

Volume Five May 2011



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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Photography courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons



The 2011 Spring Statewide Bluebird Blitz April 2-3, 2011

As part of our activities to determine where bluebirds live in the state, the Florida Bluebird Society (FBS) held the first spring

statewide data collection event on April 2 and April 3, 2011. This date was chosen to help us determine where bluebirds are during nesting season. Another Blitz is planned for Friday November 18, and Saturday November 19, 2011 that will provide information on diet and habitat used during non-breeding season throughout the state.

We thank all who participated in the Statewide Bluebird Blitz. We are pleased to report that there was participation from all of our seven regions. The sixty sighting reports submitted by forty-three participants documented 390 bluebirds. There were also many reports of eggs. We had reports from eighteen of Florida's sixty-seven counties. There were more reports from private than public lands.

We do appreciate the reports that were submitted where no bluebirds were found during the Blitz. We also appreciated those that reported the number of eggs.

What conclusions can be drawn from the inaugural Spring Blitz data? At this point, probably nothing definitive, but we are trying to compile data from Blitz and other sources that we hope to use to prove or disprove some theories about bluebirds in Florida. We will need data collected over time to form any valid conclusions, and truly help bluebirds in Florida. For those of you with nest boxes, probably the most important piece of data you can keep is the data the first egg is laid.

Please mark your calendar for the Fall Statewide Bluebird Blitz to be held November 18 & 19, 2011. We have chosen a Friday and Saturday in an effort to include schools and those who might be able to do surveys during work hours. All you have to do is look for bluebirds, and report what you find.

The Bluebird Clutch Gallery



We would love to fly into your backyard and see pictures of your bluebirds with any informative and interesting stories you may have about them. Please keep pictures to a maximum of 4 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 one submission per monthly issue so we will save multiples received for future issues. Please email your pictures and stories to Barbie Arms, FBS Corresponding Secretary at floridabluebirds@aol.com

Boxes are Successful

Back in March 2011 during our Semi-Annual meeting FBS erected 2 Bluebird boxes as part of our field trip. The first box erected below, with Bill pennewill proudly standing next to it, is being monitored by the home owners. The bluebirds got a late start with this box but the Bluebirds finally took residence laying 5 eggs and they all hatched a few days ago on May 11.

The second box we erected had a nest right away with a total of 5 eggs. Barbie Arms was monitoring the box for the home owners and is happy to report 4 fledglings with only one egg that did not hatch. Barbie is eagerly awaiting the next batch of babies at this site! Thank you for this wonderful project!

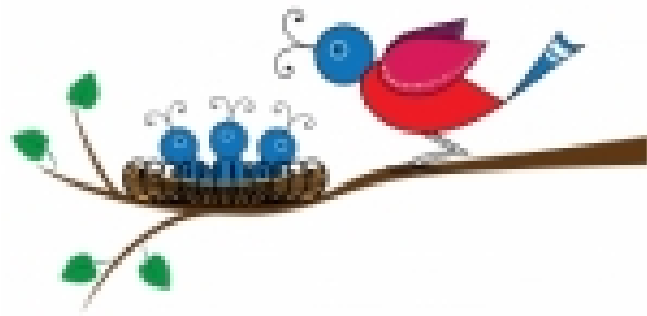
First Location



Second location, Bill with tape 100 yards from the box



WELCOME



NEW MEMBERS

Brad Gosen

Bob Montanaro

Jacqueline Ott

Brooksville, FL.

Vero Beach, FL.

Lutz, FL.

We are excited you joined our nest!

Cool Bluebird Facts



Eastern Bluebirds eat mostly insects, wild fruit and berries. Occasionally, Eastern Bluebirds have also been observed capturing and eating larger prey items such as shrews, salamanders, snakes, lizards and tree frogs.

-Courtesy of Cornell University-



The North American Bluebird Society announces their Annual Convention hosted by bluebirds across America to be held in Jackson, Tennessee. Email contact is Farrell Roe at ROERockingR@aol.com, Phone (731) 424-6161. Please visit the website for more detailed information by clicking on the Annual Convention tab at <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>

Research Project

Bob Peak of Henderson, KY a member of the North American Bluebird Society since 1990 is doing some research about the incidence of *white* bluebird eggs in various parts of North America. He is particularly interested in the percentage of white eggs that bluebird trail monitors/managers have discovered over the course of time. He would appreciate any data you would be willing to share concerning this issue. You can email Bob at blubrds@bellsouth.net if you have any white eggs to report.

Exciting News!

We are now registered with the USA National Phenology Network website <http://www.usanpn.org/home> We are registered with Nature's Notebook a new project available for groups and Organizations. This Notebook will allow our members to report their nesting data on bluebirds in Florida. More info to come as we develop our Notebook.

We have a new email address floridabluebirds@aol.com . Future group mailings and newsletters will be sent through this new address so please adjust your mail preferences to continue to receive our important membership information.

****Reminder****

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

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

Website <http://floridabluebirdsociety.com/>

Or

Email: floridabluebirdsociety@yahoo.com

DelphiForums: where you can ask questions about Eastern Bluebirds

Florida Bluebird Society at Delphiforums

<http://forums.delphiforums.com/FLBluebirdSoc.start>

You will need to register for a free screenname to post at Delphi

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

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

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Photography Courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons