

Volume Nine September 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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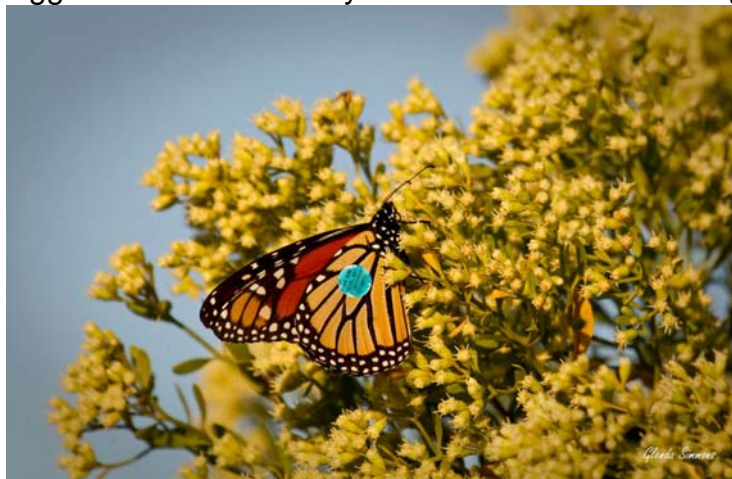
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Tagged Monarch Butterfly at St. Marks Wildlife Refuge



Photography courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons

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

Chickadee is #1

In February my yard was one of five that was on our local Audubon chapter's yearly wildlife friendly yard tour, which is a fundraiser. I was sprucing up my yard, and hung this cute decorative FSU box that a family member had given me. I was going to take it down after the event, because it was not an official nesting box. But before I did, to my surprise, a chickadee claimed it and built a nest. This was hanging right outside my back door, next to my kitchen window, under the eave of my house, also very close to my busy bird feeders. I did not anticipate the chickadee choosing such a location, and it was going to be difficult for me to monitor the box, without disturbing the birds. She had a clutch of six eggs, and four nestlings successfully fledged. I then took it down, and am hoping my friend that made my bluebird boxes, can renovate this box, adding drainage, better ventilation, and access for opening, so I can put it back up for next season.



Article and photography courtesy of FBS member Glenda Simmons

Deadline for submissions for the October issue is October 12, 2011



Our FBS Annual Meeting

Our FBS meeting last month was fun and we accomplished quite a bit including a presentation showing our members how to post their bluebird nesting activity on the USA National Phenology Network website with Nature's Notebook. If you would like to retrieve data or submit your data about bluebirds in Florida on the NPN site please email Barbie at floridabluebirds@aol.com to receive your instructions.



At our Annual Meeting on August 20, 2011 in Ocala, we reviewed some of the things we have accomplished during the past year. They included:

- Establish a grant program to provide funding for worthy projects intended to increase our knowledge of Eastern Bluebirds and other federally protected cavity nesting birds in Florida;
- Conduct a Fall and a Spring Statewide Bluebird Blitz as part of our work to learn more about the Eastern Bluebird population in Florida and the variations in the Florida population between breeding and non-breeding seasons;
- Publish a monthly newsletter to keep our members informed of the Society's activities;
- Partner with National Phenology Network (NPN) to create an easy, uniform way to collect data from individuals monitoring bluebird nest boxes in Florida;
- Compile a statewide media list that will allow us to inform more people of our accomplishments and enlist them in our educational efforts;
- Conduct a preliminary nest box temperature study to discover if there is a correlation between nest box selection and high temperature. We are also interested in determining if nesting Bluebirds in Florida are more tolerant of higher nest box temperatures than those in other ranges.

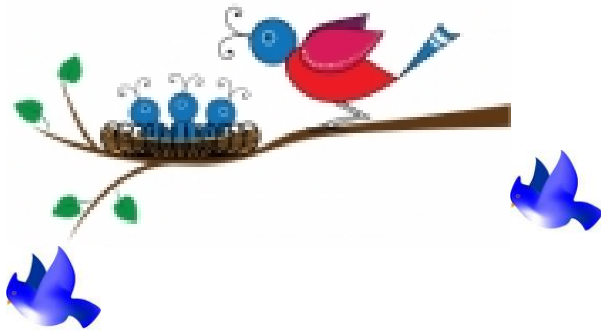
We think all can be proud of what we have accomplished during the two years since the Florida Bluebird Society was organized. At the Annual Meeting, we also laid out ambitious plans for the upcoming year. They include:

- Publication of the availability and criteria for Florida Bluebird Society Grants. Initial Grants will be awarded in 2012, a first step in the program to learn more about Bluebirds in Florida and also to serve as a vehicle to increase public awareness of the Society,
- Monthly newsletter. There will be on-going evaluation of the newsletter based on input and feedback from members to determine ways to assist readers in becoming better Bluebirders;
- Statewide Bluebird Blitzes Nov 18 & 19, and April 13 & 14, 2012. Based on comments, our Blitzes will be held on Fridays and Saturdays to allow for school participation and enable inclusion of bluebirds that may be seen in work areas. We will expand awareness of these events through the use of a recently acquired statewide publication contact list;

- Expansion of our partnership with the NPN and efforts to get all members with nest boxes to submit their data. This project will require continued and intense publicity in order to enlist the cooperation of individuals maintaining Bluebird nest boxes in Florida;
- Continue our nest box temperature study. This multi-year research program has already revealed startling temperature readings, and more research is needed to verify the preliminary results;
- Provide educational programs as requested by schools and other organizations. Through these and other activities we hope to expand participation throughout the state in our County and Regional Coordinator program.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our members. Both financial and volunteer hours are required for success. We thank all of you who have renewed your membership. If you are interested in taking a more active role with the Florida Bluebird Society there are volunteer opportunities available. Please contact us for details at floridabluebirdsociety@yahoo.com .

NEW MEMBERS



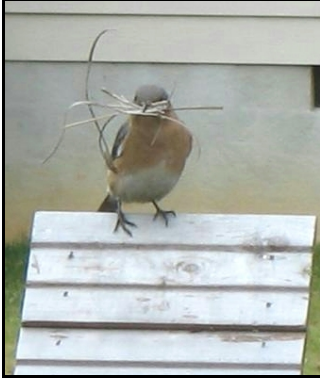
WELCOME!

Karl Miller Gainesville, FL
Richard Pustelnik Land-O-Lakes, FL

We are glad you joined our nest !

****Reminder****

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



Annual Membership

It is now time to renew your annual membership. All memberships expired 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



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

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REGISTRATION NUMBER IS CH292P

See you Next Month!



Photo courtesy of FBS member Phil Berry