



Publication

Dedicated to Bluebird Enthusiasts

The Florida Bluebird Society's mission is the conservation and protection of bluebirds and other federally protected cavity nesting bird species in North America. The FBS encourages a collaborative effort from its members and readers to provide information, ideas and articles to help collect and disseminate pertinent and relevant information pertaining to bluebirds in Florida.

The FBS is an affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society.

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Happy Holidays and a Joyous New Year
Wishing you faith, hope and love this holiday season.
May you always be blessed by the beauty of nature
and continue to enjoy the song of the bluebird.



Photo Courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons

The Bluebird Clutch Gallery



We would love to fly into your backyard and see pictures of your bluebirds or nesting cavity birds with informative and interesting stories you may have about them.

Please keep pictures to a maximum of 5 for each submission and a short story if you have one. We may have to edit your submission to accommodate space or to complement other newsletter content for that issue.

We can use several submissions per monthly issue so we will save multiples received for future issues. Please email your nature pictures and stories to Barbie Arms, FBS Corresponding Secretary at floridabluebirds@aol.com

Deadline for submissions for the January issue is January 12, 2012





Six Bluebirds and their Buddies

Fall Statewide Bluebird Blitz

Thanks to the efforts of a number of FBS members, this Fall's Blitz was well-publicized around the state. Feature articles about the Blitz appeared in the Gainesville Sun, Chipley Bugle, Ocala Star-Banner, Florida Times-Union, Daytona News-Journal, and possibly more newspapers. Information about the Blitz was also posted online by Walton

Outdoors, Florida Ornithological Society, and many of the Audubon chapters around the state. We are grateful to all of you who helped spread the word about the Blitz. If you did not see anything about the Blitz in your local newspaper, please send contact information for that newspaper to floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com. We will be sure to contact them for the Spring Blitz. Our data will take on more value the more people who know about the Blitz and participate. The Blitz is also a way in which we can raise awareness of Eastern Bluebirds in Florida.

Although the final compilation of the results has not yet been completed, I can tell you that we have reports from 26 counties. When compared to the Spring 2011 Blitz, there were reports from seven additional counties! The new counties reporting were Dixie, Columbia, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hendry, Highlands, Jackson, and Volusia. We are grateful to everyone who participated and submitted a report on their sightings. The reports indicating "no bluebird found" are also of value. We were especially pleased to receive reports from so many new "territories". There will be a full report on the Fall 2011 Blitz in the next issue and a new map will be posted on our web site. Thanks to all of you who participated. I especially enjoyed reading the anecdotal information many of you included in your reports. I was particularly interested to learn that the bluebirds in one area of Marion County were feasting on blooming dog fennel (*Eupatorium spp.*).

Faith Jones, Blitz Chair



Welcome New Members



Thomas Hanson  Lady Lake, Florida

Don Harris  Orlando, Florida

We are glad you joined our nest!

Meet the Board of Directors



We would like to introduce our FBS President **Bill Pennewill**

Bill is a resident of the Penney Retirement Community (PRC) in Penney Farms, where he maintains a bluebird trail consisting of nearly 40 nestboxes.

Bill moved to Florida in 2004 and the following year assumed responsibility for the bluebird trail at PRC. Not one to do anything half-way, Bill set out to learn all he could about bluebirds in Florida. But he soon discovered that there was little information available that pertains specifically to bluebirds and their nesting habits in Florida. As a result, in 2005 Bill spearheaded the effort to create the Florida

Bluebird Society. He continues to serve as the Society's founding president.

Bill, who became a serious birder a quarter century ago, also is the founding president of the Penney Birders at the retirement community where he lives. The

Penney Birders monthly meetings feature noted birders and photographers from throughout the State of Florida.

Bill is a resident of the Penney Retirement Community (PRC) in Penney Farms, where he maintains a bluebird trail consisting of nearly 40 nestboxes.

Prior to moving to Florida, Bill lived in Pennsylvania, where he was a volunteer with the Nature Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. He has been a newspaper reporter, press secretary for the former Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, and is an ordained American Baptist pastor. He retired from the Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.



Photo Courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons

HELP WANTED

The Florida Bluebird Society is looking for a few good people to help expand its efforts to conserve and protect bluebirds and other federally protected cavity nesting bird species in the Sunshine State.

Specifically, the Florida Bluebird Society is looking for a volunteer who has experience publishing a monthly newsletter. Barbie Arms, the current editor, is doing an outstanding job, but would appreciate a volunteer who would help share the monthly opportunity to publicize the activities of the Florida Bluebird Society. This would include assisting in the writing, editing and layout. Specific responsibilities would be worked out between Barbie and the individual volunteering to serve as co-editor.

The Florida Bluebird Society also is looking for avid and knowledgeable bluebird enthusiasts who would be willing to share their experiences and expertise with other interested individuals. These volunteers would have the opportunity to help provide the best available information on creating and maintaining bluebird nest boxes in Florida. Individuals serving as a regional county coordinator also would have the added opportunity of meeting other people from their area who share their interest in bluebirds.

Of course, all volunteers would be expected to comply fully with the mission and policy guidelines of the Florida Bluebird Society.



2012 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 10, 10:00 a.m., Gainesville Garden Club, 1350 NW 75th St., Gainesville, FL 32067, presentation, "It Takes More Than a House" and placement of nest boxes by FBS Founding President Bill Pennewill

Tuesday, January 17, noon, Florida Bluebird Society Board of Directors' monthly teleconference

Friday, March 16, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Orange Park, FL, Garden Club, "March into Spring," Orange Park Lodge, 511 Kingsley Ave., Orange Park, FL 32073, presentation by FBS Founding President Bill Pennewill

Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Green Industries Institute, North Florida Community College, 2729 W. Washington St., Monticello, FL 32344, Workshop on "Attracting Birds for Pest Control in Your Garden." Dr. Katie Sieving, Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of

Florida and a member of the Florida Bluebird Society's Board of Directors, will present her research on the role of birds in pest control, and Bill Pennewill, Florida Bluebird Society Founding President, will do a hands-on construction and placement of bluebird nest boxes.

Monday, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Towhee Circle of the Orange Park, FL, Garden Club, field trip to Penney Retirement Community, Penney Farms, to view bluebird nest boxes, to be led by FBS Founding President Bill Pennewill

Friday, April 13, and Saturday, April 14, Florida Bluebird Society's Statewide Spring Bluebird Blitz. A two-day concentrated effort to visibly locate any many Eastern Bluebirds as possible in Florida. Additional information and a reporting form are available on the FBS website, floridabluebirdsociety.com or by contacting Faith Jones, FBS Statewide Bluebird Blitz Chair, at floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com or at 763 Mallard Drive Sanford, FL 32771

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Florida Bluebird Society booth at Earthfest @ Arbor Day in the Great Outdoors, Tuscawilla Park, 899 NE Sanchez Ave., Ocala, FL, 34470, to be staffed by Elena Sachs, Barbie Arms, and Bill and Nell Pennewill



Along the Bluebird Trail

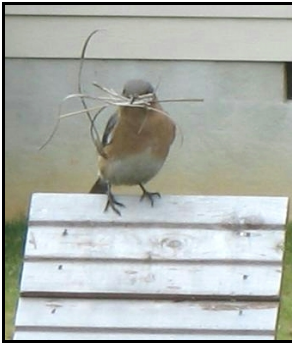
Spring. It's both a noun denoting a time of year and an adjective denoting a course of action. For folks who monitor bluebird nestboxes, the thought that spring is just around the corner should start to unleash a sense of urgency as we prepare for the fast-approaching nesting season.

It suddenly hit me that December is half gone, and the other half will be filled with the usual hustle and bustle associated with the Christmas season and unending array of "must watch" football bowl games. And before I know it, the last Monday in February will have arrived and I'll be starting my weekly monitoring the nearly 40 nest boxes on my trail.

Time to think about springing into action. It's time to think about preparing the monthly monitoring sheets on which I record the data for each visit. It's also time to do a survey of the nest boxes. A number of the most productive boxes in my trail are on a golf course and the poles sometimes are hit by the mower when the grass is cut. These will have to be replaced. Also, some of the pine nest boxes have begun to show their age and need to be replaced by the cedar boxes now being used.

It also is time for Dick Robinson, who assists in monitoring the nest boxes, to decide how to prevent snakes from getting into the nest boxes. Snakes – not sparrows – are the bane on our trail, and one day we hope to come up with a fool-proof solution. In the meantime....

If you have a story you'd like to share with other Florida bluebird enthusiasts, or a question, or a suggestion, don't hesitate to contact the editor, Barbie Arms at floridabluebirds@aol.com



Annual Membership

It is now time to renew your annual membership. All memberships expired the month of August, 2011. To streamline our procedures, August is the month for all membership renewals. We offer a number of membership categories, and trust you will find one that fits your budget.

A big THANK YOU to all of you who have already renewed your memberships. We truly appreciate your continued backing. We are especially grateful to those of you who decided to renew at an increased level of support.

If you have not already done so, we ask that you **please renew your membership today!**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$15.00 Single	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Student
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00 Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Sponsor	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500.00 Life Member
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Mail your check to : Faith Jones, Treasurer
Florida Bluebird Society
763 Mallard Drive
Sanford FL 32771

A membership form is also available on the website
<http://floridabluebirdsociety.com/> If you have any questions regarding your membership please contact Faith Jones at puffin_fj@yahoo.com



****Reminder****

If **you** are planning to change **your** email address please inform us and send updates to Barbie at email address floridabluebirds@aol.com

Want to communicate with the Florida Bluebird Society, or simply have a bluebird question? Please visit our website

Website <http://floridabluebirdsociety.com/>

Or

Email: floridabluebirdsociety@yahoo.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Florida-Bluebird-Society/146994685328275>

The Florida Bluebird Society is a registered IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICE BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN FLORIDA 800-435-7325.

REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH292P

See you Next Month!



Photo courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons

**Blessed is the season which engages the whole
world in a conspiracy of love.**

-- Hamilton Wright Mabie