



Bluebird Monitor

OBS encourages good stewardship
by **Monitoring** our Trails
Winter 2022-2023



Nest Boxes – Delight and Dismay Over Surprise Occupants

By Judy Semroc, OBS Trustee

While it is always a joy to open a nest box and discover a bird nest, eggs, babies, or youngsters ready to fledge, there can also be surprises, both delightful & dismaying. Take for example, the delightful surprise in opening a box to check for nesting progress and finding a beautiful Black-capped Chickadee nest crafted with mosses, delicate grass fibers, flower petals and fur from untold sources, such as rabbit, dog and other mammals that might reside in the area. Downy feathers from the mother's body makes for a soft bed in which to lay several small, speckled eggs.



For many of us, we delight when our efforts to attract an Eastern Bluebird pair pays off with a finely crafted nest of white pine needles, grass fibers and even horsehair. We work diligently to protect both the mom & dad as well as the eggs and young that we hope will make an appearance shortly after nest construction is complete.



And let's not forget the intriguing way that the Tree Swallows use a variety of feathers to "cover" their nest, in hopes of protecting the all-important next generation of eggs & young which will hopefully make it through to adulthood.



Eastern Screech Owls may use nest boxes for roosting, especially in winter and if we are lucky, they will stay and raise their family in the early Spring.



Continued on page 2



Now let's step away from the avian residents of our nest boxes and investigate some other denizens that may seek shelter and often use the boxes for their various needs. Gray tree frogs are known to use nest boxes as their day-time roosts prior to emerging at night to hunt for insects.



Field mice take great care in outfitting their newly discovered "home" with grasses, fur, seed fluff from various plants and other ingredients to provide a cozy home for their young.

But our delight and excitement quickly turns to shock and the attempt to rapidly flee the area when a box is opened and reveals a nest of the European hornet, with angry residents at the ready to pursue and attack the interloper. Please take it from personal experience that this species is not a friend to those of us who may encounter



them using our nest boxes. They do not invite you into their home for a cup of tea and a blueberry scone when you knock at their door. They quickly go on the defense and make every effort to drive you away from their domain and area.



Another startling and unwelcome nestbox occupant might be a rat snake. These snakes can easily climb a nestbox pole in search of a meal. Once they have eaten the birds, eggs, or chicks inside the box they will slide back out the box entrance hole and down the pole. Nests that have been predated by a snake usually appear undisturbed- just empty! Use of a predator guard like a Kingston stovepipe guard is highly effective in preventing snake and raccoon access to a nestbox.

So while we continue to happily construct and place nest boxes for our avian friends, please be aware and on the lookout for those species which may usurp the boxes for their own manner of creating their next generation!

Red Cedar Wood Donation

By Carl Gleditsch, OBS Trustee

Over the years Dale Eads, owner of Eads Fence Company in Loveland Ohio, has been setting aside scrap red cedar boards that were left over from his business. His idea was to convert the boards into nest boxes for swallows and bluebirds. Being the owner of a very successful fence company, the time was never there, so, he reached out to the Ohio Bluebird Society to see if we wanted the wood. Charlie Zepp, our woodworker, who makes all of our nest boxes and feeders, jumped at the chance.

Continued on back page





U.S. Army Corps Engineers, Atwood Dam Bluebird Project

By Linda Chen, Canton Audubon President



In June 2020, Canton Audubon Society (CAS) was contacted by Grace Trimble, Natural Resources Specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), requesting help for an upcoming project. Her goal was to turn 7-acres of

grass into a pollinator and bird-friendly habitat at their Atwood Dam location. Grace then contacted several others who helped her convert the grassy area into a field now covered in native plants such as prairie thistle, goldenrod, coneflower, ironweed, aster, and woolgrass.

A bird nest box project was planned by Scott Kraynak, USACE Natural Resources Management Specialist (ECC) and Hunter Simmons, USACE Natural Resources Specialist with help from Canton Audubon. Darlene Sillick, from Columbus Audubon and the Ohio Bluebird Society, helped with the choice of nest box style and placement of them. She supplied USACE with Bluebird and Northern Flicker boxes as well as an Osprey platform, all at no charge. The Bluebird nest boxes are mounted on metal poles with baffles. They were installed in March 2022. American Electric Power installed the Osprey platform, also at no charge, which is located on the shore of Atwood Reservoir across from the USACE office. CAS funded some of the materials for nest box installation.



L-R: Hunter Simmons, Scott Kraynak and Scottie Rogers with Bluebird nest boxes

Of the six Bluebird nest boxes that were installed, all were used by Bluebirds. One Northern Flicker nest box was installed as well. A Kestrel nest box pole kit with baffle (pictured), from Troyer's Birds' Paradise (www.troyergourds.com), was installed by USACE. It has a crank to lower the box for cleaning. Birds, pollinators and a whole host of insects now call this new habitat home. Overall, the project has been a success!

Future plans are in the works at Atwood with the hope of installing T-perches for birds, a Chimney Swift Tower, additional Bluebird nest boxes and bat boxes. There is also a plan to establish another prairie location near the Osprey platform which will include trails with interpretive signs.

The USACE Atwood office and dam is located in Tuscarawas Township, approximately 30 minutes south of Canton, at 3434 SR-212, Mineral City, OH 44656.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' primary objectives are waterway maintenance and flood control. USACE is responsible for water control management at reservoir projects it owns which they operate throughout the United States. They are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.

George Washington appointed the first engineer officers of the Army on June 16, 1775 during the American Revolution.

For more info about USACE, visit:

www.usace.army.mil

www.usace.army.mil/About/History/

[Brief-History-of-the-Corps/Introduction](http://www.usace.army.mil/About/History/Brief-History-of-the-Corps/Introduction)



How Late Do Bluebirds Nest in Ohio?

By Heather Harris, OBS Board Member



Ohio Bluebirds typically start nesting in March and will continue into August, sometimes even into September. If a pair of bluebirds successfully raise more than one brood, the nesting period will continue later into the year. Competition from other cavity nesting birds can also hinder the bluebirds' ability to find suitable

nesting cavities, causing them to nest later in the year than usual. Since bluebirds usually only have up to three nests in a season (four is rare, but is possible), they may be pushed later in a season to nest if prior nesting attempts weren't successful.

David Dunbar, of Lorain County, shares this story of a pair of late nesting bluebirds at his brother Charles' home in Vermilion. David is on his 3rd year of successfully hosting his own Bluebird trail, fledging a total of 10 bluebirds into the world in 2022. On September 7th, 2022, David was surprised to receive a message from his brother Charles (also a bluebird landlord in Lorain county) stating he was going out to his garden to tend to his raised beds, and when he walked past one of his nest boxes a female bluebird was flushed from it. Charles opened up the box and discovered a neat little nest made out of pine needles, and 6 blue eggs in it. Charles has four nestboxes on his property that typically hosts a few pairs of Tree Swallows and a pair of Bluebirds each season. Both Charles and David actively manage their properties from invasive house sparrows.

On September 14th, David went to visit his brother and check on the box. All 6 eggs had hatched! Despite the September rains we had, the 6 nestlings continued to grow with the help of Charles and David supplementing live mealworms. According to David, on September 24th, two of the six nestlings had fledged. On September 28th the four remaining nestlings had taken flight for their first time, and the parents were seen bringing live mealworms up to the trees where the fledglings were then spotted.

Thanks to David and Charles's determination to help these late nesting bluebirds and supplement live mealworms to the parents during heavy September rains, there are now 6 new little Bluebirds out in the world!

Nestbox in Vermillion that had the late nest



Mealworm Feeder



Four of the six nestlings before they fledged



The Wonders of Wood

By Molly Wilsbacher, OBS Treasurer



Have you ever wandered along a riverbank or beach front and picked up pieces of drift wood? I've always been fascinated by wood and how weather and the elements can sculpt the wood into marvelous smooth shapes. There are a few gifted individuals who can create beautiful pieces of art from wood.

My favorite artist of this medium was Randal Martin from Nashville, Tennessee. He practically breathed life into wood replicas of some of Mother Nature's best work. In the piece on the right, from 2009, he carved this bluebird out of Tupelo wood and the leaves are made out of copper.

One of Randal's greatest honors was being selected to carve a bluebird ornament for the 2002 White House Christmas tree for an 'All Creatures Great and Small' seasonal theme. Laura Bush selected this theme to celebrate the joy and comfort pets have brought Presidents and their families over the years. Unfortunately, Randal died of COVID in May 2021.



Bluebird by Randal Martin 2009



Bluebird Ornament by Randal Martin 2002

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Prothonotary Warbler Feeds Grackle Chicks

By Dan Best, OBS Board Member



In thirty years of providing artificial nest cavities on the swampy Upper Cuyahoga River in Geauga County, my project partners and I have “met” well over 1,000 prothonotary warblers. This includes a combined total of almost 940 adults and young that we banded and scores more that we couldn’t.

During the process of reviewing and compiling 30 years of nesting records in preparation for our presentation “Going for the Gold: Three Decades of Prothonotary Warbler Husbandry” for the 2022 OBS Virtual Conference*, we were reminded of a few notable birds among the many.

One particular prothonotary warbler that stood out in memory was a particular male. Back in 2011, he and his mate established their nest in one of our converted Metamucil jars not far downstream from Eldon Russell Park, our put-in point for nest monitoring by canoe or kayak.

While the female was in the nest jar incubating her clutch of six eggs, the male performed the normal territorial duties patrolling and singing to define and defend his turf. However, not 20 feet away from the prothonotary’s nest jar, a grackle pair had their nest in the crotch of a silver maple tree. To our astonishment, the male warbler was seen feeding the grackle nestlings! Perhaps the gaping maws of the grackle kids prematurely triggered his parental instinct.



As black birds with contrasting yellow irises, it is easier to tell what grackles are looking at than most other birds. How did the grackles react to the unsolicited help with feeding their brood? Well, the pair sat on a branch looking on nonplussed as the warbler fed their kids, taking no action to interfere with the prothonotary papa-to-be. It was like, “Yeah, go for it. Happy for the help!” The prothonotary provider was seen two days later again feeding the grackle chicks.

About eleven days later, five of six warbler eggs hatched. By this time, the grackle young had fledged. Papa Prothonotary was now busy with his mate foraging and feeding nestlings of their own. Four of five nestlings fledged with one having disappeared as sometimes happens. As many nest box monitors know, cavity competing house wrens remove eggs and hatchlings in their take-over bids. Worthy of further study is woodpecker predation, a largely unrealized form of nest predation of cavity nesting young in otherwise unsullied nests whereas raccoon raids leave nests disheveled or destroyed.

*available for viewing on the [OBS Website](https://www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/)

Treasurer’s Report by Molly Wilsbacher

- 1. Please keep the Ohio Bluebird Society in mind this holiday season!!** When purchasing from Amazon, please do so via Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.com>). It’s extremely easy to designate the Ohio Bluebird Society as your charitable choice and Amazon retains this information for future purchases. We receive a small percentage of all purchases made through Amazon Smile and it won’t cost you anything extra. [PLEASE NOTE: Only purchases made vis this link <https://smile.amazon.com> (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) generate donations].
- 2. Thank you to everyone who has made donations for our upcoming silent auction at the annual Bluebird Conference on Saturday, March 4, 2023.** As usual, it will be held at the central location of Ashland University. We are still accepting donations, so if you are downsizing and have any items that might be useful in our silent auction, please email me at OBSTreasurer@gmail.com and I will make arrangements for pick up by me or another OBS Member. Please keep in mind that the value of all donations can be used as a tax deduction!
- 3. Speaking of donations, this past quarter most of our donations were memorial donations in memory of OBS Founder, former Board member, and Advisor Dick Tuttle.** Since August, we received \$2,712 in donations in memory of Dick. If you would like to make a memorial donation to the Ohio Bluebird Society in honor of a loved one, you can do so via PayPal from our website (<https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/support-us/donate/>) or you can mail a check to the Ohio Bluebird Society, 9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, OH 44094 – please put in the memo who it is for. Thank you!
- 4. Last but not least, I’m happy to report that we netted \$5,336.99 after expenses in the 3rd Quarter of the year.** Our anticipated expenditures over the next quarter include publishing and mailing the Winter Newsletter, as well as expected expenses associated with our conference on March 4, 2023.



Ask Madame WingNut

Smith Park Trail Renovation

By Paula Ziebarth



In Delaware County, we are missing our most experienced trail monitor. Dick Tuttle passed away this past summer and a group of volunteers have rallied with the help of OBS president, Darlene Sillick. We have been tasked with assessing the condition and placement of nest boxes on Dick's trails and finding monitors for those trails. Darlene asked me to renovate Dick's 20-box trail at Smith Park in the City of Delaware.

Smith Park is a 50 acre park in northern Delaware. Its amenities include shelter houses, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball courts, multi-use fields, baseball/softball diamonds, two playgrounds, a fishing pond, outdoor exercise equipment and a multi-use paved trail. Overall, the site is in excellent Eastern Bluebird habitat with short mowed grass and solitary trees.

In 2016, Dick Tuttle established a 20-box trail in a deep drainage ditch at the front of the property. Nest boxes were spaced 25 yards apart to accommodate Tree Swallows and a couple of Eastern Bluebird families.

House Sparrow competition was a problem from the outset due to a number of factors:

- a barn harboring House Sparrows across the street
- seed producing grasses and plants in fields across the street and in the ditch provided nearby food source and plenty of nest material
- suburban sprawl from the City of Delaware with housing subdivisions within a mile of the site
- nest boxes clustered together only 25 yards apart were huge House Sparrow attractant
- 4-inch diameter yellow plastic conduit topping cyclone playing fences around the site has open ends which are used as nest cavities and shelter for house sparrows
- picnic shelter houses, playgrounds and parking lots provide additional food sources
- landscape includes some stiff needled evergreen trees and densely branched crabapples that shelter groups of House Sparrows.



I evaluated the trail in early October this year. I found a limited data set from Dick's trail monitoring, mainly from articles he had written in the past. In 2018 he trapped 49 House sparrows and in 2021 he trapped 46. Dick was unable to monitor the trail in 2022 and all the nest boxes were packed full of House Sparrow nesting material. There was no evidence of native birds fledged from trail in 2022. During my initial visit, House Sparrows actually flew out of several nest boxes which is very unusual in the fall after nest season is done.

First order of business was to dismantle "line grid" of nest boxes in the ditch. The deep ditch made it difficult to safely monitor and House Sparrows were attracted to nest boxes spaced so closely together. I believed the park site could be better utilized with "paired box" stations located every 100+ yards apart. Park personnel, Ted Miller and JP Linkous, were extremely helpful, wanting to continue Dick's legacy and help the birds. All 20 nest boxes were resited. A pair of nest boxes spaced 15 feet apart was set every 100+ yards in mid October. When flagging locations for the new trail, I was careful to keep boxes out of House Wren habitat and away from stiff needled evergreen trees, playgrounds, picnic areas, etc. (House Sparrow habitat). We set them just inside natural prairie areas so park staff would not have to mow around them. Setting them just a foot inside these areas will also keep monitors out of tick infested tall grass. JP Linkous installed boxes in their new locations and sited them on Cornell's NestWatch database for me.

The next order of business is to get House Sparrow populations under control on the trail. During the past couple weeks of October, I used Van Ert Universal Sparrow Traps to capture 12 House Sparrows in nest boxes and plan to continue trapping as long as they continue going in there. I scrape box clean and



New paired station in good Eastern Bluebird habitat with solitary trees for sentry perches. You can see one of the biggest House Sparrow challenges in the background - barn that is no doubt breeding and sheltering the enemy.



All nest boxes full of House Sparrow material from 2022 nest season



House Sparrows building nests and sheltering in 4-inch yellow conduit topping playing fences

remove the trap after each visit so I will know if they have added anything the next week. They are actually adding nest material in October and of course House Sparrow droppings. Any deposit tells me they will be going back in so I set a trap if warranted. Setting traps overnight or very early in the morning works the best. Van Ert traps must be checked every couple of hours if set during daylight hours.

I have monitored many trails with House Sparrow problems and have tried different strategies over the years. Using Van Ert Universal Sparrow Traps to capture and remove House Sparrows as soon as possible is best practice. On public trails, I have also discovered that monofilament House Sparrow deterrent installed on Bluebird boxes works very well IF House Sparrows have an option to go to. Next spring, I will implement The WingNut Sparrow Protocol, a strategy that has been extremely effective for me on House Sparrow heavy trails in the suburbs these past couple of seasons.

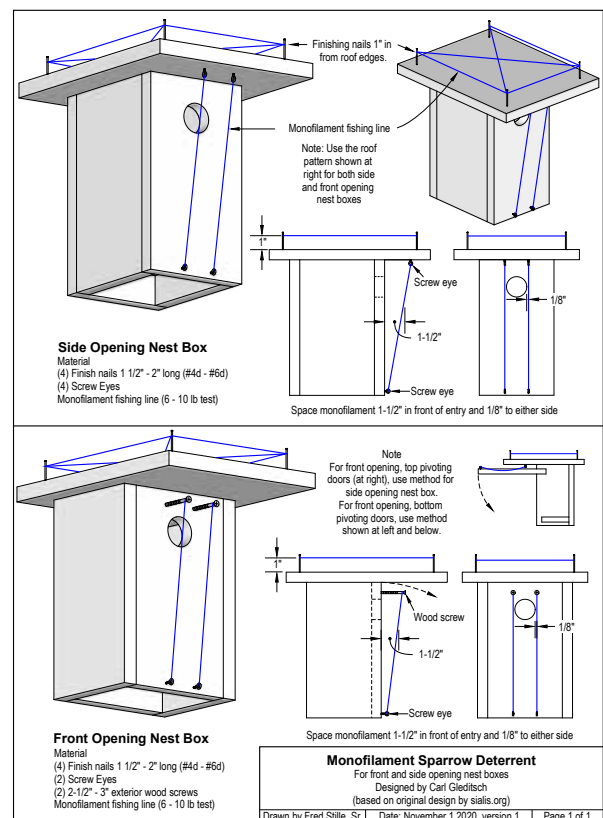
WingNut Sparrow Protocol

On paired station trails, I install a 1-1/4" hole reducer on one of the nest boxes. This is the nest box that the House Sparrow will go to because the second box in the pair has monofilament House Sparrow deterrent installed on the front of a nest box with 1-1/2" or 1-9/16" entrance hole for Eastern Bluebirds to use. Unlike Sparrow Spookers, monofilament can remain on the box indefinitely. The diagram shown here was developed by OBS trustee Carl Gleditsch. I have been using monofilament on front of the box only. Securing the monofilament so it does not dangle is important. Otherwise, a bird could become entangled in the line.

Setting up a paired station this way forces the Eastern Bluebird to use the monofilament box. The Eastern Bluebird will not fit through the smaller entrance on the paired box. Any House Sparrow looking for a nest site now has to deal with a Bluebird defending its nest site and the monofilament line which truly is a

House Sparrow deterrent. It will choose the box with the smaller entrance where it should be trapped and eliminated as soon as possible. In trail experiments I've done, I have discovered it is important to supply a nest box House Sparrows can "try" in. This can be a box in a paired station or a box nearby if solitary nest boxes are set out for Eastern Bluebirds. If not provided with nest box to "try" in, House Sparrows eventually breach the monofilament line on other boxes and try in those.

After Eastern Bluebirds inhabit the box with the monofilament, Tree Swallows often take the box with the smaller hole (they will easily fit through 1-1/4" opening) and the paired station operates as intended with native birds raising broods in each box simultaneously, helping to defend the station from any remaining House Sparrows in the area. If a Tree Swallow takes the box with



Continued on page 8

monofilament on it, it is a simple thing to temporarily remove reducer from the other box and install monofilament on that one too, opening it up for Eastern Bluebirds to use.

To illustrate the effectiveness of this strategy, last year I tried this on a small churchyard trail in Lewis Center, Ohio that has 2 paired stations and two solitary boxes. Monofilament was installed on one box in each of the paired stations and on both solitary boxes. There were no House Sparrow attempts in the boxes with monofilament deterrent. Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows fledged young from all of these and suffered no egg, young, or adult mortality due to House Sparrow depredation. There were eight House Sparrow attempts in the two boxes without monofilament and nine House Sparrows dispatched from them during the nest season.

It will be interesting to see how the trail does next year. I hope to work with a new monitor next season on this trail. If any



House Sparrows trapped (orange dot displayed means trap is sprung) in both boxes of this paired station in October

readers that live near Delaware are interested, let me know. In the meantime, as Dick was fond of saying, "Conserve on!"

If you have any questions, contact Paula Ziebarth at: paulazbird@gmail.com or 614-323-7566. 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.

Not Your Grandmother's Woodpecker By Rob Thorn



The racket was surprising in the quiet marsh. It sounded like a cat being stretched on the rack. I looked over and couldn't see anything at first, but then saw a screeching starling blast past. Chasing it wasn't an accipiter or Crow, but a... ah,... a Red-headed Woodpecker? I had always thought of these birds as relatively quiet and unobtrusive. But a lot has changed.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were once the poster child for displacement by Starlings. When I first moved here to central Ohio in the 1990s, I looked forward to seeing these beautiful birds. However, they were very scarce at that time, mostly confined to a few swamps with snags in Killdeer Plains and Hoover reservoir. This was after several decades of trying to co-exist with the abundant starlings, and the Red-heads were losing the race. Add to this the fact that they were primary targets for urban nesting Peregrines, as documented by nest remains, and the future looked bleak for these birds.

Then they started showing up in more places, both around Hoover and elsewhere. The OBBA2 (2002-2005) found them in lots of places; I found them in several small woodlots in intensively farmed parts of counties surrounding Columbus. But they weren't just in rural areas; we even had them in oak woodlots east of Gahanna, such as Boehnke Preserve and Jefferson Township Woods. They've even re-colonized local oak woodlands in suburbia, including Inniswood and Highbanks. Starlings surely haven't gotten less common, so what's changed?

In a single word, the birds seem to have become more 'feisty'. Local Red-heads are much more vocal – you can find them easily by their calling –, and they just don't take any guff from

other birds anymore. I've watched them chase starlings, robins, crows, other woodpeckers including the omnipresent Red-bellies, even Sharp-shinned hawks. I almost fell over when I watched one chase a lumbering Pileated Woodpecker off a snag to which it clearly thought it had title. Either the Red-heads have learned to become more assertive, or the more aggressive ones have had more nesting success and are coming to dominate local populations.

In fact, the second option is very likely. There have always been reports of aggressive Red-headed Woodpeckers; they just weren't very common. A.C. Bent's Life History of North American Birds series, chronicling American birdlife prior to the 1930s, has several passages that speak of aggressive Red-heads, talking about how they contest with Starlings and Blue jays for food, and other woodpeckers for nest cavities. They were even observed to destroy nests of other cavity nesters like chickadees and nuthatches. But most of these behaviors were seldom observed, or seen mostly in edge populations like in Colorado.

So we should probably keep an eye on these attractive new neighbors. I love their querulous sounds and their habits of staying in family groups and cacheing food (like their western cousins, the Acorn Woodpeckers). Hopefully they won't impact other cavity nesters too greatly, though I wouldn't mind them taking out some more Starlings and House Sparrows.



Rob Thorn lives in the Columbus area and is an avid birder, field trip leader and writer for Columbus Audubon. He is also a National Audubon CBC compiler and it is a real treat to go for a bird walk with Rob. He is a true walking avian encyclopedia and has a large following.

OBS Grant Recipients Report Successful First Nesting Season

By Mike Watson



The purpose of OBS's grants program is to provide funding for the creation or improvement of habitat to support bluebirds and other native cavity nesting species. This often includes installing new nest boxes or replacing worn or damaged boxes. But the funds may also be awarded for other projects such as the creation or improvement of habitat with native plants that will support food resources for native bird species.

Nesting boxes for Wildcat Park in Newark

When the City of Newark Parks decided to renovate its Wildcat Park with native wildflower plantings and scattered native trees, Chance Patznick recognized that they would be creating ideal bluebird habitat. He applied to the OBS Grants program asking for financial support for their effort.

OBS awarded Newark Parks \$500 to support the purchase and installation of 4 bluebird nest boxes and predator baffles, and the purchase of native wildflower seeds and a Burr Oak tree. This not only adds new nest boxes but expands habitat restoration efforts along the Licking River.

We are happy to say that the first season was a great success, with bluebirds and tree swallows finding the nest boxes and successfully fledging young: 4 bluebirds and 9 tree swallows. Black-eyed Susans and other native wildflowers are already popping up in the expanded restoration areas and the burr oak is thriving.

Chance will be recruiting volunteer nest box monitors for 2023 as a way to involve the public in local conservation efforts and ensure ongoing monitoring of nests at Wildcat Park.

Support for Wood Ducks in Belmont County

Assessments by the Ohio EPA of the Captina Creek Watershed in Belmont County indicated efforts should be made towards habitat protection and restoration along this high-quality system. Belmont County Wildlife Officer and the Soil and Water Conservation District identified the creation and protection of Wood Duck nesting habitat as a priority. In order to support this effort, OBS awarded the Belmont County Soil and Water Conservation District a \$500 grant to purchase and install wood duck nest boxes in good habitat in the watershed.

OBS funds purchased 8 wood duck nesting boxes and installation supplies. These boxes were installed on both public and private properties in the watershed in early 2022 and were monitored using trail cameras and site visits. Wood ducks were present at four of the sites and used two of the nest boxes. Ryan Smith of Belmont SWCD reports that one of these nests successfully fledged 8 young and hopes for more nesting in future years.

More information about the OBS grant program can be found on our website (www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org).





Member News

Welcome New Members!

Lisa Horn
Kathi Hutton
Lee Johnson
Neil Marquard
Laura Saeger

Thank You to Our Donors!

Barry Bowden
Fred & Holly Glock
Lisa Horn
Kristen Miller
Janice C. Petko
Laura Saeger
Emily Sandman,
Cardinal Health Foundation

In Memory of Dick Tuttle

Linda Benner
Allen Blyth
Penny and Fritz Brandau
Kelly Dufour
Alisa Gerbec
Elaine Germann
Lisa Horn
Charlene Howison
Melaine Kelley
Thomas King
Neil Marquard
Robert Matthews
Margaret McNaughton
Gordon Mitchell
Olentangy Watershed Milan
Carol Sheldon
Darlene Sillick
Peggy Steffel
Lori & Brandon Stover
Matthew Tuttle
James & Christine Walters
Louise Warner & Clyde Gosnell

In Memory of Doreene Linzell

Traci Kirk

In Memory of Fredric Nye

Carol Sheldon

Notes from the president – by Darlene Sillick

What a busy few months we have had in the Columbus area since the passing of Dick Tuttle. A team of us have been working on Dick Tuttle's many nestbox trails. There have been up to 8-10 of us, locating Dick's trails, making contact with the site managers and discussing next steps. Dick was unlike anyone. His passion for having a sense of what the birds needed and providing many sites and projects for his conservation efforts is something we all can learn from. He had annual notebooks of the many sites in central Ohio with precise data and fascinating information.

We have revised the Delaware State Park trail (where Dick had 166 boxes at one time) and are looking for one or two new monitors there. Paula Ziebarth, Carl Gleditsch, John Esham, Blake Kyle, Amy Girtten and Kim Lascola, Sandra McBreavity, Tim Bischoff, Dick Phillips, Jim Estep and I have been the team at many sites where Dick had boxes. (Twelve of us trying to do what one amazing man did mostly by himself). We have been working since August and still need a few more trips to revise a few trails. We are sitting down with each site manager to determine how they do or don't want changes to Dick's work. Many want to keep his legacy in place for future generations. We do need monitors and will help you with maps and training. We ask that you put the data on Cornell Nestwatch. Carl Gleditsch and Paula Ziebarth are the best Nestwatch teachers!

Please let one of the 3 of us know if you can help continue what Dick Tuttle started. Dick would be honored to know that others are picking up his conservation efforts.



On March 4, 2023, Ohio Bluebird Society will have an in-person annual conference at Ashland University. We are excited to share our speakers and bring back the Silent Auction, our biggest fundraiser. It will be fun to see bluebird friends and make some new ones. The theme of the conference is Nesting in Nature. OBS trustee Anna Rose created our 2023 conference logo. She will be the conference moderator and is a master to keep our event moving. She is a senior at OSU this year and we are honored to have her on our board and creating our amazing artwork.

An event flyer is enclosed in this newsletter. In December we hope to have more annual conference updates from each of our presenters along with their bio's. Manon VanSchoyck, director of Ohio Nature Education, and her special guests will be bringing an American Kestrel, Eastern Screech owl and Southern Flying Squirrel. We hope to have table displays again. There will be a morning and afternoon break and an hour lunch break so you can learn from our many groups or individuals who work on many aspects of native conservation.

Many of us have been working on our trails of boxes and getting ready for spring 2023. We have been lucky to have a warm fall to work on them before the winter winds chase us indoors. Assessing trails, making needed changes, and recruiting volunteers are important fall activities in bluebird programs. Conserve on!

We wish you an enjoyable holiday season with your family and friends.

Board Member Updates

We would like to thank Pat Dutton for her incredible work as a trustee of OBS and are sorry to see her leave as her term expires! She has made OBS stronger and more organized especially with her work with Membership records Thankfully she will continue as Membership Chair. Thank you Pat!

New Board Member Candidate – Lee Johnson



Lee Johnson is originally from Canton, Ohio, which is known as the home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. She received her Bachelor's in Computer Information Technology from Franklin University. She has three daughters, which include her cat Izzie. She enjoys anything cardio from Hip/Hop Zumba to boxing at Title Boxing Club and is a published author of two books.

Lee is not only excited but intrigued to learn more about supporting conservation efforts. She has Darlene to thank for this excitement! This is due to spending an event-filled morning of learning about birding and the various things that could be done to protect/conservate their lifespan.

The current board of OBS has recommended Lee Johnson as a new board member nominee. A ballot vote from current OBS members is requested to confirm this candidate. Please complete the ballot before December 15, 2022 and mail it to:

**OBS Election 2022, The Holden Arboretum,
9500 Sperry Road, Kirkland, Ohio 44094**

Lee currently works in the Medical EIT organization for Cardinal Health and has been with the company 12 years. Her current role is Senior Business Analyst within the technology strategy and integration team. She is responsible for driving Medical's Kermit Program, application roadmaps, and segment technology metrics. Other roles at Cardinal Health include business analyst on the HRIT team supporting HR systems (Kronos and Workday), to Supplier Management supporting the Shared Services Supplier Rationalization program. She has also been the project manager in the ETS - Enterprise Transformation Service organization supporting Pharma and Medical M&A programs. Her most recent role was on PMOD2 supporting the Order-To-Cash reporting deliverables under the Business Intelligence & Analytics organization.

OBS ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES – 2022

I hereby cast this ballot for the candidates listed as nominees in this issue of the Bluebird Monitor as follows:

____ I vote for only the following candidate:

Candidate: _____

Signed: _____

Print: _____

Date: _____

Continued from page 4

Another wood carving artist is Jeff Rechin from Virginia, whose work can be found in private collections throughout the United States that also include reproductions of original works designed exclusively for the Danbury Mint and sold throughout the United States. He has also written several articles for Wildfowl Carving magazine, including an article in 2015 on how to carve bluebirds. You can view the article here: wildfowl-carving.com/Demonstrations/Eastern-Bluebird.

If you know of any local wood carving artists, especially those that carve some of beloved winged friends, please drop me a line so I can feature them in an upcoming article!



Eastern Bluebird by Jeff Rechin



OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nesting in Nature!

March 4, 2023

SPEAKERS

Mark Dilley	The Trials and Travails of Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat in Suburbia
Tim McDermott	Ticks and Lyme disease
Diana Steele	Bluebirds 101
Loyd Marshall	Conservation at Mosquito Creek
AWARDS	<i>to be announced</i>
Heather Harris	Bluebirds Across Ohio, Facebook
OBS panel	<i>to be announced</i>
Manon VanSchoyck	Tips from Ohio Nature Education



Original artwork by Anna Rose, OYBC

LUNCH HOUR BREAK

Silent Auction – Our biggest fundraiser!
Educational table demonstrations and posters
OBS display table – traps and boxes for sale

CONFERENCE LOCATION & TIME

Check-In: 8:00am

OBS Annual Members Meeting: 8:30 - 9:00am.

Conference: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Non-members plan to arrive by 9:00am main conference start time

Ashland University

John C Myers Convocation Center

638 Jefferson Street, Ashland, Ohio, 44805

If you become sick with Covid-19,
please do not attend the conference.
A full refund will be provided with
proof of a positive Covid-19 test.

COST

\$25 OBS member, \$35 non-OBS member, \$15 student (21 and younger)

Includes Conference and Lunch (please pre-register using attached registration form) (No Walk-ins)

- **Registration Deadline: February 17, 2023. Register Online at <https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/conference/>**
- **Or Mail to: Pat Dutton, OBS Membership Chair, 7747 Township Road 103, Millersburg, OH 44654**

Awards, displays, silent auction and much more!

Visit our website for more information and to see program updates!

<https://www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org/>

THANK YOU



SPONSORS!





OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nesting in Nature!

March 4, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2023

Register Online at <https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/conference/>

(Please pre-register, space is limited, NO Walk-in's)

Name: _____ OBS Member? YES / NO
Organization: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

I AM REGISTERING AS

_____ OBS Member (\$25) _____ Non-OBS Member (\$35) _____ Student – 21 and younger (\$15)

MAIL REGISTRATION

Pat Dutton, OBS Membership Chair
7747 Township Road 103
Millersburg, OH 44654
OBSMembershipchair@gmail.com

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO

OBS

or register online!

LUNCH SELECTION

Name on Name Tag: _____

Check Lunch Choice: w/broccoli salad, pasta salad, chips, apple, cookie and water:

- ___ Smoked Turkey and Gouda
- ___ Roast Beef and Cheddar
- ___ Ham and Swiss
- ___ Italian Sub
- ___ Vegetarian Wrap

Salads w/cookie and water:

- ___ Chicken Caesar Salad,
- ___ Chef Salad with Chicken
- ___ Strawberry, Spinach, and Candied Cashew Salad



Photos by Katelyn Shelton
OYBC Junior

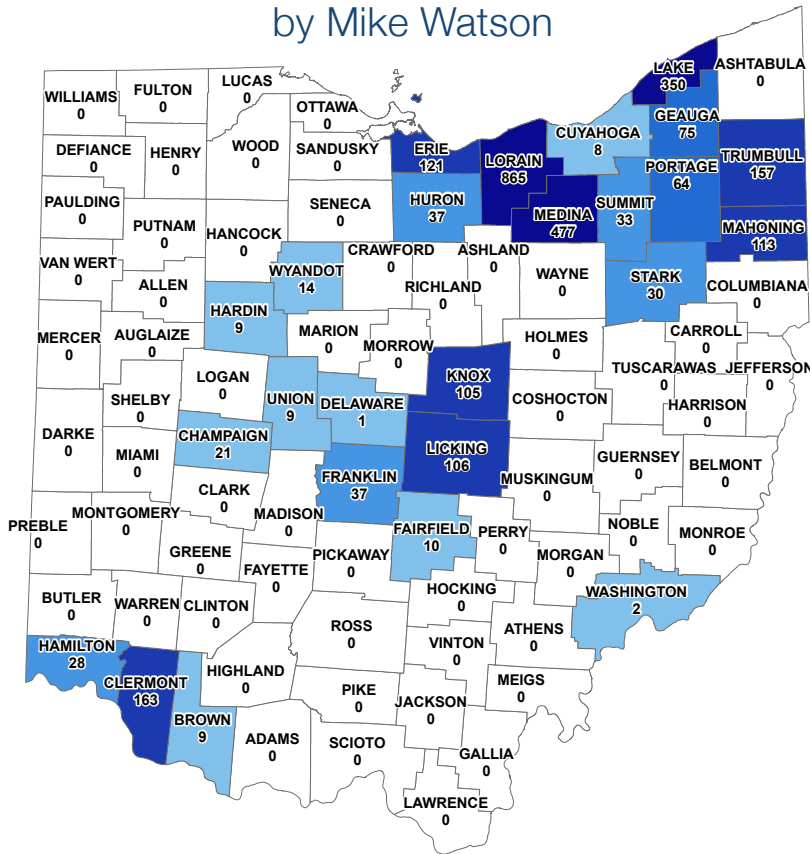
THANK YOU SPONSORS!



Please download and send your 2022 fledgling reports to OBS.
ohiobluebirdsociety.org/about-bluebirds/fledgling-report-2

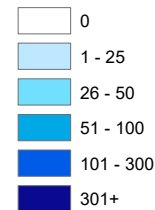
OBS 2022 FLEDGLING REPORT

by Mike Watson



Species	#Fledged
#Reports Submitted = 39, from 25 counties	
Eastern Bluebird	2844
Tree Swallow	3645
House Wren	1438
Purple Martin	785
Black-capped Chickadee	70
Carolina Chickadee	35
Carolina Wren	69
Barn Swallow	30
Prothonotary Warbler	65
Wood Duck	33
Great Crested Flycatcher	3
House Sparrows dispatched	269
House Sparrow eggs destroyed	622
European Starlings dispatched	0
European Starling eggs destroyed	170

#Fledged per County



created by Mike Watson; The Holden Arboretum



Ohio Bluebird Society Membership Application

Membership Class	Annual	3-years
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (under 21)	\$10	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Sr. Family (over 60)	\$15	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular/Family	\$20	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational	\$50	\$140
<input type="checkbox"/> Life	\$300	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax deductible gift to OBS \$ _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New membership		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in participating in OBS activities		
<input type="checkbox"/> Email Newsletter OR <input type="checkbox"/> Print Newsletter		

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

County: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to:
Ohio Bluebird Society

Mail to:
Pat Dutton, OBS Membership Chair
7747 TR 103
Millersburg, OH 44654

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

OBS Officers, Board of Trustees, and Advisors

We wish to thank the many people working with and for the Ohio Bluebird Society.
Without their help, we could never accomplish our mission.

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Like us on Facebook! Search for
Ohio Bluebird Society to join our group.

Ohio Bluebird Society would like to thank outgoing Trustees Joann Kale and Monica Klarer for the incredible work they have done as board members. We appreciate Monica's acceptance of the OBS secretary position and wish both of them bluebirds in their futures!

OBS Area Contacts (as of February 2022)

County	Name	E-mail	County	Name	E-mail
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ASHLAND	Lang, Linda	lindaflang@gmail.com	LAKE	Watson, Mike	mwatson@holdenarb.org
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			WOOD	Hamlin, Terry	tkhamlin@icloud.com



OHIO BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

The Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road
Kirtland, Ohio 44094

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

ohiobluebirdsociety.org

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Affiliated with the North American Bluebird Society

What's Inside...

Nest Boxes – Delight and Dismay Over Surprise Occupants.....	1-2
Red Cedar Wood Donation.....	2, 16
U.S. Army Corps Engineers, Atwood Dam Bluebird Project	3
How Late Do Bluebirds Nest in Ohio?.....	4
The Wonders of Wood.....	4, 11
Prothonotary Warbler Feeds Grackle Chicks.....	5
Treasurer's Report.....	5
Madame Wingnut	6-8
Not Your Grandmother's Woodpecker.....	8
OBS Grant Recipients Report Successful First Nesting Season.....	9
Member News.....	10
Board Member Updates.....	11
OBS Annual conference 2023 – Agenda and Registration.....	12-13
OBS Fledgling Map.....	14
OBS Area Contacts and Contact Info.....	15

Deadline for Submitting Articles:

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

Continued from page 2

On September 22nd, John Krieger, Blake Kyle and Carl Gleditsch, along with two pickup trucks made the trip to Loveland to get the wood. Two full trucks of wood came back to Columbus and were deposited in Charlie's backyard. The wood is beautiful and already being put to good use. As we were leaving, Dale showed us a huge pile of red cedar further back on his property that is just waiting for our return. We should have plenty of valuable red cedar wood for years to come.

A big THANK YOU to Dale and the Eads Fence Company for the contribution.

If anyone else has any nice wood (prefer cedar or plastic) and would like to donate it to OBS, we can recycle it into new bird homes. The birds will love you for it. Simply reach out to ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com.

