



Bluebird Monitor

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

Winter 2021-2022



Winter Wonderings By Madame WingNut



During the cold winter months, most of us are somewhat housebound and may spend more time observing our backyard birds. People wonder how they can help native birds during winter months. Some of the questions I have received over the years include:

Will my Eastern Bluebirds remain with me during winter months?

What should I do with my nest box after nest season is finished?

There is a Downy Woodpecker roosting in my nest box. Will it chase my Bluebirds away?

How can I help native birds during winter months?

A whole flock of House Sparrows, or European Starlings is hanging out in my yard. Is there anything I can do?

Eastern Bluebirds breed throughout the state of Ohio. Winter range maps show them in central and southern parts of the state year round, but they may not overwinter with you if you are in the northern part of the state. They tend to migrate short distances to find enough food and shelter to sustain themselves, but return to their breeding grounds as soon as possible once the weather warms up a bit. In central Ohio, my Bluebirds remain with me throughout the winter.

Some people store or block nest boxes during winter months. They may do this to keep House Sparrows from gaining a foothold in housing or keep Downy Woodpeckers from damaging nest boxes. I prefer to leave all nest boxes out and open, dealing with non-native House Sparrows by trapping and repairing nest boxes the following spring if Downy Woodpeckers claim them for winter roosting. Make sure all old nests are removed and boxes are scraped clean. Many people like to wash a box out with 10% bleach solution and rinse well afterwards.

A nest box can provide a warm, dry roost compartment for Eastern Bluebirds (or other cavity nesting birds) during cold winter months. Winterize nest boxes by blocking vents with felt window insulation or other insulating material that does not leave a sticky residue. I also like to place a layer of dried pine needles on the nest box floor. Pine shavings, sold as animal bedding at pet



Downy woodpeckers can do quite a bit of damage inside a nestbox.. or outside.

stores, can be substituted for pine needles. I have found that using pine shavings seems to reduce the incidence of Downy Woodpeckers excavating the inside front face of a nest box if they choose it as a roosting spot for the winter.

Downy Woodpeckers often roost in our nest boxes during winter months, but they will not chase your Bluebirds away. I host many of these birds in my yard and on trails. They always abandon the box in the spring and Eastern Bluebirds

then use it for nesting. They may peck away at the front face of the box and enlarge the hole so be prepared to bring that hole back to the original size once they leave in the spring. This can easily be done by installing a 1-1/2" metal or wooden block hole reducer on the box when nest season starts up.

A source of unfrozen water is important for birds this time of year. You can purchase heaters for your bird bath or purchase a bird bath with a built-in heating unit. I highly recommend the latter. Eastern Bluebirds and other species will drop by for a drink.

Heated bird baths attract ALL the birds.



Continued on page 2

If you have not already done so, consider planting some native plants in your landscape that will provide food for birds. Berry producing plants such as winterberry holly, chokeberry and bayberry are examples of plants that provide berries for Eastern Bluebirds and others during winter months.

Bluebirds swallow their food whole and cannot crack a seed. If you want to set food out at your bird feeding station for them, they can eat shelled sunflower seeds, chopped peanuts, Zante currants, chopped raisins, etc. Mealworms are always a favorite of Eastern Bluebirds. Some people feed dried mealworms this time of year although birds prefer live food. Feeding mealworms during winter months can get rather expensive. I prefer setting out homemade suet mix crumbles for the birds during fall and winter.

Different suet recipes can be found on www.sialis.org website. I have set out Bluebird Banquet for the birds for many years and many different species love this food, Eastern Bluebirds especially. Most ingredients can be found at the grocery store. Zante currants are in the same aisle as raisins. Make sure to buy corn meal, NOT corn meal mix which has leavening in it. I purchase peanuts, sunflower chips and cakes of Simply Suet from Wild Birds Unlimited to use in the recipe, melting the suet cake in the microwave in a 2-cup glass Pyrex measuring cup which makes it easy to pour.

Bluebird Banquet (Linda Janilla Peterson)®

- MIX 1 cup peanut butter
- 4 cups yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup unbleached or whole-wheat flour
- ADD 1 cup fine sunflower seed chips
- 1 cup peanut hearts (or finely ground nuts)
- 1/2-1 cup Zante currants (or raisins cut in halves, or chopped dried cherries)

DRIZZLE and STIR IN 1 cup rendered, melted suet. Cool.

Resulting mix will be crumbly and should have bean/pea sized lumps from the drizzling of the melted suet. If too sticky after cooling, mix in a bit more flour. If too dry, drizzle in more melted suet. Refrigerate any mix you are not using to prevent suet from turning rancid.

Nutritional analysis: Protein 12.7%, Carbohydrates 45.9%, Fat 32.7%, Fiber 5.9%

During the fall and winter months, House Sparrows form neighborhood groups and hang out in dense vegetation to keep safe from predators. Large flocks of European Starlings mob feeding stations during winter months, especially when there is snow cover. You can help native cavity nesters by using repeat bait traps to capture a lot of non-native invasive House Sparrows and European Starlings during the fall and winter months. Natural food stores become scarce as winter marches on. Eliminating some of these non-native avian competitors leaves more food in the wild for our native birds and other wildlife.



Eastern Bluebirds enjoy Bluebird Banquet suet crumbles in this starling resistant feeder

By reducing their numbers, you also reduce competition from these aggressive non-native nest robbers next spring. Both House Sparrows and European Starlings are known to attack and kill native birds in nest boxes and/or natural cavities.

Best results with repeat bait trapping vary with the two species. The type of bait used and the best season for trapping are different for House Sparrows and European Starlings. Late summer through early winter are the best House Sparrow trapping months, using fresh crumbled white bread, cracked corn or millet as bait. Make sure that if you are feeding other birds, you do not feed seed blends containing millet. Reserve the foods House Sparrows love for trap bait only. European Starling trapping season begins mid-January and ends in March generally. They are especially easy to trap when the sky is overcast and there is snow cover. Bait traps with peanut butter or suet crumbles and monitor carefully. Adjust elevator arm weight of repeat bait traps for this larger bird.

My favorite traps work well for either species. Blaine Johnson's Deluxe Repeating Sparrow Trap can be purchased online at www.sparrowtraps.net. This durable, well designed trap will serve you well. This is a true repeating trap and does not require resetting. Keeping live decoys (live House Sparrows or European Starlings) in the trap attracts more of their kind and seems to dissuade native birds of other species from venturing near. I place the trap on the ground near bird feeders or under a tree birds like to roost in. Decoys are well fed and watered and covered during the night with a waterproof mat. To reduce stress, you can wire an old Pringle's can inside the trap and the birds will use it as a shelter.

Troyer's Birds Paradise sells a trap very similar to the deluxe repeating sparrow trap. This trap also includes a built-in shelter box and shipping is free. Troyer's also sells my favorite bait trap, the ST-1 which is improved this year. In this 3-compartment unit, birds are trapped in the two outside compartments and the middle holding chamber holds your live decoy. This trap requires manual resetting after each capture. Although it doesn't happen often with live decoys in a trap, all traps must be carefully monitored to make sure any native birds are released immediately. To order Troyer's products online, go to www.purplemartinproducts.com or call 814-587-2756 to get a free catalog.

Bluely yours, Madame WingNut

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.

An Apprentice Bander's First Kestrels

By Anna Rose, OBS Board Member

On a bright and beautiful day in mid-August, Darlene Sillick and I took a country drive to see Ralph and Mary who had three very special guests visiting their home. Upon our arrival, I could see an adult kestrel swirling above a single nesting box perched in the center of their lawn. It turns out we weren't the only visitors! A number of volunteers, including Dick Tuttle, who is an advisor to OBS, had come to assist and observe the banding of three kestrel young.

The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*), also nicknamed the grasshopper hawk, is our smallest falcon here in North America. These raptors typically have clutches of 3-5 eggs, and after they hatch the ravenous babies can consume up to 3 mice or voles a day each! Their favorite habitats to nest in are open woodland and grasslands. This may explain why Ralph and Mary's kestrel family choose their nest box since the surrounding area has fields and woodland habitat. From hatch to fledge, the nestlings typically remain in the box for at least 26 days. After fledging, they practice their hunting skills during the day while still receiving support from their parents and roosting in the box at night (nesting statistics from Cornell's NestWatch).



This box of kestrels was particularly special because of how late in the season the nestlings were being raised. Most kestrel pairs have fledged their young by August, and according to Dick's records, these were one of the last if not the very last trio of young to be banded this season! Now for the hard part... the banding of the young! We carefully opened the box to see the three fluffs huddled in

the corner of the box with their talons out. Using a thick pair of gloves, I delicately handed each individual from the box. There was a collective "ooooo" and "awwww" from the surrounding observers as they got to observe the young.

I also had the opportunity to place a band on a kestrel's leg! As an apprentice bander, I have had the wonderful experiences of extracting small songbirds from mist nets and placing bands on thrushes, but I had never banded such large birds before! With Dick's help, I was able to use the banding pliers to fit a band onto the young's right leg. I double-checked that the band was appropriately sized for the little guy's tarsus and that it was closely properly and wouldn't get caught on anything. Voila! My first kestrel banding was a success!

After we safely placed the babies back in their nesting box, we backed away so that the parents could resume care and feeding of the young. The mother kestrel perched on a powerline a short flight away as she impatiently waited to return to her offspring. I'm sure the nestlings were quite ready for a snack from Mom by then!



Dick Tuttle examining a nestling



Darlene Sillick holding one of the kestrel young

The 2021 Prothonotary Warbler Season At Alum Creek Lake

By Dick Tuttle, OBS Advisor and Past OBS Blue Feather Award Recipient



The 2021 PROW season at the northern end of Alum Creek Lake near Kilbourne had its unique moments. I use my extra wide 12-foot Old Town canoe to maintain and monitor 45 nestboxes and nestjars along a one-mile stretch of the lake's shoreline.

All nest structures are mounted on five-foot-lengths of 1-1/4-inch PVC water pipe. Hose clamps hold the nestjars and boxes six or more feet above summer water level in order for nests to be above the highest recorded flood levels at Alum Creek Lake. In late summer, all structures are pulled off their steel anchor pipes to be stored in my basement until early March the following spring. All is done to avoid damaging ice flows that are quite common during each winter.

On March 9 and 10, I reinstalled 14 nest structures throughout the most northern portion of the project. I wore my hip boots and waded through the mud of the exposed lake bottom. The lake was still at winter pool at 885 feet above sea level and it was fun watching all sorts of wildlife as I returned the potential nest sites to their pipes. It was too early to see Tree Swallows and prothonotaries, so I was not disappointed.

As the calendar days continued to add up, I was becoming weaker until a medical team installed a pacemaker in my chest on March 27. The heart's pacemaker came with a medical directive for me to limit the use of my left arm and not lift anything that weighed more than 25 pounds for the next six weeks. That disallowed the use of my fifty-pound canoe until mid-May and the project still had 31 nest structures to install.

The project was rescued after Craig Flockert organized six other staff members from Preservation Parks to meet on April 6 and 11 to finish installations before the prothonotaries were to arrive. We hiked the horse trail above the lake to access the lakeshore below where pipes awaited their nestjars and boxes.

By May 27, the lake had risen to 886.1 feet to make it possible to check all 45 nest sites with my canoe, and everything turned out to be better than expected. The golden swamp warblers had eight active nests, seven with eggs and one nest with five-day-old nestlings.

Tree Swallows had 17 active nests, eight of which had nestlings, and House Wrens had launched their season with nine nests, five of which had young.

Since Tree Swallows dive to drive off egg piercing wrens, in recent years, I started to locate nest structures with 1-1/8 inch entrances further from the western shore than the swallows' structures



A golden swamp warbler lands at its nestjar's entrance.

which have 1-3/8-inch entrances. The structures are paired five yards apart. I reason that swallows will inadvertently protect the swamp warblers' homes as they protect their own from the wrens. When warblers return to their nests, they glide below, then soar up to their home's entrance and the swallows seem not to be concerned, etc.

As I reviewed the season's recorded data, I focused on my first visit where eight prothonotary nests were active with eggs or young. All eight nests matured to successfully fledged descendants. Six of the warbler nests had been paired with active swallow nests which may have endorsed the management plan. Most surprising were two successful swamp warbler nests that became paired with active House Wren nests that held hatching eggs on May 27. Researchers have found that once wrens have nests with days invested in incubation, and more advanced nests with nestlings, their behavior changes and they become more accepting of other species in their neighborhood. It could be that the wrens become so busy with being responsible parents that they don't have enough time to spear the eggs of others.

So how did the project's residents do? The Prothonotary Warblers attempted 16 successful nests after 19 attempts with eggs for a rate of 84.2%. House Wrens caused the three nest failures by evicting prothonotary eggs.

Prothonotary Warblers had active nests with eggs and young from the earliest first egg on May 5, to the last fledging event on August 6, for a 94-day active nest season. Two nest structures produced two families each.

The warblers laid 78 eggs, 72 (92.3%) hatched, and all nestlings fledged for a 92.3% success rate for the eggs, and 100% rate for the hatchlings.

The project's Tree Swallows had 20 successful nests after 23 attempts for an 87.0% success rate. Two nest failures appeared to be abandoned nests and the third failure had no visible explanation. The swallows laid 106 eggs, 84 (79.2%) hatched and all fledged. So, the swallow parents did a great job of fledging 100% of their hatchlings.

Tree Swallows occupied their nests with eggs and young from April 24 to July 20 to make an 88-day active nest season. Three boxes raised two families each.

I call House Wrens "super bird," or "the boss of the brush lands," and they produced 27 successful nests after 28 attempts for a 96.4% rate. The one failed nest appeared to be abandoned after two eggs were laid. Wrens laid 152 eggs, 147

(96.7%) hatched, and 146 (96.1%) fledged. After eggs hatched, 99.3% grew to fledge as the parent wrens lived up to their "super bird" title.

Four boxes or jars raised two families each during the 122-day House Wren Season that ran from May 6 to September 4.

As I do every year, I removed the project's nest structures from their pipes and after leaning them up against my garage at home for five or more days in an effort to give spiders and insects a chance to escape, I moved them into my basement for storage. It took three trips, one per day, on August 14, 15, and 16 to retrieve all but five boxes that held wren families. I collected the last five boxes on September 4 to bring "my season" to a close. Conserve on!

Tufted Titmouse

By Rob Swindell, President, Black River Audubon Society
and "Birding" Columnist, Chronicle Telegram; Photos by Gina Swindell



No matter the time of year, my heart warms to the sound of the familiar "peter-peter-peter" song of the tufted titmouse. There are some birds, no matter how many times you have seen them, that seem to make you smile. Both beautiful and largely unremarkable, the titmouse is a year-round visitor to bird feeders and is easily found on trails through deciduous forests.

The tufted titmouse is just delightful and charming in shades of blue and gray with a peach wash and black forehead. They seem to make eye contact with their large black eyes—conveying interest and appreciation. They are handsome, the kind of handsome that never seems to take a bad picture. As mentioned previously, they are on my list of favorite birds.

Tufted titmice are cavity nesters and as such they look for old nests created by woodpeckers. They are permanent residents of the eastern United States, often found hanging out with black-capped chickadees. They feed on a diet of insects, spiders, seeds and fruit. They are somewhat fond of sunflower seeds and often fly into bird feeders to grab a seed. They will remove the shell, hammering on it as it holds it between its two feet, then either eat it or stash it away for later.



The tufted titmouse pair up in a defended territory to raise their young, and remain throughout the year. Their nest often includes hair—typically taken off living rabbits, raccoons, dogs and people! Their average lifespan is only two years, but this number is reportedly affected by the number of hatchlings that die each year. The oldest tufted titmouse on record lived about 13 years.

The name, you're wondering? The name comes from the Old English words "tit" and "mase," which together was "small bird," according to the American Bird Conservancy. "The word 'mase' eventually became obsolete and this part of the name morphed into the familiar word 'mouse,' a convenient switch because the quick-moving little gray bird probably reminded people of the small rodent." With their large dark eyes, I can understand the mouse reference. Maybe that's why they are so cute!

Their appearance is quite distinct and not easily confused with other species, except perhaps with the black-crested titmouse. The black-crested titmouse resides in Southern Texas and Northern Mexico, having diverged from the tufted titmouse some 250,000 years ago. However, they continue to hybridize in areas in which they overlap.

It is hard to say why some birds just strike your fancy, but the tufted titmouse will likely remain among my favorites for a long time.

Ramblings From the Prothonotary Trail

By Loyd Marshall, OBS Advisor



This is the eleventh year for monitoring the Prothonotary Warbler nesting season at Mosquito Creek Lake near Cortland, Ohio. During the prothonotary warbler nesting season, volunteers check the existing jars once a week for breeding activity. The

breeding season is much shorter for the Prothonotary Warbler since it is a neotropical bird and arrives when the weather is warmer at the end of April or first of May. They depart for their return to South America at the end of July or the first part of August. This is only a three-month breeding season compared to four months for the Purple Martins and five months for the bluebird trail. The Prothonotary Warblers are monitored at Mosquito Creek Lake once a week from May 1st through the end of July. Heather Harris and I monitor the jars on the Corps side of the lake while Steve Craiger monitors the jar on the state park side of the lake. We record the progress of breeding season and submit the data to NestWatch.



Monitoring the Prothonotary is a little different from doing the Bluebirds or Purple Martins. First, you are wearing waders and in water from knee deep to slightly above your waist. There is a mud bottom and many hidden branches and weeds trying to trip you. You also must navigate around the willow trees and bushes above the water. With that said it is such a wonderful feeling to be out with mother nature and away from the normal bird trail. Purple Martins monitoring is much easier, since all you usually do is walk out across a neatly

trimmed lawn to the colony. From there you unlock the winch and lower 12 to 18 gourds down to eye level for inspection. Most of you are all probably very familiar with monitoring nest activity on the bluebird trail, which involves walking on various surfaces such as, asphalt, lawns, or fields with tall weeds. All the bird trails are different, but each one is a joy to get out and experience the great outdoors.

When doing the Prothonotary jars, we remove the lid so you are looking down in the jar and you can easily tell changes in

the nest building process. It also allows for great pictures of the nest activity. Nest inspection is done as quickly as possible to not disturb the birds and once the nestlings are close to fledgling the jar will not be opened. Five stages of nest building are recorded in the book as the weekly nest check is done. The bottom of the jar is white, and a completely white bottom is obviously no activity. Whereas a small amount of material, even a beak full, shows they have visited the jar. The next step is when they have put enough material in the jar to make a ring around the outer base inside the jar. This is what we refer to as a donut since the outer ring is dark and the center is the white of the jar bottom. The next phase is the partial nest which covers the entire bottom, no white is visible, but the cup section on the top of the nest is not done yet. The next step is a complete nest with fully formed cup and soon will have eggs. Incubation takes fourteen days, and they are only in the nest for eleven days as fledglings. The adult birds are very friendly and will come back to the jar if you step back 10 to 15 feet and remain still.

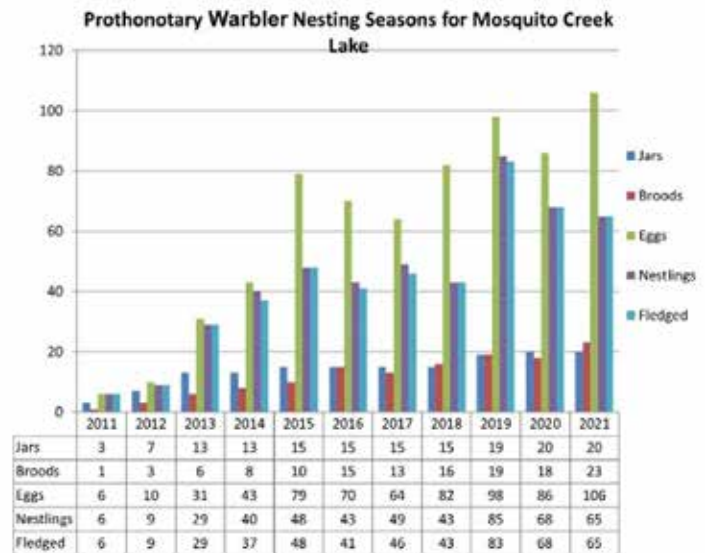


One jar being monitored started out like a routine nesting season. When I looked in the jar there were five eggs which looked like prothonotary eggs but had a very deep almost solid color on the one end. I was suspicious of what type of eggs they were since they seemed very different from all the prothonotary eggs I had seen over the past ten years. Usually, the male and female are around the nest, but this time I never saw any birds coming and going. I started thinking they may be Carolina Wren eggs, which I had seen before and vaguely remember them looking like these. I

was not sure and sent pictures to another more experienced monitor and they guessed maybe a Carolina Wren. So, I was almost convinced. Well low and behold when they hatched and started developing, they were Prothonotary. And sure, enough

when the parents started showing up to feed, they were also Prothonotaries. Well, the story goes on, when I was thinking I had the wrens, I figured one jar was closed for the pro, so I put another jar about 10 feet away, hoping, if the PROW were still around, they might move to the second nest. Well once the first jar fledged the prothonotary, the next week I had a nest in the second jar and soon I had eggs and before I knew it a second brood had fledged.

The records for the past ten years were input into the NestWatch data base over the winter of 2020/2021. The 2021 breeding season data will be input by the end of the year. The results for the eleven years of the program are shown in the chart: The chart shows we have been consistently fledgling birds, especially the last three years. We have no way of knowing if the population is growing at the lake or if we are just providing more convenient housing and the birds are choosing this over nesting in cavities in the trees, their natural home. There is also no way of determining if any birds are returning from previous years or are changing partners since we don't do any banding. The area only involves a small portion of the lake, 12%, which leaves plenty of territory for more nesting jars. There are three volunteers doing the project with no university association or nature organizations/



agencies behind the project. The cavity nesting volunteers are aging, and I would like to see a more formalized group with banding capabilities. With good leadership and direction, this would be a great educational opportunity for high school or college students.

A Strange Nestbox Location

By Mike Watson

Choosing the correct nest box design is always an important topic of discussion among bluebirders. Although we agree on some basic design features, there is room for flexibility and experimentation on our trails. And, regardless of all our efforts, sometimes the birds don't follow our 'rules' and surprise us by building nests in unusual locations. Finding nests in poorly designed or maintained nest boxes is fairly common. Nesting in natural cavities is fairly uncommon but does happen. Occasionally, bluebirds nest in structures that were not intended for them at all, and that do not fit the guidelines for a bluebird nest box. OBS member Eileen Hale recently shared such a story.

Eileen's neighborhood provides good bird habitat in the form of landscaping, a woodlot, and a small lake. Not surprisingly, she finds many species using her feeders. But a lack of much open space meant that bluebirds were not a common visitor until a few years ago, when a pair arrived during the winter and have stuck around since.

She installed a nest box in 2019 which was ignored until this year. The bluebirds successfully fledged two young early this season. However, House Sparrows took over the nest box immediately after the bluebirds fledged, despite a fight from the adults. Left with nowhere to nest, the adults got creative and moved to the nesting platform on Eileen's front porch. The platform is essentially a small nest box with no front, designed for robins or mourning doves to use.



These nesting platforms do not meet our recommendations for bluebird nest box design in a number of ways (not an enclosed cavity, very large opening, not installed in an open area). However, Eileen's bluebirds raised and fledged 3 young in this unusual bluebird 'box,' providing a reminder that birds are adaptable and persistent and will often surprise us.

Thank you to Eileen for sharing her story and photos.

Evolution of a Modern Bluebird Artist: the Beautiful Artwork of Anna Rose

By Molly Wilsbacher, OBS Treasurer



When I first envisioned writing this article last year, I thought I would write about the young college student who created four logos for the Ohio Bluebird Society's annual conferences. I thought I would compare the varying logos and demonstrate how a high school student honed her skills in college and developed

richer logos as a result. However, Anna Rose is so much more impressive than merely being a young lady who created our amazing conference logos in her free time.

Anna is currently a third-year student at Ohio State University majoring in Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife, where she is in the Honors Research Program studying the survival of local songbirds (specifically, white-throated sparrows) during the winter months in wetland ecosystems. She also works part time at the local Wild Birds Unlimited Shoppe.

One of Anna's all-encompassing passions is her art. Her favorite mediums to paint in are acrylic and oil; and she also enjoys drawing in graphite and ink. She basically adores anything that involves connecting to nature, and her skill in Plein Air painting (the act of painting outdoors) allows her to create keepsakes from all the beautiful places she visits. Plein Air painting contrasts with studio painting or academic rules that might create a predetermined look.

Anna enjoys developing her skills as a wildlife and landscape artist. In the below photo, she painted the Appalachian landscape in oil pastel. Finding peace through art and nature, Anna commented that, "Plein Aire Landscape painting is ... a fantastic way to bring home a souvenir from the places I visit."

When Anna is not hitting the schoolbooks or painting, she may be found monitoring cavity-nesting bird species on her bluebird trail. Anna considers herself a "birder" having enjoyed bird observation for over a dozen years in 14 different countries, including the Caribbean and Europe.



Plein Aire Landscape in Dolly Sods, West Virginia



Goldfinch on Purple Coneflowers



Turnstone on a Stormy Day

As such, this past summer Anna trained as an apprentice bird bander as part of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS) Project where she learned the ethics and proper handling of Ohio songbirds. She spent over 80 hours assisting with extractions, aging, and sexing of Ohio's summer avian visitors at Black Swamp Bird Observatory (Magee Marsh Wildlife Area) in Oak Harbor and at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark in Toledo. Additionally, Anna assisted with the Maumee Bay Piping Plover project, where for the first time in 83 years, the Great Lakes endangered species returned to the shores of Ohio's Lake Erie beaches to breed.



Hooded Warbler in Anna's Field Book



Field Sketch of Ruffed Grouse

As a birder, Anna gets to experience many adventures. In 2021 alone, Anna travelled to 14 different states where she kept a field journal of her findings. Her process begins with a pen sketch with outlines or additional details she wants to highlight. She then uses graphite or colored pencil to give additional highlights and color detail to the piece. She finalizes each entry with observation notes next to the sketches.

One of the adventures Anna took this summer was "Pelagic birding" off the coast of North Carolina. She and a group of friends took a boat to the Sargasso Sea (a region of the Atlantic

Ocean bounded by four currents) to witness the birds enjoying the calm waters of the gulf stream. The below sketch is the result from her efforts, despite Anna getting seasick, which is reflected in her field notes.



Field sketch of Bluegill



Black-capped Petrel observed in Sargasso Sea Grouse

Anna does not hesitate sketching whenever an opportunity arises. This past summer when a random dragonfly decided to visit her back porch in June, out came the sketch pad and pencils.

Anna remains an active member of the Ohio Bluebird Society, where over the past five years, she was a frequent speaker at our annual conferences on several topics including bluebird



Swamp Darner sketch from her back porch



Anna Rose in Spruce Knob, West Virginia



2019 Logo: Home Is Where the Nest Is



2022 Logo: Beyond the Basics

conservation and wildlife art. Anna currently serves on the board of directors, and assists writing grants for local school districts and parks to set-up bluebird nest boxes in Ohio.

Finally, this article would not be complete without a comparison of the first Bluebird Conference logo that Anna drew for the Ohio Bluebird Society in 2019, with the most recent one she completed in October for our upcoming conference in March 2022.

We are hopeful that Anna's 2022 logo will feature in future fundraising efforts, such as note cards.

After she graduates, Anna dreams of finding a job that will allow her an opportunity to combine her interests in scientific illustration and ornithology. She is well on her way of becoming a world famous artist and field guide illustrator; after all, the Ohio Bluebird Society has commissioned her to produce four beautiful conference logos featuring native cavity nesting birds.

If you would like to follow Anna's work and budding career, please follow her on the following websites:

Main Artist Website: annarosepaints.com

Botanical Adventures Website: polypodium.ohioplants.org

Instagram Account: www.instagram.com/annarosepaints/

A Long Season

By Mel Bird, former OBS Board Member



My wife and I have been monitoring a trail for 21 years and this year has been one of the strangest. It all began when we did our first inspection the first week of April. At that time, we recorded twelve EABL nests and four had 4 to 6 eggs. This was two to three weeks early compared to previous years. Then on April 21st we had two inches of snow and very cold weather. Needless to say we lost several new hatchlings from these early nestings. The next few weeks were more like normal with a few problems with House Sparrows. Then, in early May, the HOWR (House Wren) showed up in unheard of numbers & occupied 27% of the boxes building over EABL, TRES &

CAWR nests. This onslaught by the HOWRs continued through the entire season. We removed the start of 79 HOWR nests which was a record for us.

In the past 21 years we have usually found all the boxes empty by the middle of August, and I have issued my final report as early as August 10th and as late as Sept. 6th (due to procrastination). However, this year we still had unhatched eggs the last week in August and the EABLs didn't fledge until September 12th and at that time a new EABL nest appeared in a neighboring box but it never produced any eggs. In spite of all these goings on, the trail produced 30% more EABLs this year than last year. Another trail monitor in my area reports that he had one EABL nest that didn't fledge until the 16th of September. This made for an interesting monitoring season. Looking forward to the next season.

Helping Two Birds With One Extra Jar

By Steve Craiger, OBS Member



The prothonotary warbler trail at Mosquito Creek Lake consists of approximately 20 jars placed throughout the southern end of the lake. The jars are split between the east side and the west side. Loyd Marshall takes care of the jars on the east side, most of which consist of jars on US Corp of Engineer property,

as well as a few on the State of Ohio Park property. My jars are all inside the Mosquito Lake campgrounds.

The prothonotary warbler monitoring program starts each year in mid April and concludes around the end of July after all the young prothonotaries have fledged, and along with the adults start to head on their long journey south.

Weekly we check each jar once to see the progress of the nest and to document any changes by wading into the water and opening the jars to look inside. We then enter what we see in a journal and by photograph. Several other times each week I drive by the jars I can see from the road and take notes on what I observe. On May 20th 2020, as I was documenting jar 55, I noticed a male prothonotary putting a large amount of material inside. Jar 55 is placed very near the roadway in the campgrounds that leads to the boat docks. By using my car as a blind I have been able to observe the prothonotaries there in great detail. When the males first arrive in the spring, they make several false nests in different locations to entice the soon arriving females to move in with them. The amount of material this male was transporting seemed too much for a dummy nest and certainly had to be the start of a complete nest.

When I arrived on May 23rd to watch the prothonotary work on his nest I saw something I had never seen before. A black capped chickadee was going in and out of the jar. As it was entering it held in its beak nesting material much like the prothonotary had two days before. I then heard the prothonotary calling and spotted him just a few feet away on a tree limb watching the chickadee working on its nest in the jar. With having only been monitoring the jars a few years, I had never seen this before and had no idea how to handle it. I called Loyd Marshall who administrates the Mosquito Lake program and asked for advice.

He asked if there had been any eggs laid yet. I stated the nest was nearing completion but there were no eggs yet. He advised me to empty the jar of any nesting material in hopes of the chickadee giving up on the nest and moving on to another location. It was hoped that then the prothonotary could again restart its nest and reclaim the jar. So I emptied the jar, wiped it out and waited to see what happened.



Chickadee in entrance hole to jar



Prothonotary flying toward jar

Two days later I arrived and once again saw the black capped chickadee busily building its nest in the jar and the prothonotary warbler sitting on a branch nearby complaining the whole time. At no time were they confrontational but you could tell the prothonotary warbler still wanted to occupy the jar. Any time the chickadee was away for a longer amount of time the prothonotary would approach the jar, look inside, and fly away in apparent disgust. Again I contacted Loyd to ask his advise. He stated that this time I should just give in to the chickadee, let it build its nest in the jar and perhaps I could place another jar in the general area and maybe the prothonotary would locate there. I did just that. I went to our storage building, obtained a new jar and post, and placed it about 15 feet from the original jar and faced the opening away from the chickadees jar.

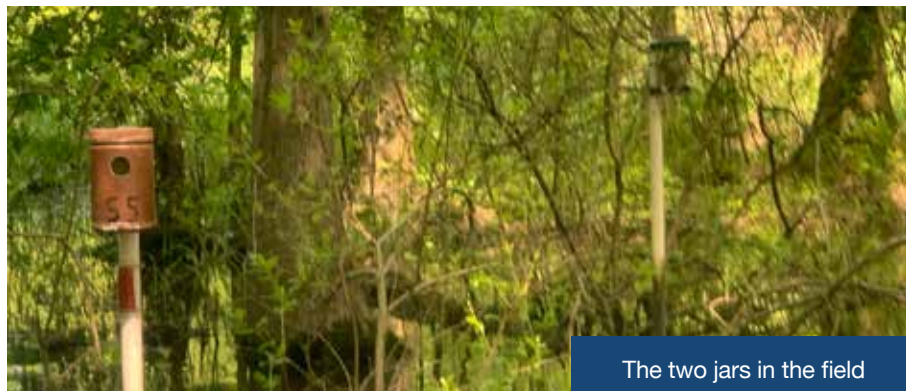
Upon my return a couple of days later, I observed the chickadee entering and exiting his jar, and to my great pleasure the prothonotary was doing the same to the newly placed jar. Over the course of the season it was a joy to watch both the chickadee and the prothonotary each raise their young and go about the duties of parenthood, each in a slightly different way. From my observation post I could see the different way the males took part in the raising of the young, from feeding both the young and the female, to keeping the jar clean, and also protecting the jar from other nearby birds. At no point did I ever see any aggression between the chickadee and the prothonotary.

At the end of the season, the chickadee had laid five eggs and fledged one young. The prothonotary had laid four eggs and fledged four young.

I thank Loyd for teaching me how to handle this situation should it ever occur again. It was a great learning experience from many angles. I could see two different species compete

for nest sites. I could see the different types of nests they built and how they differed. I could observe them gather food for the nest. Watch them raise the young, and even got to see the prothonotaries fledge.

Below are a few of the many pictures I took of this experience... one I will never forget.



The two jars in the field



Chickadee eggs in jar



Chickadee on nest



Prothonotary eggs



Prothonotary nestlings

Reflections – Looking Through my Kitchen Window

By Penny Brandau

As I sat at my kitchen table recently looking through the nearby window I felt a sense of excited relief as I saw “our” bluebirds again! They had finally returned to sample our bluebird feeder offerings and were checking out their nestbox again! They hadn’t been commonly visible around our yard during the past several weeks and I really missed them! It was like suddenly meeting a dear old friend again! After the first rush of joy at seeing them I wondered what was new with them, how their young ones were doing, and how long they were planning to stay.

Many of you back yard bluebird landlords have also enjoyed seeing “your” bluebirds again recently at your feeders or nestboxes. Perhaps you have wondered why bluebirds seem to disappear at the end of summer only to reappear several weeks later. One reason for this strange behavior is that they have been going through a period of molting when their feathers are being replaced by new ones. They look scruffy when they are molting. Perhaps they aren’t comfortable with their flight abilities during this time or maybe they just don’t want to be seen when they aren’t looking their normal beautiful selves!

Wikipedia describes bird molting: “In birds, molting is the periodic replacement of feathers by shedding old feathers while producing new ones. Feathers are dead structures at maturity which are gradually abraded and need to be replaced. Adult birds molt at least once a year, although many molt twice and a few three times each year. It is generally a slow process as birds rarely shed all their feathers at any one time: the bird must retain sufficient feathers to regulate its body temperature and repel moisture. The number and area of

feathers that are shed varies. In some molting periods, a bird may renew only the feathers of the head and body, shedding the wing and tail feathers during a later molting period. Some species of bird become flightless during an annual “wing molt” and must seek a protected habitat with a reliable food supply during that time. While the plumage may appear thin or uneven during the molt, the bird’s general shape is maintained despite the loss of apparently many feathers.”



The bluebirds did indeed have something new to show after their weeks of absence. Molting gave them new sleek feathers! My musings about their young was soon answered too. Suddenly other bluebirds had joined the first pair and were trying to figure out how to enter the bluebird feeder. They closely watched the first pair and soon were entering the feeder.

These must be the grown up young from the summer! Then they flew to the nestbox as if they wanted to make sure it was still unoccupied and available for nesting or roosting. This behavior is often puzzling but is common at this time of year. I still don’t have the answer to my last question about how long they will stay but am enjoying my morning coffee as I watch these familiar dear friends and hope they will be here for a long, long time!

For many, many years others have also observed and reflected on the behavior of bluebirds in the fall. In 1842 Henry David Thoreau wrote, “Today....The bluebirds, old and young, have revisited their box, as if they would fain repeat the summer without the intervention of winter, if Nature would let them.” I wonder if Thoreau sometimes watched bluebirds through a kitchen window too.



Member News

Welcome New Members!

David Anderson
Joan Fondriest
Eileen Hale
Rich Niccum
LeeAnn Pretzman

A New Lifetime Member

A few months ago, Membership Chair Patricia Dutton received a handwritten note and payment for a Life Membership from Bernardine Akkerman. Her note said "Hello OBS. Should have done this years ago!! At age 92- better late than never. Optimistic too. Wishing the best for the future of OBS".

– Bernardine

We are so happy to welcome this new life member to our ranks and thank her for being so supportive, optimistic and incredible! We wish her the best!

Thank You to Our Donors!

Joan Fondriest

Don't forget to send your fledgling reports in for the 2021 nesting season! Each report is very important and appreciated. You can find the form to download and fill out on the Ohio Bluebird Society website.

<https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/about-bluebirds/fledgling-report-2/>

By participating in the Ohio Bluebird Society Legacy Fund you can preserve the memory of dedicated bluebirders and bird enthusiasts, while providing nest boxes for the cavity nesting birds you love and enjoy.

<https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/about/obs-legacy-program/>

From the President's Computer Desk by Darlene Sillick

Are you also asking yourself, "November"? "How did we get to November so fast"? I sure am! We all know that November and December start spinning out of control as we try to complete all the special things for the holidays. Every November it's time to begin preparation for the winter months, whether that means pulling out your favorite fleece, adding another blanket to your bed, or searching for your grandma's famous pumpkin pie recipe. Important things happen in November: elections, Veteran's Day, Daylight Savings Time along with Thanksgiving (don't forget the turkey) and ummm...Black Friday!!

I am here to tell you, there are other things to do in November than shop till you drop or melt plastic! I like to look at my trails and see what work needs to be done. Do boxes need to be moved? Has the habitat started to encroach on the nestboxes? If you want to be successful for bluebirds, place your boxes 40 to 50 yards from the wood/shrub edge. We all know the ambitious boss-of-the-brush land (House wren) will move in if you place your nestbox along an edge.

I was talking to Penny Brandau, our editor extraordinaire, and she shared that she and her husband, Fritz, had walked two trails that particular day and were assessing what work should be done to boxes and what boxes to move. I also like to plan new trails or add new nestboxes for other species if at all possible.

November is also a good time for several writing activities. You could write some grants for bigger projects. If you read Mike Watson's article, he is encouraging you to submit your data for the Ohio Bluebird Society yearly fledgling report which means a lot to OBS. Adding data or setting up Cornell Nestwatch is very important. We have several experts who offer to help new monitors get set up with Nestwatch. The first two who come to mind are Paula Ziebarth (Madame Wingnut) and Carl Gleditsch, one of our board members. They are tops with Nestwatch. It is so easy to run reports year after year.

At our OBS board meeting, we had a discussion about what to do for the March 5, 2022 annual conference. We voted and we felt it was important to run the conference virtually for one more year. No one can guess what the pandemic or the flu is going to do over the winter. We put a lot of thought into this and it will be run like last year, virtual talks that will be on the OBS website and on our You-tube site. More information will be out on our website by early December. I wanted to share some information about our upcoming speakers and their topics.

Andy Jones, Ph.D. is Curator of Ornithology at The Cleveland Museum of Natural History. He is the Director of Science, overseeing all activities in the Collections & Research Division. Andy will talk about the decline of insects and what this is doing to bird populations. He will offer suggestions on what you can do in your backyards or parks to make them welcome for insect and fruit eaters and even ways to help seed eaters.

Dan Best and Rachel McKinney will give a fact-filled talk on their 30 years of working with Prothonotary Warblers, the "Golden Candle of the Swamp", along the Upper Cuyahoga River. Their program title is "Going for the Gold"!!

Our own Bethany Gray will talk about “Bringing Back the Bluebird”. She gives a wonderful 101 and 201 session on the Eastern Bluebird and covers all nesting points.

Dr. Megan Shave is interested in the ecological services that birds provide in human-managed landscapes. Her Ph.D. dissertation at Michigan State University investigated the conservation and agricultural uses of nest boxes for American Kestrels in Michigan cherry orchards. Her title is “Orchard Nest Boxes Benefit Falcons and Farmers in Michigan”.

I plan to give a talk about “Creative Conservation Projects” -how to organize, how to get funding and how to be a program manager and orchestrate great conservation projects.

Genelle Uhrig, MS is the Director of Wildlife Ecology at The Wilds. Last Nov 2020, a team of us installed 9 new American Kestrel boxes around the Wilds. Genelle will discuss the project and the results from the boxes in their first season.

Anna Rose created another outstanding conference logo and we are honored she shares her talents with OBS. The March 5, 2022 theme is “Beyond the Basics”. She included some of the species covered in our conference and her original artwork is beautiful. We are thrilled to have Anna on the OBS board.



Lastly, I want to put up a “Help Wanted” sign right here. OBS is looking for new board members in 2022. Please let us know if you wish to discuss the possibility of joining our board!

Watch the website for more conference information. We have all had to adapt and change our lives for new ways of doing things due to Covid and we are hopeful to return to Ashland in 2023. There is a lot to be thankful for this November and we thank all our bluebirds and other native cavity nesters for all they give to us.

All my best – Darlene Sillick

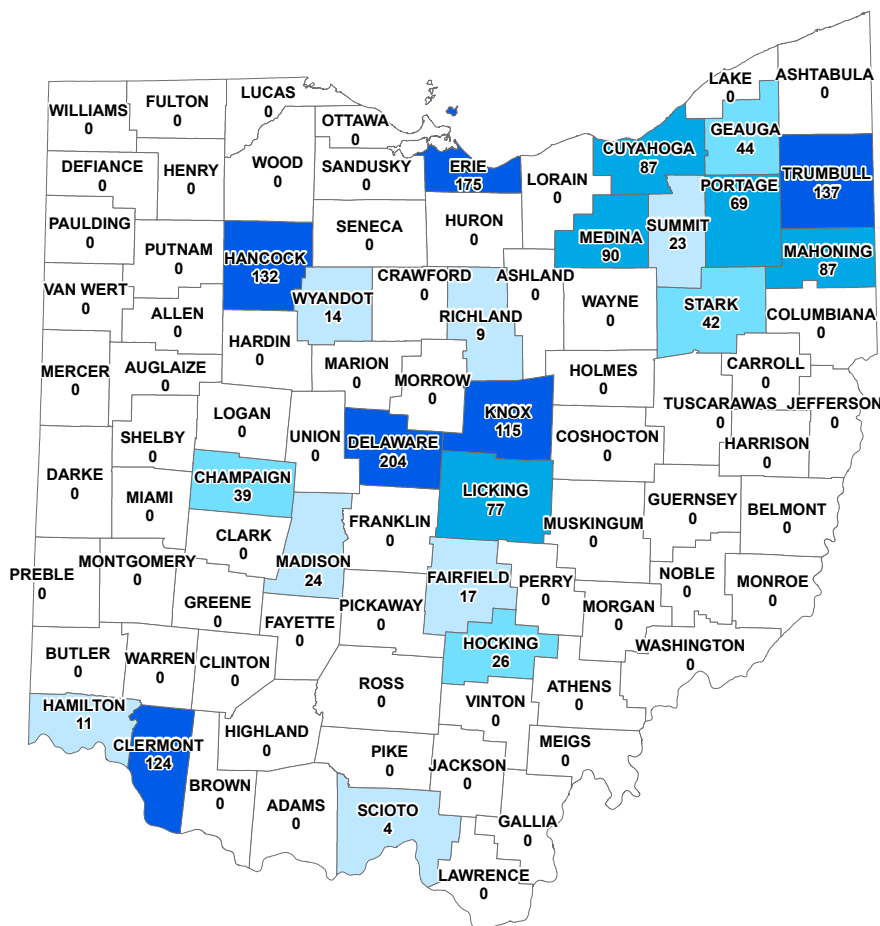
Treasurer's Report by Molly Wilsbacher

- 1. A big thank you goes out to those who paid their membership dues, made donations and used Amazon Smile over the summer months.** We received \$970 in memberships, \$100 in donations, as well as \$18 from Amazon Smile.
- 2. The 3rd Quarter of the year is traditionally the quarter where the Ohio Bluebird Society is lucky to break even financially.** I'm happy to report that we made \$83.91 this quarter after expenses were paid, which included \$500 for liability insurance and \$493 for our newsletter. Our bank accounts are healthy and our checking account reflected \$12,474.39 as of September 30, 2021. Our anticipated expenditures over the next quarter include publishing and mailing the Winter Newsletter, as well as some expenses associated with our conference.
- 3. Please keep us 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 at <https://smile.amazon.com> (not www.amazon.com or the mobile app) generate donations].
- 4. A decision was made to hold the 2022 OBS conference remotely due to the Covid pandemic.** Even though it will be held remotely please reach out to me if you have any items that might be useful in our silent auction when we do have our next in person conference. Items that usually garner the highest silent auction prices are framed artwork, bird boxes, books, and mugs/glasses. If you are downsizing and believe someone might appreciate some of your items, please email me OBS.Treasurer@gmail.com or another Board Member. Please keep in mind that the value of all donations can be used as a tax deduction next year. Thank you!

OBS 2021 FLEDGLING REPORT

by Mike Watson

of Reports submitted – 34
 # of Nest boxes – 1567
 # Prothonotary Warbler nest jars – 20
 Eastern Bluebird – 1550
 Tree Swallow – 2594
 House Wren – 1916
 Purple Martin – 142
 Black-capped Chickadee – 11
 Carolina Chickadee – 86
 Carolina Wren – 37
 American Kestrel – 71
 Barn Swallow – 176
 Prothonotary Warbler – 141
 Wood Duck – 10
 House Sparrows Dispatched – 78
 House Sparrow Eggs Destroyed – 506
 European Starlings Dispatched – 5
 European Starling Eggs Destroyed – 26



Ohio Bluebird Society Membership Application

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

TRUSTEES

Stephen Bischoff
trswmooh@gmail.com

Pat Dutton
obsmembershipchair@gmail.com
330.763.0474

Carl Gleditsch
daddy_g56@hotmail.com
614.798.8748

JoAnn Kale
joann.kale@gmail.com
479.769.0574

Monica Klarer (Secretary)
dmklarer@yahoo.com
419.499.442

Anna Rose
annarose7@att.net
614.263.7479

Judy Semroc
rainefox51@gmail.com
330.612.0391

Darlene Sillick (President)
dsillick118@gmail.com
614.288.3696 (text preferred)

Molly Wilsbacher (Treasurer)
OBS Treasurer@gmail.com

ADVISORS

Mel Bolt
mellen@sssnet.com
330.262.0448

Linda Lang
lindaflang@gmail.com 419.651.4196

Loyd Marshall
llmarsh@aol.com • 330.876.7895

Dick Tuttle
740.363.6433

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRS

Dave Dutton – 330.674.7585
Pat Dutton – 330.763.0474
obsmembershipchair@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Penny Brandau –
pennybrandau@gmail.com
440.670.3684

E-mail:

ohiobluebirdsociety@gmail.com

Phone:

440.462.9084

Website:

www.ohiobluebirdsociety.org

Address:

The Holden Arboretum
9500 Sperry Road, Kirtland, Ohio 44094



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

OBS Area Contacts (as of November 2020)

County	Name	E-mail	HOLMES	Hawkins, Marcella	gofish710@embarqmail.com
ALLEN	Mohr, Mark	mohrbluebirds@hotmail.com	County	Name	E-mail
ASHLAND	Lang, Linda	lindaflang@gmail.com	LAKE	Watson, Mike	mwatson@holdenarb.org
ATHENS	Caldwell, Reid & Teresa	freidc@yahoo.com; teresacaldwell@athensswcd.org	LICKING	Joann Kale	joann.kale@gmail.com
AUGLAIZE	Mark Mohr	mohrbluebirds@hotmail.com	LORAIN	Brandau, Penny	pennybrandau@gmail.com
CHAMPAIGN	Rutan, Jean	cpjrutan@gmail.com	LUCAS	Seaman, Tammy	erictammy@sbcglobal.net
CLARK	Gray, Bethany	ohiobluebirder@gmail.com	MEDINA	Rabung, Dale	twodr@zoominternet.net
CRAWFORD	Minor, Mary Lee	chickadee@columbus.rr.com	MIAMI	Peters, Teresa	tm_peters@yahoo.com
CUYAHOGA	Barber, John	jcbarker27@gmail.com	MONTGOMERY	Romeo, Sam	sromeo@audubon.org
DARKE	Luttmer, Bob	bonnie561@roadrunner.com	NOBLE	LeVasseur, Doug	doug.levasseur@gmail.com
DARKE	Smith, Tom	bluebirdman@embarqmail.com	OTTAWA	Ziebarth, Paula	paulazbird@gmail.com
DELAWARE	Tuttle, Dick	ohtres@cs.com	OTTAWA	Rock, Lisa	snowbunting123@gmail.com
DELAWARE	Ziebarth, Paula	paulazbird@gmail.com	PICKAWAY	Hill, Carrie	hillteach@gmail.com
ERIE	Bird, Mel	mrbird90@aol.com	PORTAGE	Gammon, Darrell	invisibleman53@yahoo.com
FAIRFIELD	Kale, JoAnn	joann.kale@gmail.com	ROSS	Hill, Carrie	hillteach@gmail.com
FRANKLIN	Aldridge, Julie	juliealdridge10@gmail.com	SANDUSKY	Rock, Lisa	snowbunting123@gmail.com
FRANKLIN	Sillick, Darlene	dsillick118@gmail.com	STARK	Gammon, Darrell	invisibleman53@yahoo.com
GEAUGA	Brindo, Jay	jbrindo@aol.com	STARK	Semroc, Judy	rainefox51@gmail.com
GREENE	Gray, Bethany	ohiobluebirder@gmail.com	SUMMIT	Grande, Marcy	mgrandesign@yahoo.com
GUERNSEY	Barber, Tom	klbarber62@roadrunner.com	TRUMBULL	Loyd Marshall	llmarsh@aol.com
HAMILTON	Romine, Jim	jimdromine@gmail.com	UNION	Darlene Sillick,	dsillick118@gmail.com
HANCOCK	Nye, Fred	evaferdy@tds.net	WARREN	Jeffries, Art	gonebirding@hotmail.com
HURON	Bird, Mel	mrbird90@aol.com	WAYNE	Bolt, Mel	mellen@sssnet.com
			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

facebook



Affiliated with the North American Bluebird Society

What's Inside...

Winter Wonderings.....	1-2
An Apprentice Bander's First Kestrels.....	3
The 2021 Prothonotary Warbler Season	
At Alum Creek Lake	4-5
Tufted Titmouse	5
Ramblings From the Prothonotary Trail.....	6-7
Strange Nestbox Location.....	7
Evolution of a Modern Bluebird Artist: the Beautiful Artwork of Anna Rose	8-9
A Long Season.....	9
Helping Two Birds With One Extra Jar.....	10-11
Reflections.....	11
Member News.....	12-13
Treasurers Report.....	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

The photo to the right was submitted by Paula Ziebarth

"This is Meadowview Park Pond in the city of Powell, Ohio. I have monitored this park since 2009 and a green heron has been here off and on for many years. I'm not sure if it is the same bird but it is accustomed to the residents here apparently. Three young boys were fishing about 20 yards from this bird when I took this photo."

A great article about supplemental feeding was recently printed in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website Nestwatch online blog. Some very interesting information!! Check it out if you can!

nestwatch.org/connect/blog/does-supplemental-feeding-help-nesting-birds/

