

Volume Six June 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.

### **Nest of Contents**

**Page 1 Introduction**

**Page 2-4  Bluebird Clutch Gallery**

**Page 4-6 FBS News and Online Information**



Photography courtesy of FBS member Brad Gosen

## 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 several submissions 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](mailto:floridabluebirds@aol.com)

### Snakes Have Invaded a Nest



By FBS member Susan Cartagine

I'm very sad to report that the three fledglings of a second brood have been eaten by a pine snake. The snake managed to break the plastic baffle and by the time I saw it protruding from the nesting box it was too late.

I'm writing to share some advice about snakes given to me by the good people of Tallahassee Nurseries. I called them to ask if I should move the nesting box because I feared the bluebirds would not return. They said if it was already successful then to leave it, replace the baffle and put a thick layer of broken crockery around the base of the pole. I asked them about applying axle grease to the pole and using Snake Away as a spray around the base of the pole. As you can see in the picture a baffle was added above the old one. The person with whom I spoke heartily endorsed this so that's what I'm going to do. I fear there'll be no more fledglings this year there were two beautiful eggs in the nest that didn't hatch.

I know that other people have had this problem so I thought I would share this information.



## White Bluebird Eggs

A monitoring account, by FBS Member Glenda Simmons



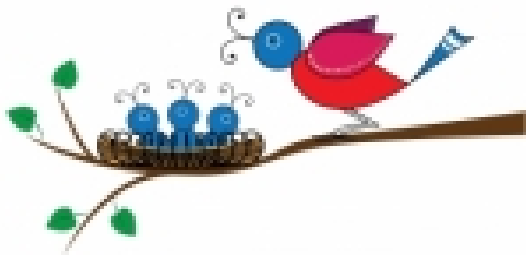
I recently had a rare opportunity to monitor a clutch of, white, Eastern Bluebird eggs. While I was aware that this does occur, it was the first time, I had encountered this, in almost ten years of monitoring.

It is reported, from various bluebird sources, that the occurrence of white eggs is about 4-5 percent, and is a result of lack of pigment, which is produced as the egg passes through the female's oviduct during egg laying. The nestlings are not adversely affected, will mature just as others from the typical blue eggs, and will not be albino.

The eggs were in a nesting box in one of my neighbor's yard, a short distance away. This was the second nest attempt for this box, this season. The first nest had a clutch of five blue eggs. Those nestlings all successfully fledged. From what I have read, this would indicate that the female of the second clutch was a different bird. The behavior, I witnessed, indicated otherwise. What I do know is that the first brood fledged, the day before the second nest construction started. If this was a different female, there was no showing or checking out the nesting box by the new pair, which is unusual. There were no multiple pairs, or fighting, seen by the homeowner. She works from home and observed the birds every morning. Last year, I had a pair start nest construction on the day after fledging, in my yard. I do know that there are a lot of bluebirds in my neighborhood, with few nesting boxes, so competition could be high. I've witnessed other bluebird behavior, recently, that is not normal, so I will keep an open mind, on this one. I intend to work very hard, to add additional nesting boxes in my area for next season.



# WELCOME



**NEW MEMBER**

**Kay Collins**

**We are excited you joined our nest!**

## 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. Our research shows 3.06% of white eggs seem to be the approximate average for Eastern bluebirds. Part of my goal is to find corroboration of the percentage among large samples. Bob would appreciate any data you would be willing to share concerning this issue.



Bob would appreciate any data you would be willing to share concerning this issue. Email Bob at [blubrds@bellsouth.net](mailto:blubrds@bellsouth.net) if you have any white eggs to report.



Glenda Simmons has reported white bluebird eggs



### 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.

### Update

We have successfully reported FBS trail data on the NPN google map of Florida. Instructions for our members to retrieve and view this data will be formulated for you soon.



**\*\*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](mailto: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](mailto: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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