



Bluebird Monitor

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

Spring 2013



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.

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Deadline for Submitting Articles:

Spring Issue - February 1
Summer Issue - May 1
Fall Issue - August 1
Winter Issue - November 1

2013 Annual Educational Conference



On February 23, OBS held its annual educational conference at the Shisler Conference Center in Wooster. By a show of hands, it was estimated that one-third of our attendance at this year's conference were first-timers. By the time we were one week away from the event, there were 251 people already pre-registered and I began to wonder how many we would need to accommodate.

The conference center set up tables for their maximum capacity and we went from there. Our estimate is at least 320 people – the largest attendance in OBS history. So, if you were there, you made history – at least in our eyes. Thank you to everyone who attended!

It seems that we have outgrown our current facility, so next year we will use the building adjacent to Shisler Conference Center - Fisher Auditorium. This will give us much more room for our vendors, raffle, registration, etc. and will hold up to 1,000 people – so we have room to grow. We are already in the planning stages for the next conference which will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014.

You will find pictures from the conference in the upcoming pages.

A special thanks to all of our volunteers – without your help, it would be impossible to put on this type of event.

Marcella Hawkins
OBS Executive Director

PHOTOS FROM THE 2013 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE



OBS Director Jay Brindo with friend



Charlie Zepp - 2013 Wildlife Conservation Award recipient



Life Scout Matt Weise (Speaker) and Trevor Zook (Ohio Young Birder Club)



Janice Petko, Darlene Sillick and Bernardine Akkerman



Life Members Don and Diana Plant



Life Members - Seated (L to R) Nina Bower, Allen Bower, Mel Bolt; Back Row (L to R) - Marcella Hawkins, Dick Tuttle, Paula Ziebarth, Janice Petko, Darlene Sillick and Kara Scott



Eagle Scouts present - (L to R) Kyle Maurer; Dan Best, Life Scout Matt Wiese and Win Meek



Wildlife Conservation Award recipients present:
Seated (L-R) Dick Phillips and Ken Cochran;
Back (L-R) Dick Tuttle and Charlie Zepp



Allen and Nina Bower - Blue Feather Award



Blue Feather Award recipients present:
Seated (L-R) Nina Bower, Allen Bower, Mel Bolt;
Back (L-R) Dean Sheldon, Dick Tuttle, Darlene Sillick



Speakers - Front (L-R) Greg Miller and Jason Martin, Ph.D.;
Back (L-R) Chuck Jakubchak, Darlene Sillick and Roger Downer, Ph.D.



Medina Raptor Center



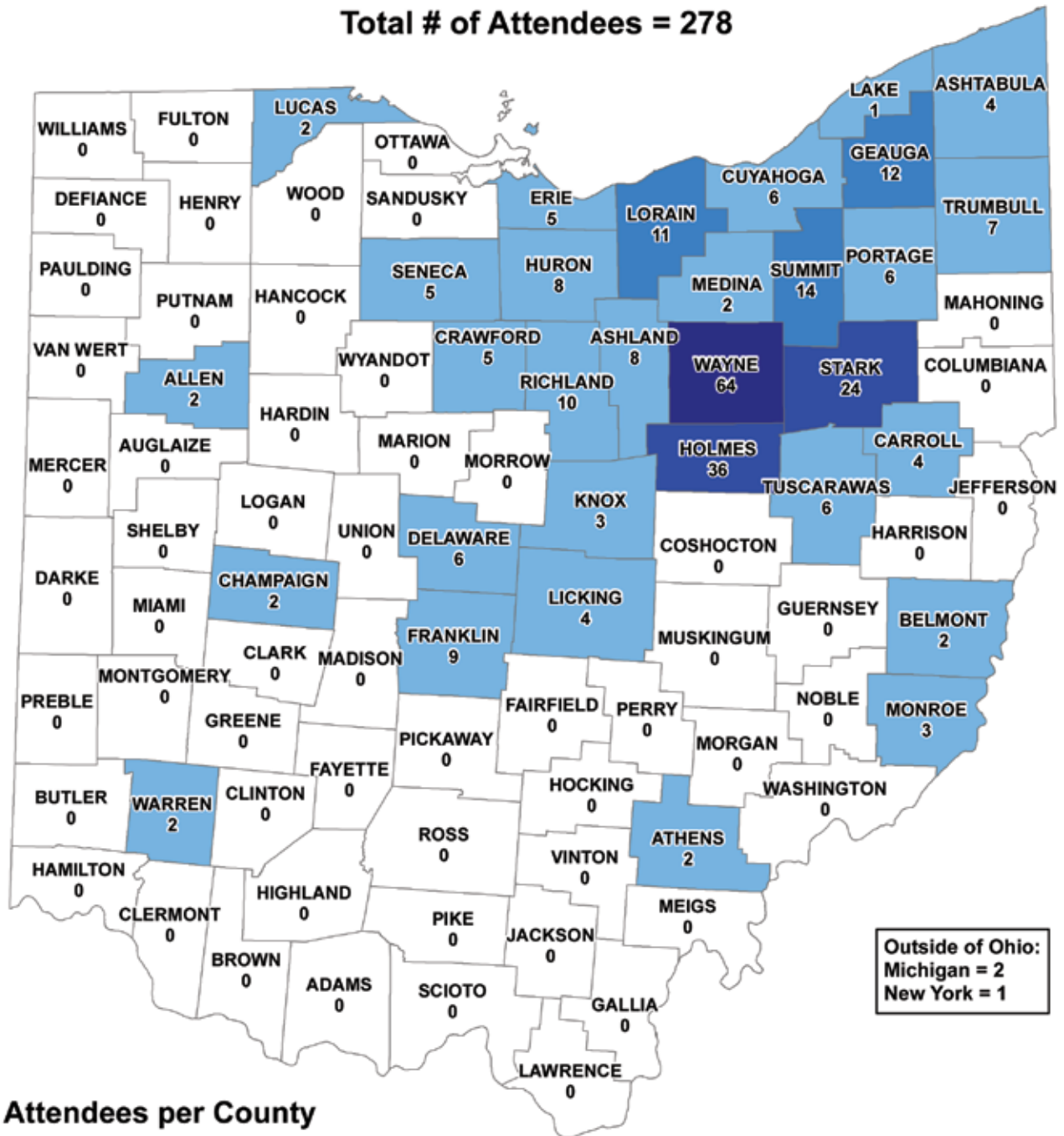
Thank you to our
photographers:
Janice Petko,
Jeanne Jakubchak and
Marcella Hawkins



Ohio Bluebird Society

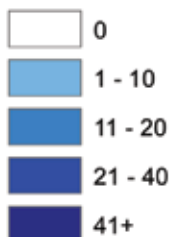
Registered Attendees at 2013 OBS Annual Conference

Total # of Attendees = 278



Outside of Ohio:
Michigan = 2
New York = 1

Attendees per County



created by Mike Watson; The Holden Arboretum



Out of the Box

The Barn Owl

“In Need of Help”

By Chuck Jakubchak



More than a half century ago people decided to help the eastern bluebird because their population had dwindled and we were on the verge of losing a beautiful native species. The public's response and the ultimate results were phenomenal and bluebirds are now doing quite well in Ohio. Our bluebird revitalization was gratifying, especially

for the volunteers that monitored trails and watched countless birds fledge from their boxes.

Today the barn owl is undergoing a similar crisis but their issues are even more complex than those of the eastern bluebird's. The most notable difference is that nocturnal barn owls require 150 acres of meadows for suitable nesting habitat and those fields must be laden with rodents. Meadow voles, the favorite food of barn owls, comprise 60% of their diet and a family of 2 adults with 6 young (average clutch size) will easily consume 1,000 rodents during the breeding season. Barn owls must have spacious meadows and a thriving rodent population in order to succeed.

Unfortunately, many of Ohio's grassy fields that were once home to sheep and dairy cattle have been significantly reduced or eliminated during the past decades as farming practices changed. Rodent-rich meadows and hay fields gave way to commercial development and highly effective rodenticides further cut into the primary food source of barn owls.

Barn owls also need cavities for nesting and may use nest boxes, tree cavities, empty buildings or silos. In today's world, abandoned buildings, dead trees and old silos have become scarce as they are torn down when no longer needed or when they became an eyesore to the community. If that weren't enough, the number one predator of a barn owl is the notorious raccoon and everyone knows how well that species is thriving throughout Ohio. The combination of habitat loss, reduced food supply, fewer potential nesting sites and the proliferation of their largest predator paints a bleak outlook for this magnificent bird and illustrates the complexity surrounding the barn owls situation. Just as we cared about losing native bluebirds we should also care about barn owls since they were documented in Ohio as far back as the mid-1800's and have become

part of our ecosystem. In the 1930's barn owls were well established throughout Ohio and could be found in almost every county, having prospered right along with our great State. Shortly thereafter our agricultural practices changed and the barn owl numbers started to decline, dropping to just 30 nest sites in 2000. According to Ohio Division of Wildlife the barn owl is now considered “threatened” and this designation will probably not change unless we drastically alter the way we use our land.

On a positive note, the 2012 nesting season was the best on record as we had 98 active nest sites throughout the state. Last year's mild winter combined with the efforts of volunteers that erected nest boxes in or near barns have helped this species. Please keep in mind that 98 nest sites are a huge improvement, but still anemic when you consider that Ohio contains more than 26 million acres.

So what else can we do to help this species! It boils down to this; barn owls need habitat and habitat is expensive. The Ohio Division of Wildlife suggests that you use the income tax check off to donate money because those funds may be used to purchase suitable habitat as it becomes available. Another option is to purchase wildlife license plates as the proceeds are used to procure land for wildlife. The final option is to contribute directly to Ohio's Endangered Species Special Account as those funds are earmarked to help species like Ohio's barn owls. (Endangered Species Special Account, Ohio Division of Wildlife 2045 Morse Road, Bldg. G, Columbus, OH 43299)



Photo by Jeanne Jakubchak

If you cannot contribute financially, perhaps you or a friend could install a barn owl nest box on property where suitable habitat is available. When it comes to nature, every little bit helps and remember Margaret Mead's insightful quote:

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Blooming Bluebirders



The Life of a Bluebird

Part 2 of 4

By John Bigham Jr., Preble County

This story is fictional, but I think that you will enjoy it. This story takes place in the late 1700's when English settlers were just beginning to settle Ohio.

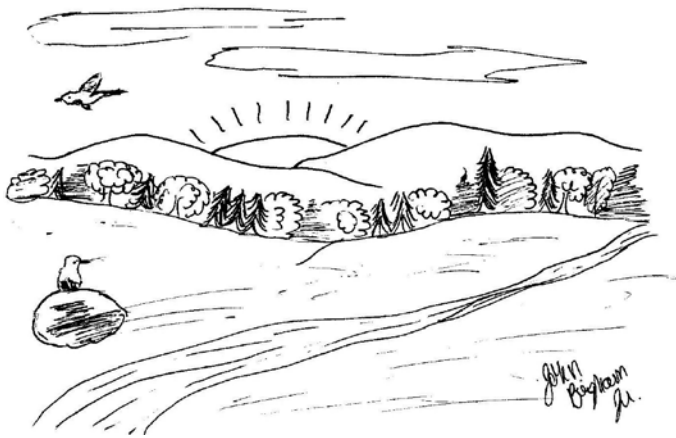
The buds on the trees are swelling. It will not be long before they open up and green leaves spill out. I am perched on a tree limb just a few feet away from the tree that my mate and I chose to raise our young. The Robins are singing joyously as the Passenger Pigeons fly overhead and the groundhog peeps its head out of its den. The weather is very warm, almost too warm for the season. The sun is shining through the treetops and the brook is singing. My mate flies down and perches beside me. We sit here enjoying the sunshine, singing to each other. I see an insect down on the ground. Silently and swiftly I leave my perch, drop down and catch it. This is the first insect that I have caught for a long time. My mate flies down to the ground to catch an insect she sees. We fly back up to the tree limb together and enjoy our meal of insects.

We sit there for a little while and rest, then I fly away over the wooded hills with my mate following me. I stop near the stream and perch in a large shrub next to the creek. I hear the woodpeckers drumming up in the deep forest and the titmice singing in the tops of trees. Four or five male titmice start fighting with each other on the ground. Off to the side of the males, in a low tree is a female, waiting to see who will win the battle. A heron flies in and lands in the creek. It stands there and fluffs its feathers. Soon, it spots a fish in the stream, stretches out its neck and plunges into the water. It brings its head up out of the water with a large fish in its bill. The heron tips back its head and the fish disappears.

I sit here with my mate for a long time watching the other wildlife around me. We fly down to the edge of the creek to get a drink. Many other birds are there drinking. I see robins, titmice, chickadees, other bluebirds, and many more species. As we drink a deer comes down to the creek and stands there. My mate

and I, along with the other birds, fly up out of the creek and land in the trees nearby. The deer drinks for a while and then wanders away. The sun is beginning to go down now. The air seems a little chilly, and I can see some clouds in the northeast. My mate and I fly out of the creek bottoms and head for our nest tree. When we get there all is quiet except for some robins, which are singing their goodnight songs in the high tops of trees. I chatter to my mate and then fly into the nest hole. My mate soon follows. We snuggle close together to keep warm. We close our eyes and prepare to sleep for the night.

The sun is shining into our nest hole. A breeze is blowing and the robins are singing their good morning songs in the high tops of trees. My mate and I fly out of the nest hole to a nearby tree limb. We perch there, listening to all of the other birds singing. My mate sings a sweet melody while I join her. It is a morning to sing! We fly down to the creek bottoms to look for insects, and to get a drink. The trees are beginning to leaf out, their buds are swollen and green. Some of the earliest spring wildflowers are blooming - spring beauties, violets, and many more. The small flower petals are covered with tiny dew drops. I can hear the titmice up in the woods singing their loud mating calls, the singing of red-wing blackbirds in the marsh, and the small sharp calls of kinglets. I can hear a Carolina wren singing its sweet song on the ground below me. There are a few deer down in the creek bottoms eating some of the small tufts of green grass along the creek. I fly down to catch an insect I see on the ground below. My mate must see one also, for she flies down to the ground a few feet away from me. As I fly up to a limb to enjoy my insect I catch sight of a hawk up in the sky. I call to my mate and she flies up beside me. We sit still for a while, hardly daring to breathe. The hawk, not seeing any little birds to eat, flies off to the southwest. My mate and I fly around in the wooded hills all afternoon looking for nest material and insects. The nest is beginning to take shape, but the sun is hanging low, almost ready to slip behind



the tree tops. My mate and I fly to our nest cavity for another night of rest.

Two weeks later, sometime in mid-April .

It is very warm today. The trees are all leafed out in their green leaves, the wildflowers dot the hillsides. It is a beautiful sunny day. The robins are not singing as much anymore because they have found mates and are now building their nests and laying eggs. My mate is in the nest cavity incubating five light blue eggs! She has been incubating the eggs for about ten days now. I am busy catching insects for both of us. My mate does not come off of the nest very much, only to get a drink and for a little exercise now and then. There is a pair of Canada Geese nesting on the shores of the pond below. Their eggs hatched yesterday and every once in a while I can see a downy head peeping out from under the female. They will leave the nest any day now. Soon our eggs will hatch as well, and then we will be busy trying to keep the chicks fed. For now there is not much to do but sit on a tree limb and look for insects to catch for my mate. There are hundreds of tiny colorful warblers migrating thru the woods. They sing their high sweet notes as they flit around looking for insects to eat. The warblers won't be here long, a few weeks at the most. Some of them will stay here to nest, but most of them will go north to the boreal forests of Canada.

A few days later.

The sun is just beginning to rise over the wooded hills. Everything is sparkling, wet with dew. I can hear a yellow warbler below in the swamp grasses. The robins are singing from the high tops of the trees. All of the birds are singing, singing praises to their creator. I am also singing. It is going to be a beautiful day, a wonderful day, and yet a very busy day.

Early this morning, even before it was light, my mate called to me from her place on the nest. When I got

to her, I saw that there were five little chicks in the nest with her! She was very excited, and so was I. Then I flew back out of the cavity to perch on my tree limb until it got light enough to hunt for insects.

Now, as the sun climbs higher into the sky, I fly down to some lower tree limbs to watch for insects to feed to my chicks. My mate comes out to look with me for a little while, but, she must stay in the nest most of the time, keeping the chicks warm. I have a mouthful of juicy bugs. I fly to the cavity and slip inside. It is dark and cool, quite a change from the hot sun. The chicks open their mouths wide and I feed them my mouthful of bugs. They gobble them up and reach for more. I keep hunting insects all day. Finally, the sun slips behind the hills in the west and I can have some rest.

One week later.

The chicks now have most of their feathers. My mate works with me, hunting for insects. We get no rest, the chicks never fill up! It is the same every day, hunt for bugs, take them to the chicks, take out the fecal sacks and so on. The sun is hot, and it looks like a storm is on its way. The clouds are getting darker, and none of the birds are singing. It looks like it will be a bad storm. My mate flies up beside me. We chatter to each other and then head for the nest. The first drops of rain are falling as we slip into the hole, then torrents of rain come down. The wind is blowing strongly. The lightening lights up the sky like the sun, then the thunder claps, ever closer. Then, as fast as it came, it was gone - leaving behind it a sparkling wet world.

Nine days later.

It is a warm day. The sun is getting ready to slip behind the distant western hills. The birds are singing, and the wild animals are playing with each other. My mate is sitting on a limb close to me. Our chicks are now fully feathered and ready to leave the nest. I can see them climbing up to the entrance of the nest hole and peering out. They are not sure about leaving yet..... but...there went one! My mate flies down off her limb to help it. One by one the chicks fly out of the nest. My mate and I chatter and scold them. We are trying to get them into the bushes on the forests edge. They cannot fly very far yet but somehow my mate and I get them safely into the bushes. The chicks fly up to a higher branch with my mate and me following. We fluff up our feathers, snuggle close to each other and listen to the night creatures sing all around us.

Be sure to look for part three in the summer Bluebird Monitor.

OBS Spotlight

Cincinnati Nature Center

By Chuck Jakubchak

Photo by Kurt Gaertner

The Ohio Bluebird Society decided to feature Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC) in the Spring Edition of the OBS Spotlight because they have successfully fledged eastern bluebirds for 26 years. This innovative nature education organization in Southwest Ohio currently maintains 3 separate bluebird trails with 76 total nest boxes. In 2012 they fledged 108 bluebirds and are aiming to duplicate the results of 1992 when 289 bluebirds fledged from 112 boxes. Their bluebird trail began in 1983 as an idea and came to fruition in 1986, but their passion for bluebirds has never been higher than it is today and CNC deserves commendation for their efforts to help the eastern bluebird.

The CNC's approach to bluebird trail monitoring is distinctive and worthy of discussion. Rather than relying on 1 person to monitor a particular trail, CNC has adopted a team approach with 8 volunteers that handle the separate trails. Although some volunteers are married couples, the most important element of their work is their full cooperation and commitment to monitor the boxes and help bluebirds successfully fledge. Another valuable team member is the "official box builder" and his work has recently increased because CNC is proactively replacing weathered boxes and stockpiling for future needs. His design tweaks and quality workmanship contribute to the overall success of the trail.

For the past 3 years the bluebird trails have been under the leadership of their Land Management Coordinator, Kurt Gaertner, and he has a strategy to improve the quality of their bluebird trails. In early 2013 Kurt will begin integrating scientific research into the volunteers' monitoring so that they can begin to understand the relationship between certain trail characteristics and bird productivity. Simply said, they hope to learn what factors contribute to nest success so they can make adjustments for future years. Kurt also expects this to enrich and energize the trail monitors as their labors will be more challenging and purposeful with results that will ultimately benefit the birds they all care about.

Their bluebird trail should continue to thrive based on other recent decisions. Over the past few years several



Jim and Anita Romine installed a new box on the CNC trail. Other volunteers not pictured include Tom and Lisa Butt, Don Ralston, Vic Feinauer, Marilyn Bowers, Roslyn Hasty and box builder Elmer Hubka.

trail monitors brought children with them during their visits to the nest boxes. Children are now receiving exposure to trail monitoring and experiencing the thrill of seeing young birds up close. (Perhaps they will be the trail monitors of tomorrow!) In 2012, Lester Peyton (CNC staff member and licensed bird bander), began a bluebird banding program and the results of his efforts should be realized in the coming years. With this type of zest for bluebirds, CNC has decided to introduce an additional bluebird trail in 2013, providing more volunteers the opportunity to participate in trail monitoring and scientific research.

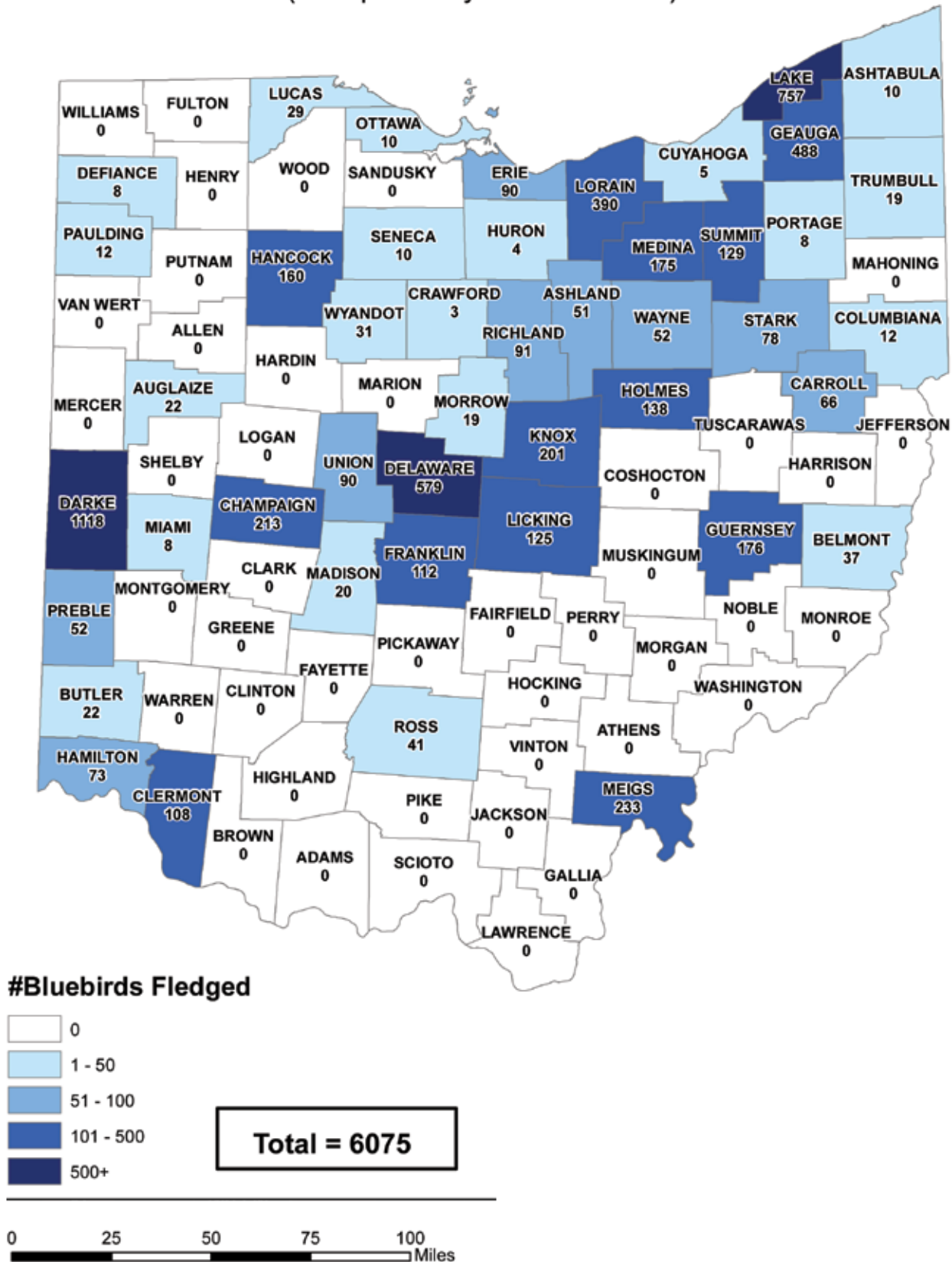
Cincinnati Nature Center (www.cincynature.org) is comprised of 1600 acres and 20 miles of hiking trails. This educational facility offers a variety of nature programs for its members but continues its focus on strengthening the minds and spirits of children by using the great outdoors as the tool. Approximately 100,000 people visit this nature center annually and they host 3,400 children that attend via school field trips (that translates to 85 busloads--WOW).

Organizations like CNC are critical for bluebirds and other cavity nesting species, but more important for the children and adults that pass through their doors to encounter nature first hand. The Nature Center may produce bluebirds, but their most important product is the children that are exposed to the joy that nature provides. Hats off to Cincinnati Nature Center for nurturing the youngsters, both human and avian!

Ohio Bluebird Society

Number of Bluebirds fledged in 2012 by county

(As reported by OBS members)





Ask Madame WingNut

House Sparrow Wars

by Paula Ziebarth

Spring is finally here! I am listening to beautiful bird song as I write this: the Eastern Bluebird's plaintive cry; the Carolina Wren's playful banter; and... "CHEEP, CHEEP"! Oh no! A House Sparrow is declaring territory in my yard!

House Sparrows claim nest boxes early. I start trapping them in mid February, checking my home and trail boxes for evidence that they have claimed a box. They often claim a box long before they begin nest building. This time of year especially, it is good to know your sh#@... Sparrow droppings.

1. Listen.

If you hear a House Sparrow singing as you approach a nest box, he has almost certainly claimed it. He is declaring his find to a potential mate and declaring to his male friends to back off.

He may be declaring an alternative nest site if there is not a box nearby. House Sparrows often weave large open nests in pine trees. They can also nest behind signs and in crevices in buildings. Check wood siding for holes that they may be using or attic vents, etc. Block off alternative nesting sites where possible. Also, due to the House Sparrow's affinity for pine trees, site your nest box as far from pines as you can.

2. Look.

If he is in your nest box, he has claimed it. If he is on the box, he has claimed it. If he is near the box singing, he has probably claimed it.

Open the box and look for House Sparrow feces: white, solid, about ¼" long little curved cylinders. The bigger the pile, the more he has been in there over the past week(s) and the easier he is to trap. If you have paired box stations, it is common for male to roost in one and female in the other if male has already attracted a mate.

3. Set.

Set an inbox trap before dusk. Check the trap a little after first light. I love Van Ert Universal Sparrow Traps. To retrieve bird when trap is sprung, a mesh laundry bag placed over box and cinched tight before you open box guarantees no escapes.

4. Don't Feed Them.

If you enjoy feeding birds, think about discontinuing feeding competitors during nest season if you have nest boxes in your yard. The birds really do not need your help during this time of plenty. If I feed birds during these months, I only set out hummingbird nectar, thistle seed for finches, oranges and grape jelly for orioles, and clean water in the bird bath. Remember that dropped seed will also attract unwanted climbing predators such as raccoons and chipmunks.

Having more than one nest box in your yard to attract various native cavity nesting species is a great idea if you are willing to control nonnative House Sparrows. It is a bad idea if you are not, as they are attracted to areas with multiple nest sites and they often aggressively destroy adults/eggs/young they find there.

The competitive nature of the House Sparrow still amazes me. I have six nestboxes scattered



throughout my small suburban lot to accommodate a variety of native cavity nesting species. Very often, House Sparrows ignore the empty boxes and hone in on the ones that native birds are using. Last week, a pair of Carolina Wrens were starting an early nest. I heard the raucous call of a House Sparrow, looked, and there he was sitting in the box with an empty one available less than 10 feet away. The Carolina Wren box has a large slot opening which is not a box House Sparrows have ever shown interest in before in my yard.

Last spring, a Tufted Titmouse used the nest box in my front yard. A male House Sparrow targeted that box and killed four of the six young before I could stop him. It developed into a dramatic afternoon neighborhood project, with kindhearted ladies sitting in lawn chairs and shooing him away every time he tried to reenter the nest box to kill the remaining two nestlings. Realizing he really wanted to kill something, I set a trap in a nearby empty box and gave him something to destroy: a plastic craft bird egg. Luckily, the ploy worked.

If you doubt House Sparrows will nest close together, just take a look at a mismanaged Purple Martin house. Purple Martin houses have multiple compartments side by side. I often see multiple House Sparrow nests in these. Those who monitor Tree Swallow grids (boxes spaced every 25 yards to accommodate breeding colony of Tree Swallows) know that a single House Sparrow can “claim” 3 or more nest boxes. Those who monitor nest boxes paired for Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows also know that allowing a House Sparrow to set up residence in one of the paired boxes is a risky proposition at best for the native bird adjacent to these aggressive nonnative birds. House Sparrows can easily take both boxes for that matter.

For those who do not wish to trap House Sparrows, at a minimum, please do not allow them to breed in your nest box. You can legally remove their nests and eggs as they are not native birds and are not protected by law. If this is the practice you choose, I would also recommend not setting out multiple nest boxes as the House Sparrow will attempt to take over another one eventually. If you have only one box, managing this way will work for you. Although, the House Sparrow is likely to eventually go elsewhere and breed successfully there, creating more House Sparrow issues in the future.



If you live in a more urban area where House Sparrows are prevalent, you probably have little chance of attracting an Eastern Bluebird or a Tree Swallow. However, you can target a nesting of Chickadees or House Wrens by simply setting out a nest box with an entry hole diameter of 1 1/8". If you have a nest box with a larger hole, you can make or purchase hole reducers to screw onto the front face of the box. The smaller Chickadees and House Wrens will be able to enter whereas the larger House Sparrow should be excluded. Set the box in proper habitat for these birds. Wood edge habitat (Chickadee) or areas with brush or bushes (House Wrens) should work well.

If you would like to protect a native nesting bird from marauding House Sparrows, Sparrow Spookers are somewhat effective, though not foolproof (my Tufted Titmouse terrorist ignored it when I put one on the box). Sparrow Spookers should be installed after first egg is laid and removed after young fledged.

Bluely Yours,
Madame WingNut



An experienced monitor of over a dozen Bluebird Trails in central and northern Ohio, Madame WingNut enjoys all creatures that fly, regardless of their stage of development.

*Send your questions to
Madame WingNut at: [info@](mailto:info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org)*

*ohiobluebirdsociety.org or by mail to PMB 111, 343
W. Milltown Road, Wooster, OH 44691.*

Member News



Welcome - To Our New Members

Andrews, Joyce
Beckley, Douglas
Bement, Robert
Briggs, Jean
Buchholz, Barbara
Burkholder, Sherry
Byler, Jacob W.
Case, Dave & Jennifer
Conrad, Thomas
Flower, Frances
Hahn, Crista
Kubala, Paul and Jeneen
Madsen, K. Irvin & Helen
Marshall, Loyd
Martin, Paul & Nancy
Merriman, Lisle
Miller, Cindy
Moritz, Tim
Mosher, Heidi
Novotny, Glenn
Randa, Gerry
Rydquist, Patricia
Swoager, William & Rebecca
Tipton, Gretchen
Troyer, Duane
VanDyne, Katie
Williams, Lance & Lisa
Zabowski, Jon

Donations

In Memory of Ralph Windsor – \$100

Gahris, Bonnie

2013 Conference Sponsor – \$149.91

Anonymous
Piggy Bank collection (\$89.91)

Miscellaneous Donations – \$465

Grable, Cindy
LaSala, Al
Jakubchak, Chuck & Jeanne
Sieverdes, Chris

Facebook

facebook

Ohio Bluebird is now on Facebook!

Search for Ohio Bluebird Society to join our group.

Do you have a camera and do you love to take pictures? Would you like others to see the fun you are having?



In accordance with the OBS mission statement related to supporting the return and perpetuation of the Eastern Bluebird and other cavity

nesting birds, we'd like to give the OBS membership an opportunity to share how they are having fun while helping to fulfill our mission statement via their photographic skills. The goal is to not only showcase the birds and how you have interacted with them, but also inspire and educate everyone interested in helping nature.

Each member can submit five photos for each category in either color or black and white. These should be related to your experiences with helping Bluebirds and other Native

American cavity nesting birds. The two categories are: In the Box and Out of the Box. The photos must be taken in 2013 and emailed to OBS before the last day of December 2013. We need to know the author, title of picture(s) and location taken. They will be showcased during the next conference and then placed on the OBS website for the world to enjoy after the conference. We'd like the photos to be as close as possible to what the naked eye would normally see, so please try to keep digital enhancements to a minimum with this goal in mind.

This is not a competitive contest with prizes and awards. The greatest reward will be knowing you've helped to inspire others. The only winners are the birds we all love so much and want to help!

Calling all Nest Monitors

What do nest monitors, researchers, bluebirds, and other native cavity nesters have in common? We all deal with House Sparrows! As spring arrives and birds begin nesting, the House Sparrow Project invites you to collaborate in citizen science research on this invasive bird species. Whether you have a handful of nest boxes or a large trail, actively or passively manage sparrows, there are only three requirements for participation: curiosity, nest boxes, and a promise to keep good records. For more information, go to www.housesparrowproject.com.



A Scrap of Sky

The bluebird, famous for the scrap of sky
 Borne on his back – an indigo so bright
 That just a glimpse of his distinctive flight,
 All swoop and flurry, captivates the eye
 And makes us smile for having made us start -
 Has hope and optimism to the marrow,
 Or at least has the pluck to reappear
 In fields where he was dispossessed last year;
 And there that feathered terrier the sparrow,
 Bearing no more than murder in his heart,
 Will once more wait to steal the nest and drive
 The weaker, more attractive bird away.
 So beauty comes each spring and tries to stay,
 And so does drab determination thrive.

- Goerge Bradley

OBS Communications Block

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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!

**OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY**

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343 W. Milltown Rd.
Wooster, Ohio 44691

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Affiliated with the North American Bluebird Society



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

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

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