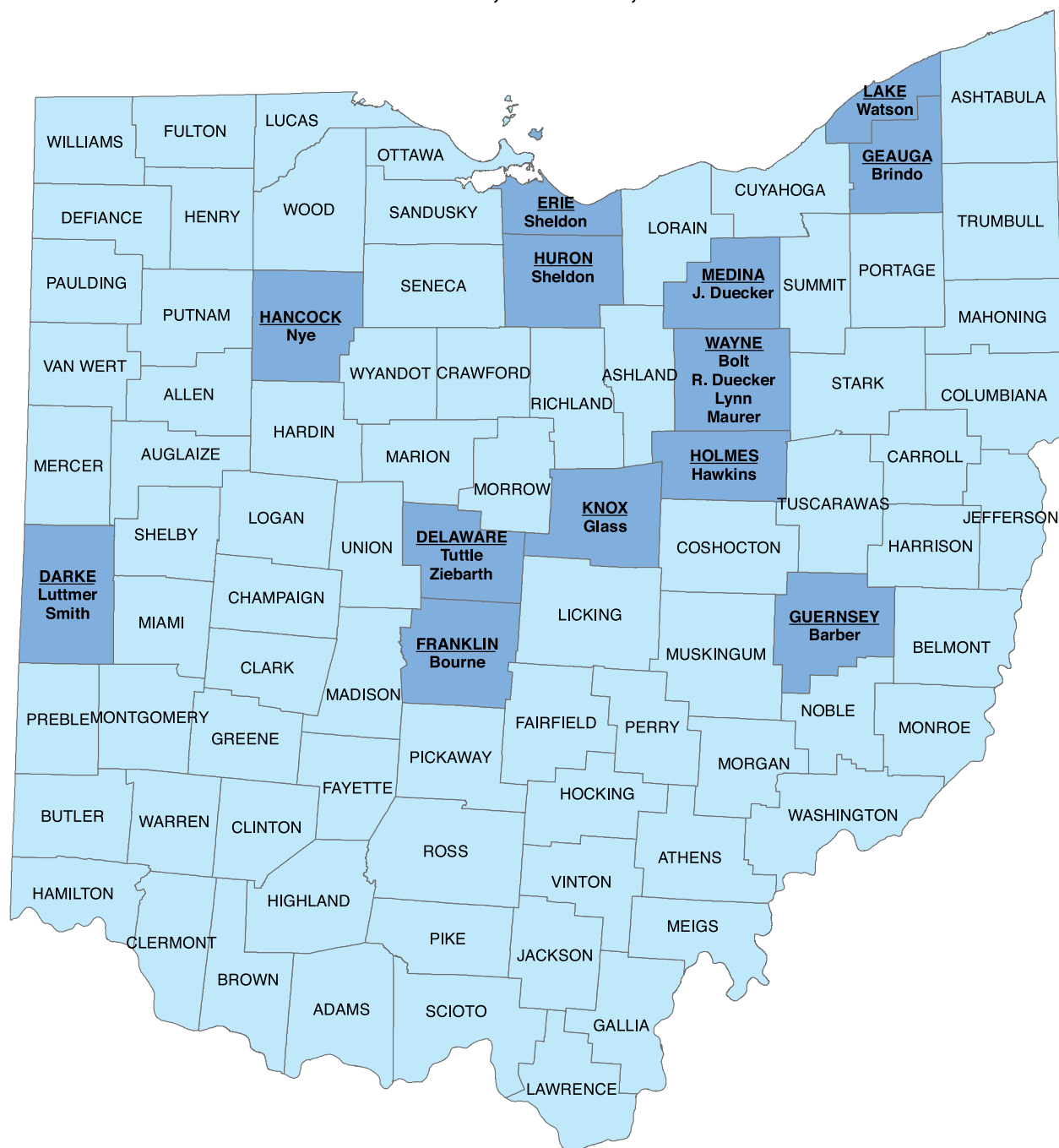
<http://leopold.wilderness.net/aboutus/aldo.htm>

<http://www.lakemetroparks.com/programs/leopold.shtml>



Ohio Bluebird Society

Counties with Director, Advisor, or Area Contact



Counties with Director, Advisor, or Area Contact
 Counties w/out

0 25 50 75 100 Miles

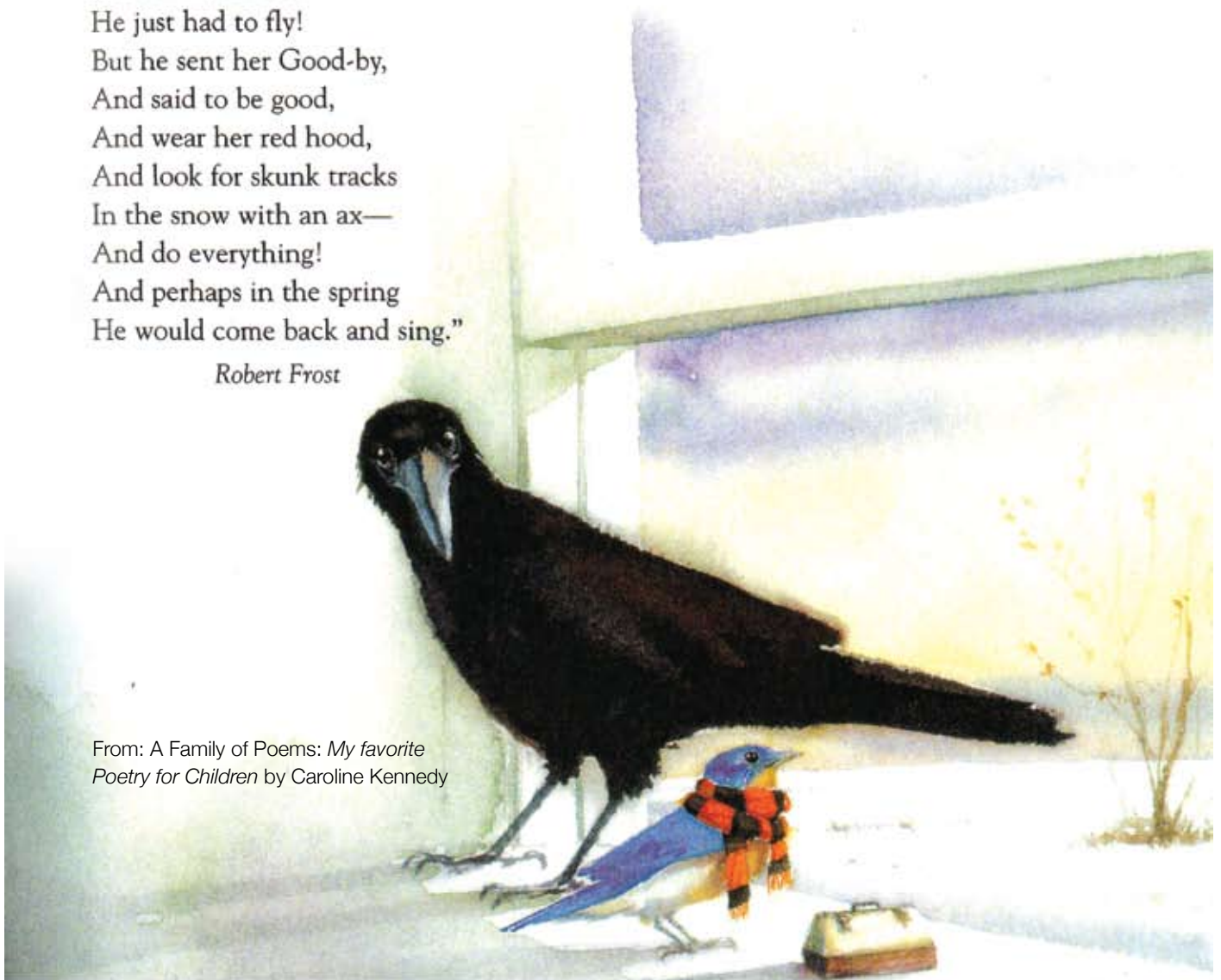
created by Mike Watson; The Holden Arboretum

THE LAST WORD OF A BLUEBIRD AS TOLD TO A CHILD

As I went out a Crow
In a low voice said, "Oh,
I was looking for you.
How do you do?
I just came to tell you
To tell Lesley (will you?)
That her little Bluebird
Wanted me to bring word
That the north wind last night
That made the stars bright
And made ice on the trough
Almost made him cough
His tail feathers off.
He just had to fly!
But he sent her Good-by,
And said to be good,
And wear her red hood,
And look for skunk tracks
In the snow with an ax—
And do everything!
And perhaps in the spring
He would come back and sing."

Robert Frost

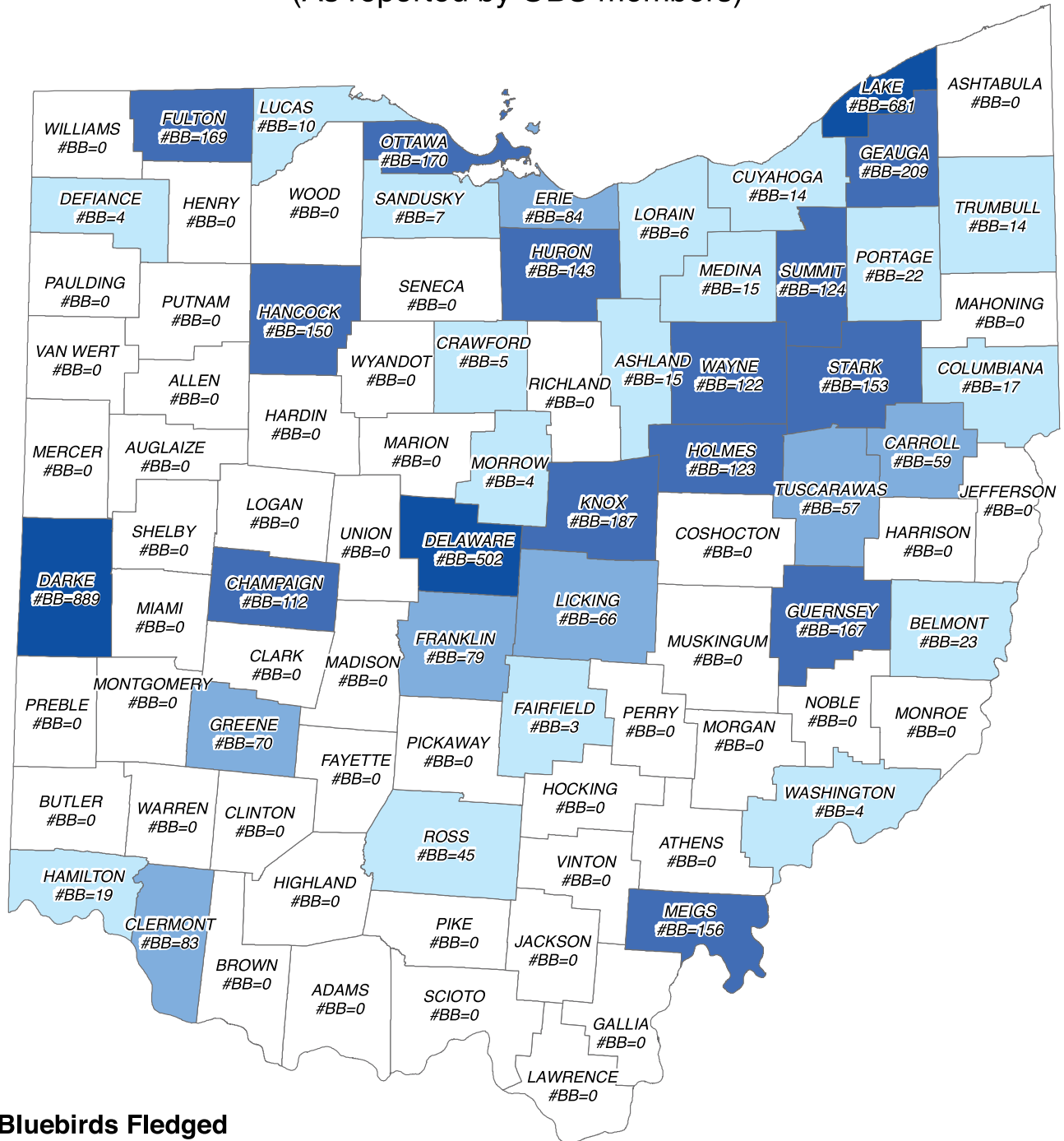
From: *A Family of Poems: My favorite
Poetry for Children* by Caroline Kennedy



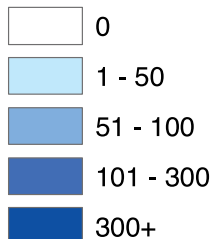
Ohio Bluebird Society

Number of Bluebirds fledged in 2010 by county

(As reported by OBS members)



Bluebirds Fledged



State Total = 4782



created by Mike Watson; The Holden Arboretum

Member News



Business Cards

There are OBS business cards available for the asking - please send your request by e-mail, regular mail or phone.



Gift of Membership

An OBS membership is a thoughtful gift for the Bluebird lover any time of the year. You still have time to make it a Christmas gift. Please e-mail, write or call - see OBS Communications Block.

Fledgling Reports

Another nesting season has come and gone. Hopefully, everyone had a good year. If you have not sent in your fledgling report yet, please do so as soon as possible to info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org. Thank you.



Register Online

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.

Tornado at OARDC

On Thursday, September 16 a tornado struck the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) - the location of the Shisler Conference Center - on the OSU campus in Wooster. This is the site for our OBS conferences. Below is a link to a You Tube Video by the Ohio State Patrol of an aerial view of the destruction.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwRM2UQ-_F4

For those of you who took the tour of the Secrest Arboretum on August 7 at our Summer Conference - you were fortunate to see the arboretum at that time as it is now completely devastated.

If you want to see more videos of the damage, search "Wooster, Ohio Tornado" on You Tube.

We are very fortunate that there were no serious injuries or deaths incurred in this storm. This happened on the last night of the county fair and the fairgrounds are not that far from where the path of the storm went through.

OBS will make a donation to the Secrest Arboretum to help with their replanting as soon as a project can be determined with the Arboretum. If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to "Ohio Bluebird Society" with "Secrest" on the memo line and we will send all of the funds at one time. See Communications Block for OBS address. If you are able to itemize on your tax return, your donation will be deductible. Thank you.



Ohio Bluebird Society Membership Application

Membership Class

- ☐ Student (under 21)
- ☐ Senior/Sr. Family
- ☐ Regular/Family
- ☐ Organizational
- ☐ Supporting
- ☐ Life

Annual

\$10
\$12
\$15
\$40
\$100
\$300

3-years

\$25
\$30
\$40
\$100
\$275

- ☐ Tax deductible gift to OBS \$ _____
- ☐ Membership renewal
- ☐ New membership
- ☐ I am interested in participating in OBS activities

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

Name: _____

Street: _____

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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

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Join Online!

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

New 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
PMB 111
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Wooster, Ohio 44691

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Affiliated with the North American Bluebird Society

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE!



Our redesigned website is now up and running - please visit www.ohiobluebirdsociety.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.