



Bluebird Monitor

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

Summer 2012



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...

2012 Spring Planning Meeting.....	1-2
OBS Communication Block.....	2
Out of the Box.....	3
Ask Madame Wingnut.....	4-5
Member News.....	5
Trail Tales.....	6-7
OBS Spotlight.....	8
Blooming Bluebirders.....	9-11
Did You Know?.....	12-13
Found a Baby Bird?.....	13
Photo Gallery.....	14
Green Lawn Summer Event.....	15

Deadline for Submitting Articles:

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

2012 Spring Planning Meeting

By Jay K. Brindo



To all of us who've ever opened a nesting box, we know the nest is where life begins. It's carefully constructed by one or both parents with the knowledge eggs will be laid within it and babies will grow until ready for flight. As we humans spend time listening and watching nature's instinctive ways, we can, if we are sensitive and open minded, begin to understand how all living things are connected and how in living together in a spirit of cooperation and respect, we all benefit.

On Saturday May 5th, the leadership of OBS gathered in that same spirit of cooperation and respect to plan and build a nest, of sorts. The nest in our case being the center point within OBS where new life can begin, grow and then take flight. Our overall purpose in gathering was to discuss how we can better serve you, the OBS membership, while earnestly following guidelines of the OBS Mission Statement established many years ago.

Many of the topics and subjects discussed during our three hour meeting were:

- How did we do things in the past?
- How have modern technology and our busy lifestyles changed the approach we need for the future?
- Giving the membership a return on their investment
- Education: the foundation for the future



Continued on Page 2

A Favorite Bluebird Quote

“Full of innocent vivacity, warbling its ever pleasing notes, and familiar as any bird can be in its natural freedom it is one of the most agreeable of our feathered favorites. The pure azure of its mantel, and the glow of its breast render it conspicuous, as it flits through the orchards and gardens, crosses the fields or meadows, or hops along by the roadside.”

- John James Audubon

Continued from Page 1

- Providing face-to-face support
- Our financial status past and present
- Membership status
- Membership fees
- Motivating our young people and providing interesting opportunities for students to expand their horizons
- Spreading the word about OBS and what the organization offers
- Fundraising
- Covering our ever growing operating expenses
- Fostering a love toward conservation
- Ways to better serve the Amish community and their love for birding
- Obtain conservation grant opportunities
- Corporate sponsorship for educational programs and events
- Individual donations
- 2013 OBS Conference
- Starting an OBS blog
- The OBS website and Facebook page

We hope you'll give us your ideas and feedback. All that we are doing is for the support and return of the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity nesting birds. Thank you for your ideas and financial support. Both make all that we do possible.

OBS Communications Block

OBS Board of Directors and Advisors

DIRECTORS

Jay K. Brindo: 440.343.9275
JBrindo@aol.com

Sharon Lynn: 330.263.2437
slynn@wooster.edu

Kyle Maurer: 330.317.4995
kylemaurer63@gmail.com

Mike Watson: 440.946.4400 ext. 132
mwatson@holdenarb.org

ADVISORS

Mel Bolt: 330.262.0448
mellen@sssnet.com

Chuck Jakubchak: 440.238.1720
jakubchak@yahoo.com

Linda Lang: 419.651.4196

Dean Sheldon: 419.752.1451
seedbed@accnorwalk.com

Dick Tuttle: 740.363.6433

TREASURER

Kara Scott: rkscott@sssnet.com

SPECIAL EVENTS CHAIR

Marcella Hawkins: 330.465.6987
gofish710@embarqmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Nancy Adams: 440.354.0894
nadams11211@hotmail.com

E-mail:

info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org

Phone:

330.466.6926

Website:

www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org

Address:

PMB 111, 343 West Milltown Rd.
Wooster, Ohio 44691-7241



Like us on Facebook! Search for Ohio Bluebird Society to join our group - there are currently 99 followers.

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!



Out of the Box

Pileated Woodpecker: “Mother Nature’s Housing Developer”

By Chuck Jakubchak



The Ohio Bluebird Society’s mission statement focuses on Ohio’s native cavity nesting birds, but most OBS members rarely think about the pileated woodpecker as part of that mission statement. Much of our focus is on bluebirds and the other colorful species that we routinely observe at the nest boxes

we monitor. Maybe pileateds should get a little more consideration, especially since they can be enjoyed by interested Ohioans in each of our 88 counties.

For starters let me say that we are fortunate to have this crow-sized woodpecker in our midst. Considered a “primary cavity nester” because they construct cavity nests for themselves, they ultimately provide housing for many other species of birds and wildlife. Just like we appreciate the OBS members that erect houses for cavity nesting birds, we should also appreciate pileated woodpeckers that inadvertently build homes for many of our favorite species.

The powerful bill of a pileated woodpecker can chisel nesting cavities with 3 ½ inch openings and an overall depth between 10 and 24 inches. Dead or dying trees are preferred habitat and nest cavities are located 15-70 feet above the ground. Although the male is the primary excavator, the female assists once the cavity is near completion and construction is a joint effort. Pileated woodpeckers will not reuse the nest cavities in subsequent years and must create a new nesting cavity each year, making last year’s spacious home available for other species.

In addition to excavating nest cavities, pileateds create separate roosting cavities because males and females choose to roost alone during the night. Occasionally they utilize an old nesting cavity for roosting purposes, but that appears to be the exception rather than the rule. Roosting cavities may be gouged in dead or living

trees with soft centers and they usually contain multiple openings for quick escapes should the need arise.

Unlike many birds, this species differentiates nesting cavities from roosting cavities with the latter protecting the bird from harsh weather and dangerous predators such as owls and hawks.

Research has shown that the abandoned cavities created by North America’s largest woodpecker are used by wood ducks, swifts, owls, kestrels and various other forest songbirds. Mammals such as bats and squirrels also rely on the cavities created by pileated woodpeckers. The ongoing creation of nest and roosting cavities illustrates why pileated woodpeckers are an important species for Ohio’s wildlife.



Photo courtesy of David-Mitchell

Aside from cavity excavation, the bill of a pileated is a valuable tool when extracting carpenter ants, their favorite food, from deep within the trunks of trees. They are

skilled at locating ants deep within a tree and can even mysteriously locate them during the winter months when carpenter ants are quiet and dormant. Pileated woodpeckers also consume wood boring beetle larvae along with termites and this further supports their value to Ohio.

What more could a state or an organization want? Pileated woodpeckers are a beautiful species that can be viewed throughout Ohio. They construct housing for other wildlife and help to control harmful insects that may damage our scenic forests. We are proud to have them included in the OBS mission statement and are truly lucky to have pileated woodpeckers in The Buckeye State!



Ask Madame Wingnut

White Bluebird Eggs

by Paula Ziebarth

What causes white Bluebird eggs?

I have seen white eggs in nests on other people's trails, but I have never had any white eggs of my own. I have had Eastern Bluebird eggs that are unusually pale blue, however.

The white egg shells are caused by a lack of pigment. The pigment is imparted during egg formation. I am not certain exactly where the pigmentation happens within the female - in the uterus? In the oviduct? The primary avian eggshell pigments are protoporphyrin IX, biliverdin IX, and biliverdin IX zinc chelate in both wild birds and poultry.

Current data indicates that up to 4 - 5% of



Bluebirds lay white eggs. Darlene Sillick has one box on a trail that has white eggs every year, very likely indicating the same female has returned year after year to use that box. There is some evidence to suggest that this is a genetic trait that can be inherited by the

offspring. Are Darlene's white eggs from the same female year after year, or perhaps did one of the original female's offspring lay the most recent set of white eggs? Darlene has a banding permit now and she may be able to shed more light on her little EABL family as time marches on.

I searched the internet for references to white egg prevalence, viability, and genetics and I found the following information.

Two researchers, Guy H. Briggs (1902) and Arthur T. Wayne (1910) removed multiple clutches of white eggs from a pair of Eastern Bluebirds during one season. The birds quickly started a new clutch when the eggs were removed and all subsequent clutches were white eggs. This indicates that females that lay white eggs will continue to do so. The laying of white eggs does not appear to be a transient occurrence in these females.

In 1935, Dr. Musselman referred to white eggs as "albinistic" in nature. I prefer to simply call them "white eggs" because the young hatching from these eggs are normal in coloring, not albinistic at all. In Dr. Musselman's study, 730 eggs were recorded and 40 were white eggs, for a total of 5.48 percent. The young hatching from these eggs were banded and he had a young female bird that had hatched from a white egg return to nest with him in 1938. This bird laid white eggs also, indicating that this could be an inherited trait.

Mrs. Laskey, from Nashville, Tennessee had a different experience in her study of white eggs from 1937 to 1942. She had the daughter and granddaughter of a white-egg-laying female laying normally colored eggs. Additionally, five birds, known to have been hatched from blue eggs, laid white eggs. This may indicate that if the laying of white eggs is hereditary, it is a recessive gene. The question of inheritance is not conclusive without further study and possible DNA testing. Bet Zimmerman sums it up on Sialis.org: "Does this mean that white eggs may be associated with a recessive gene that is only 'expressed' when the



Start saving your coins now for our 2013 Conference.

dominant blue gene is not present (like blue vs. brown eyes in humans)? - i.e., both the male and the female have to carry the gene to pass it to their offspring, and even then, there would only be a 25-50% chance that the offspring would also lay white eggs... This (probably too simplistic) theory remains to be tested, requiring banding of multiple generations or DNA testing. It is also complicated by extra-pair matings, as up to a third of the young in a nest might be sired by a different male."

White eggs are just as fertile as blue eggs. The young hatching from those eggs will be normal; they will not be albinos or leucistic.

For all of you out there that find white eggs this season, enjoy your special nest!

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

Member News



Welcome To Our New Members

Killey, Dylan Ventling, Douglas
Kreiling, Robert Webster, Thomas
Ream, Judith Young, Bruce
Scott, Kara

OBS Donations

Hanning, Ronda – \$150

OBS Treasurer

Kara Scott has agreed to take over the position of Treasurer for OBS - her contact information can be found in the Communications Block on page 2. Thank you Kara for your support! "Bluebird" blood runs in the family - Kara is the daughter of Mel and Mary Ellen Bolt.

Fledgling Count

Be sure to keep track of your fledglings this year so you can report the information for our annual fledgling count. We had the following reported for 2011:

Eastern Bluebird – 4,600
American Kestrel - 75
Black-Capped Chickadee - 166
Carolina Chickadee - 179
Carolina Wren - 15
House Wren - 1,180
Prothonotary Warbler - 33
Purple Martin - 567
Tree Swallow - 3,627



Something you don't want to see when checking nestboxes.
Photo by Jill Lee

Go Green

Help us save printing/shipping costs by getting the electronic version of the Monitor. Our printing/shipping expenses to send out the last quarterly issue of the Monitor were **\$772**.

If you would like to switch to the electronic version only, please send an email to info@ohiobluebirdsociety.org. We also gladly accept donations to help with these costs.



A bluebird attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Shreve Cemetery

Trail Tales

Final Touches: Preparing Nest Structures for the Field By Dick Tuttle



When I prepare nestboxes for the field or above water, I want them to be as safe as possible for nesting birds, and I want onlookers and bird watchers to also enjoy my offerings.

Since 1966, I have painted all of my nestboxes since white pine became my wood of choice after I found that weather-resistant woods like cedar and redwood were too expensive for my budget. I used glossy, dark-brown porch paint for my first bluebird boxes in 1968, but soon read articles about the possibility of nest chambers overheating, so I began painting my nestboxes green, not a bright John Deere green, but a flat earth tone. I used Plantation Green by DuPont for many years, and today, Pratt and Lambert's Yucca Green is my choice. Yucca Green allows a nestbox to blend in nicely with its surroundings while allowing anyone to locate a neatly colored box if they look for it.



A Wood Duck hen adds her beauty to the interior of a fiberglass nest cylinder.

Today, I maintain and monitor 162 nestboxes in Delaware State Park in Delaware County. The first nestboxes were donated in 1977 by a troop of Bluebirds, young members of the Camp Fire Girls of America, now called Camp Fire USA. The girls had painted their donated nestboxes a variety of dark colors, but subsequent nestboxes were painted with beige, tan park paint. The second generation of boxes matched park buildings and was easy to locate against the park's greenery. Unfortunately, moonlight turned the tan boxes into bright beacons for vandals. Vandals, like other threats to bluebirds, come out at night, and once I painted the boxes a dull green, they lost their luster in the moonlight, and no more vandals.



Faded baffles may actually help to promote the idea of nestbox grids for Tree Swallows by making the rows of boxes easier to see in high vegetation.

In 1999, Dick Phillips and I volunteered to install thirty wood duck nest cylinders supplied by Unit One of the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Dick took ten of the fiberglass cylinders to the eastern region of the county, while Harry Condry and I spent the greater part of a day pounding U-posts into the ground at the northern most areas of Alum Creek Lake, where we attached the "recycled water-softener tanks" above PVC raccoon baffles. The fiberglass wood duck nest chambers were bright blue, tan, or white. While the function and purpose of the structures won them respect, I thought the Wood Duck homes needed to blend in better with their surroundings.

For the past decade, whenever I have taken down a wood duck cylinder for repairs, I paint it camouflage. I will admit that I know next to nothing about art and art history, but I call each of my creations a "Picasso," after the famous 20th Century artist Pablo Picasso. First, I sand the cylinder since fiberglass fibers spring to the surface over time, then I vacuum the cylinder before painting it Yucca Green. It is when I start to spray on streaks of brown, or brush on streaks of Pratt and Lambert's Tobacco, a dark brown paint that I feel like an artist, and feel compelled to call my creation a Picasso. My sincere apologies go to the great Picasso for misusing his name.



Camouflaging poses no threat to mowing machines in cattail zones and other regions that are never mowed.

I use raccoon baffles made from 24 to 36-inch lengths of four-inch PVC drainpipe to protect my wood duck nest structures and an array of other nestboxes hosting bluebird trail species. Baffles must remain as slippery as possible. Even so, wet raccoon fur can pick up sand to provide enough friction for a masked rascal to make a climb to a vulnerable nest. Keeping that in mind, for baffles, it is best to avoid flat paint tones. Fine silica is added to paint to erase its glossy finish and that only adds friction for a climber's gripping feet. So, use glossy paint or none at all when it comes to preparing baffles for the field. Also, a five-inch wide band of lithium automobile grease below a baffle will add added protection. Raccoons do not try to climb through grease; they are deterred after one touch by its odor and sticky feel.

When I paint baffles, I sometimes use camouflage spray paint that is used by hunters and comes in two shades of green and brown. The paint is not glossy but stays slippery when sprayed onto PVC. Camouflage spray paint is easy to apply and does away with the easy-to-see look of drainpipe.

In recent years, I have made some fancy Picasso baffles. First, I use my post pounder to install pipes in my side yard and add an electric conduit hanger to each to support the baffles. I scrub the hanging baffles with a brush and rinse soapy water away with a garden hose. After they dry, I paint them with a coat of dark-green machine enamel. After the paint dries, I use fine steel wool to remove any tiny paint bubbles that always appear. I use a garden hose to blast away steel fibers, let them dry, and then streak the baffles with a dark-brown machine enamel to make them camouflage. The baffles have a rich appearance and compliment boxes that I have installed among cattails that frame a pond beside the office at Alum Creek State Park. Boxes at this location are my fanciest while blending in with the decor of the local environment.

I also use glossy paint on PVC sleeves that slide on pipes and support my Prothonotary nest jars and boxes. The sleeves are made from five-foot lengths of schedule 40 1-1/4" PVC pipe and a hose clamp holds each one to its mounting pipe sticking up from the lake bottom. At the far northern end of Alum Creek Lake near Kilbourne, Ohio, forty nest structures stand in pairs for Prothonotaries (1-1/8" entrances) and Tree Swallows (1-3/8" entrances), but you have to look through a spotting scope from Hogback Road to locate most of them that stand across the lake along the western shore. If I had not painted the sleeves green and brown, then forty white plastic poles would stand along the shore to distract from the otherwise natural setting.



Six examples are shown as were described in the article. The light green baffle has not been painted but shows its own appeal.

There are situations where I do not recommend painting baffles. For boxes that stand where the grass is mowed or brush hogged, the mower operator must be able to see the box, so I don't paint baffles. For an additional reason, I do not paint my baffles in two nestbox grids installed for Tree Swallows that stand in the Delaware Wildlife Area. The evenly spaced rows of

nest boxes are easy to see in each 25-box grid because their PVC baffles have faded to white. I consider it an art to use the Pythagorean Theorem to install a grid so all boxes lineup in rows and also lineup diagonally. As visitors cruise by on Panhandle and Leonardsburg Roads twenty yards from the grids' first rows, they can't resist glancing at the boxes and appreciating the multitudes of graceful swallows gliding amongst them. If the baffles were camouflaged, the grids would be less visible and less able to promote the nestbox grid concept.

So, there are situations for boxes and baffles to be camouflaged and other circumstances for them to remain easily visible. If painting becomes part of your management plan, enjoy being an artist and make'em pretty.

OBS Spotlight –

Nancy Adams

By Chuck Jakubchak



In early 2012 Nancy Adams accepted the recently vacated position of OBS Membership Director, a critical component of our organization. Nancy brings enthusiasm, organizational skills and a desire to help OBS thrive in future years. She is committed to reducing operational costs and efficiency by relying on electronic technology and promised to improve the accuracy of our membership records. We are fortunate to have Nancy and that is why she was selected for our Spotlight article.

Nancy has been employed by the Lake Metroparks for the past 12 years and has served as the Facilities Manager of the Environmental Learning Center (ELC) since 2008. In her current role she is involved with school programs and the ELC focuses on getting children to appreciate the wonders of nature, an objective that is shared by the OBS. She is a perfect fit for both our organization and her role as the Membership Director.

Jay Brindo's participation in the ELC's activities spurred Nancy's interest in the OBS as she was impressed by Jay's willingness to help children and adults learn about bluebirds. Soon after meeting Jay she attended an OBS conference and was impressed by the people she met, feeling a strong sense of a "community" while among the OBS members. Her interests in the OBS and bluebirds blossomed over the past 4 years and she felt compelled to give back to the OBS. Thankfully she decided to become our Membership Director and we gladly welcomed her energy and experience.

Nature has been a part of Nancy's life for many years, with memories going back to 4th grade when she and neighborhood friends would roam the woods near her home in Rochester, NY, checking out whatever nature had to offer. She seems to have been born with her interest as she cared about animals and plants before there were formal interpretive programs or special learning centers that were designed to cultivate a child's interest. Even today Nancy's love and appreciation of nature is deeper than that of her family's and she is grateful that she lives on 3 peaceful acres in Hambden Township, Geauga County.

When asked about her favorite birds, Nancy gave an answer that most OBS members may find surprising. Although she could not list 1 special bird, she did narrow her favorites down to 3 unique species. Red-winged blackbirds frequent her yard and she appreciates their antics, especially when they arrive in late winter and announce the coming of Spring. Turkey vultures also hold a special place in her heart as they can be seen flying above her yard; entire families of vultures enjoying the thrill of soaring together. Her third favorite species is the American woodcock because they are found on her property and she enjoyed their "peenting" long before she knew what was causing the sound.

Rounding out Nancy's interests are hobbies that include sewing, crocheting and doing various crafts. Her new found interest in roller skating yielded yet another sport that Nancy enjoys watching and you probably would not have guessed that she is a Roller Derby enthusiast. So the next time you see her, be sure to ask her about the Burning River Roller Girls or the Cleveland Steamers!

Do you know someone that deserves recognition for their service to the OBS or their assistance to cavity nesting birds? If so, please nominate that person by contacting Chuck. We might be able to use your nomination for an article in an upcoming edition of the Bluebird Monitor. (Jakubchak@Yahoo.com)

Blooming Bluebirders

Girl Scout troop 71445

Girl Scout troop 71445, a Junior troop from Whitney Elementary in Strongsville, OH, earned their Bronze Award by checking bluebird boxes in the Strongsville Backyard Preserve last summer. The girls met with Peggy, Sue, and Karole from the Backyard Preserve who explained to the girls how they collected data on bluebirds each summer. Our project was to assist them. The girls helped to check each of the 21 boxes twice a week. The girls learned how to knock on the box to make sure there was no adult bird in the box, open the box, check the nest, and record the data.

Last summer there were not many bluebirds but plenty of wrens and sparrows. After checking the boxes each week in the summer, the girls took the data and summarized it on posters, one for each box. They also created laminated sheets with information about the boxes that will be hung from some of the boxes in the Backyard Preserve. After completing the project, the girls put together a presentation to explain their results, to show what they learned, and to express thanks to the ladies who helped them. In April, the girls received their Bronze Award pins, the highest award for Junior Girl Scouts.



Blooming Bluebirders

Eastern Bluebird Numbers Rising in New Paris Ohio

By John Bigham Jr., Preble County



Since 2010 the eastern bluebird numbers in the New Paris area (Preble County) have been slowly rising. A day never goes by without hearing or seeing these lovely birds. It used to be I NEVER saw a bluebird! Now they are quite plentiful. All through winter I

would go bird watching in our creek bottoms and there would always be anywhere from five to ten bluebirds congregated in those sheltered bottoms resting, feeding, and drinking.

As I ran my bluebird trail on March 27th I found a complete bluebird nest with one egg in box A4 and in box A7 I found another complete nest with one egg in it. I had a four box bluebird trail on a neighbors land last year and when I went there to monitor my boxes at the beginning of the nesting season I found, much to my dismay, the neighbor had sold his land and the new owner was going to put bison on the land.

I talked to the new owner about leaving my boxes up on his land. He said that I could leave them there but he also said I would not be able to monitor them! I did not want to remove them because the area was flooded with bluebirds waiting to begin nesting so I asked some of the neighbors that live around that area if they minded if I mounted boxes on their land. Most of them didn't care so I took all of them off their posts (all but one that tree swallows had already inhabited) and re-mounted them on the other peoples' land.

I just finished mounting them yesterday (March 26th) and a pair of bluebirds are already beginning to nest in one. The boxes that I moved are in bad condition. They have big cracks in them and were not built the best. I plan to replace them at the end of the season with

new boxes. They will be made from a plan that I came up with. My new boxes are very sturdy and yet very inexpensive to make. I use unpainted pine for all of my boxes. The plan I made up is listed below:

John Bigham Jr's Bluebird House Plans

You will need:

- Saw
- Drill
- Screws
- 1 ½" Hole saw
- Tape measure
- Square
- Pencil
- 1 - 1" / 6" - 4' piece of pine or cedar

Dimensions:

- Front: 8"
- Left Side: 8"
- Right Side: 7 ¾"
- Back: 8"
- Top: 9 ½"
- Bottom: 4"

Instructions:

1. Cut all pieces
2. Screw all pieces together, except right side
3. On right side measure 1 ½" down from top on front and back. Then put two screws in front and back but do not tighten all the way so side can pivot smoothly.
4. Drill a small hole in the bottom right corner and place a nail in the hole to keep side shut.
5. Drill ¼" drainage holes in the bottom of the box
6. Measure halfway across the box width ways 6" from the bottom and drill your 1 ½" hole
7. Mount your box on a steel post in suitable bluebird habitat and enjoy the bluebirds!

This box has a flat roof; costs approximately \$5.00; and takes about 30 minutes to build.

Mounting instructions and a monitoring form are added in my boxes when I sell them. If the buyer has any questions about bluebirds I answer them the best I can. I also warn them not to allow House Sparrows

to nest in their boxes and explain to them what a sparrow's nest and eggs look like. I put a paper in the box that tells them what Tree swallow and House Wren eggs look like. It tells them not to harm their nests because they are native species and must not be disturbed.

Be sure to check out The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch citizen science project by typing: NestWatch into Google.

I monitor many open cup nests for NestWatch. Right now I have a Canada Goose nesting on our farm. She has seven eggs that are due to hatch the end of April. Have fun monitoring nests for NestWatch!

The bluebird is becoming quite popular in Preble Co. Let us try and make this the best year yet for the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity nesters. Spring. I saw my first Scarlet Tanager there. I have seen many different species there like Wood Thrushes and many others.

Happy Birding!!



Blossoms on our Sand Cherry Tree



*Bluebird eggs.
(the first clutch this spring!!).*



A female Bufflehead that visited our pond this spring



A Canada Goose nest. (they nested on our land this spring).



Chickadee eggs!! (my first batch ever!)



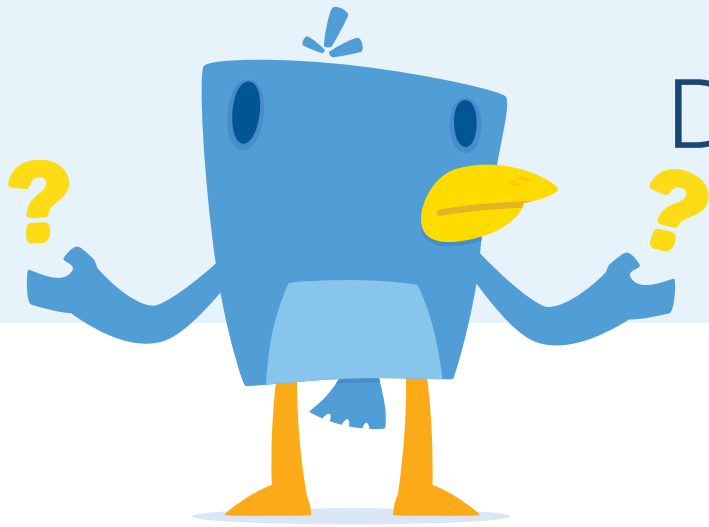
Chickadee chicks! (the same nest).



Shea Finger painted a Bluebird for her school project.

Advice from a Bluebird

.....
Rise early / Spread a little happiness
Keep a song in your heart
Think Spring / Be colorful
Feather your nest with friendships
The sky's the limit!



DID YOU KNOW?

Article from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Migratory_Bird_Treaty_Act_of_1918

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), codified at 16 U.S.C. §§ 703–712 (although §709 is omitted), is a United States federal law, at first enacted in 1916 in order to implement the convention for the protection of migratory birds between the United States and Great Britain (acting on behalf of Canada[1]). The statute makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill or sell birds listed therein (“migratory birds”). The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs and nests. Over 800 species are currently on the list.

Narrow exceptions to the act, known as the eagle feather law, are enacted in federal regulations (50 C.F.R. 22), which regulates the taking, possession, and transportation of bald eagles, golden eagles, and their “parts, nests, and eggs” for “scientific, educational, and depredation control purposes; for the religious purposes of American Indian tribes; and to protect other interests in a particular locality.” Enrolled members of federally recognized tribes may apply for an eagle permit for use in “bona fide tribal religious ceremonies.”[2]

The Act was enacted in an era when many bird species were threatened by the commercial trade in birds and bird feathers. The Act was one of the first federal environmental laws (the Lacey Act had been enacted in 1900). The Act replaced the earlier Weeks-McLean Act (1913). Since 1918, similar conventions between the United States and four other nations have been made and incorporated into the MBTA: Mexico (1936), Japan (1972) and the Soviet Union (1976, now its successor state Russia). Some of these

conventions stipulate protections not only for the birds themselves, but also for habitats and environs necessary for the birds’ survival.

Migratory birds may seek respite within trees or on buildings considered private property. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the removal of all listed species or their parts (feathers, eggs, nests, etc.) from such property. However, in extreme circumstances, a federal permit might be obtained for the relocation of listed species (in some states a state permit is required in addition to a federal permit). Pursuant to the spirit of the treaty, it is not trivial to obtain a permit; the applicant must meet a certain criteria as outlined in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, 21.27, Special Purpose Permits.[8]

The permit applicant is generally a contractor who specializes in wildlife relocation. When hiring a contractor to trap and relocate any animal from one’s property, the private property owner is well advised to attain proof of such permits before any trapping activity begins, as trapping without the necessary paperwork is common in the United States.

Most wildlife management professionals consider relocation actions undue harm to the birds, particularly since relocated birds (being migratory) often return to the same property the next year. In the case of trapping and relocation, harm is brought on by or can result in:

- Breaking, a term describing increased susceptibility to disease brought on by the stress of capture and relocation
- Difficulty in establishing territory at the new location
- Separation of family members and the stunting of juveniles’ natural progression into adulthood

Partial Listing of Covered Species

The following is a sampling of some of the more commonly known birds of the over 800 species covered under the treaty:

- Bluebird, Eastern
- Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*
- Black-capped Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*
- American Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*
- Northern Cardinal, *Cardinalis cardinalis*
- Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*
- Cliff Swallow, *Hirundo pyrrhonota*
- Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*
- Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*
- Common Nighthawk, *Chordeiles minor*
- Downy Woodpecker, *Picoides pubescens*
- Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*
- Mourning Dove, "*Zenaida macroura*"
- Northern Mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos*
- Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo jamaicensis*
- Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*
- Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana*
- Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*
- American Crow, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*
- Common Raven, *Corvus corax*
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*
- Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*



American Black Vulture
Coragyps atratus, one
of the species covered
under the treaty.

Photo from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Vulture

Found a Baby Bird?



Leave Fledglings Where You Find Them

In most cases birds won't need your help. Young chicks who have just left the nest (fledglings) may spend several days on the ground before they are able to fly. Typically parent birds continue to care for them. You can help by keeping people and pets away. If you think a bird is truly an orphan, call a wildlife rehabilitator for instructions. For information about finding a wildlife rehabilitator please visit - <http://www.nwrawildlife.org/content/finding-rehabilitator>

OBS PHOTO GALLERY



**Photo by Dale Zutavern - Sippo Park
Stark County, Canton Ohio – 3/27/12**



**Photo by Roger Garber, Montgomery
County (Dayton), Ohio**



Photo by Samantha Griff



**Photo by Sheila Vanderhorst
St. Marys, Ohio, Auglaize County**



Photo by Paula Ziebarth

"TRES nest with 12 eggs. That is a first for me. I opened box and there were two TRES in there head to tail - looked like they were both incubating eggs, but not sure. I did not want to grab them to check for brood patches or they may have scrambled the eggs if their feet started windmilling. There was huge midge hatch this past week and I am seeing average clutches of 7 eggs in the TRES boxes here. Usually I have average of 5 or 6 on the island."



**Photo by Carma Kauffman
Danville (Knox County), Ohio**

Green Lawn Summer Event

Saturday July 21, 2012



On Saturday, July 21st the Ohio Bluebird Society will sponsor an educational field trip in the Columbus area. OBS members will be able to tour Green Lawn Cemetery, Smith Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve and Bigelow Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve with each site offering special opportunities to view birds, insects, butterflies and prairie wildflowers. If you like nature, this field trip is for you!

The cemetery tours will also contain some interesting history as Green Lawn is the final resting place for former governors, war heroes and several famous Ohioans. Smith and Bigelow Cemeteries contain the remains of many of Ohio's first settlers as their lives were interwoven with the native prairies of Ohio. There will be many interesting things to see during the trip and we guarantee a fascinating day of activities.



We are pleased to note that Jim McCormac from the Ohio Division of Wildlife will lead the field trip and his

expertise is unsurpassed. If you haven't been on a nature walk with Jim, you don't know what you have been missing as he will point out many interesting natural elements of the habitat we visit.

For general planning purposes we are estimating that the tour will begin around 9:30 AM in Green Lawn and end around 4 PM. We are planning on stopping for lunch at Der Dutchman in Plain City but will determine our exact itinerary in June.

Cost of the tour will be \$15/person and all of the proceeds will be donated to the Green Lawn Cemetery Foundation. Space is limited to 20 people and reservations will be secured on a "first come, first served" basis. Interested individuals should mail a check (made out to the OBS), along with their participant's names and contact information (phone and e mail if available) using the form below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

OBS Member? _____ Yes _____ No

_____ Kayak Trip, June 16 - \$20/person

_____ Ohio Wildlife Center Tour, June 16 - \$10/person

_____ Green Lawn Cemetery Tour, July 21 - \$15/person

Make Checks payable to:

Ohio Bluebird Society

Mail to:

OBS
PMB 111
343 W. Milltown Road
Wooster, OH 44691

**OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY**

PMB 111
343 W. Milltown Rd.
Wooster, Ohio 44691

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON, OH
PERMIT NO. 286



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