



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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The Bluebird Clutch Gallery

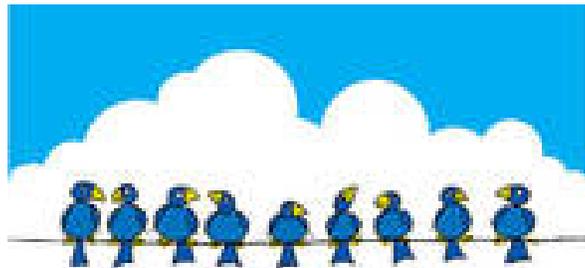


We would love to fly into your backyard and see pictures of your bluebirds or nesting cavity birds with informative and interesting stories you may have about them.

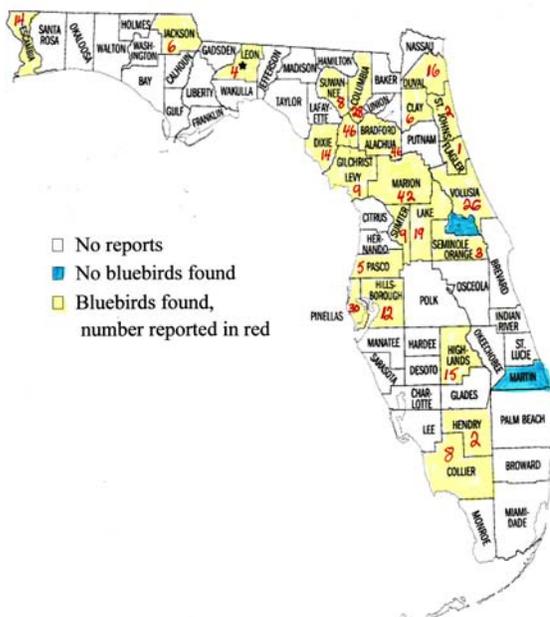
Please keep pictures to a maximum of 5 for each submission and a short story if you have one. We may have to edit your submission to accommodate space or to complement other newsletter content for that issue.

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 March issue is March 12, 2012



November 2011
Statewide Bluebird Blitz Results



Fall 2011 Blitz Results

During our Fall 2011 Statewide Bluebird Blitz sixty-six participants reported 371 bluebirds in twenty-six counties around the state. Possibly the most notable aspect of this Blitz was that we had first-time reports from eight Counties. Our Blitz is expanding and we are beginning to think that someday we might actually get reports from all Counties.

To conduct a meaningful analysis of our data we will need to conduct a few more Blitzes. For data interpretation consistency is important. We encourage everyone to participate in every Blitz.

The result map has been posted to our web site. Please mark your calendar so you don't forget to participate in the **Spring Bluebird Blitz** to be held **April 13 & 14**.

What? No Mealworms?



Photo courtesy of Phil Berry

Bluebird Trivia

Did You Know....?

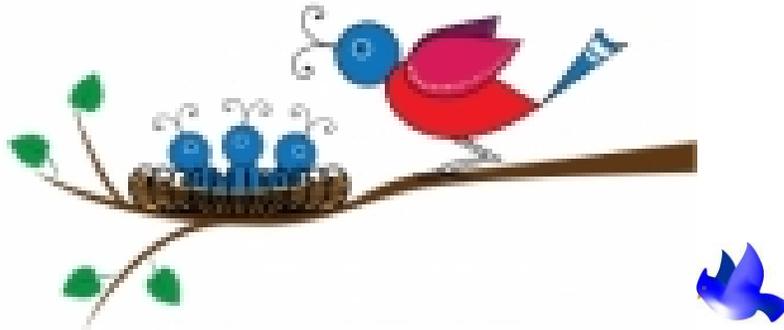


Eastern bluebirds belong to the family of birds known as Thrushes (*Turdidae*). They are closely related to the birds pictured below which are wood thrush, hermit thrush and American robin. Members of this family have similar beaks, similar body shapes, and have relatively long legs. Their diets are also comparable.



Photos courtesy of the USFWS

Welcome New Members



Terry & Pinna Arnold Penney Farms, FL.



Elizabeth Carrouth Tallahassee, FL.

We are glad you joined our nest!



Meet the Board of Directors

Board Member-at-Large

Dr. Katie Sieving

Professor

Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, University of Florida

I teach and work with UF students and faculty on conservation and ecology-related projects all over the world (currently in Chile, Florida, Cambodia, Sri Lanka). My students have been and are involved in projects with Bluebirds in two areas mainly.

1. We've investigated bluebird reproduction on farms compared to natural areas and although overall reproduction rates on a seasonal basis can be similar on farms and natural areas, the farms cause more disturbance and less stable food resources for the birds than natural areas – so bluebirds on farms work harder for the same number of kids.

2. We are testing whether bluebirds listen to the predators around them and adjust their reproductive effort to the amount of predation risk they perceive from hawks. We will determine this year, with nest boxes on campus, whether an increased presence of hawks causes clutch size to be reduced. We have some preliminary data that it does.

Hobbies are hiking, dog-walking, kayaking, tai chi, reading, collecting classic movie trilogies, playing flute, hanging w/ my peeps, traveling.... Life!





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.
Contact Barbie at email floridabluebirds@aol.com



15TH Annual Great Backyard Bird Count **Friday February 17- Monday February 20**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participation is simple.

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals on each species that you see together at any one time
3. When you're finished, enter your results on their web page.

Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc for full details. Let's get some of Florida's bluebirds included in this count!



2012 Calendar of Events

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



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

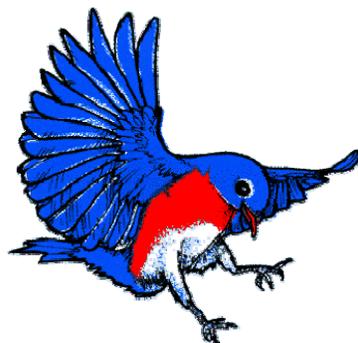
A membership form is also available on the website
<http://floridabluebirdsociety.com/> If you have any questions regarding your membership please contact Faith Jones at puffin_fj@yahoo.com



Thank You

In 2011, the Florida Bluebird Society was fortunate to have Organizational Members, Sponsors, and a few generous contributors that we would like recognize. We acknowledge and thank the following special members for their support:

BASCA, Inc., Orange Park FL (bascainc.org)
Jeff & Marj Bryant
Bruce Darnell
David Foster (in honor of)
Fred Vroom
Gainesville Garden Club
Col. Burton Walrath
Wild Birds Unlimited, St. Johns (jacksonville.wbu.com)
Wild Birds Unlimited, Tallahassee (wbutallahassee@centurylink.net)



****Reminder****

If **you** are planning to change **your** email address please inform us and send updates to Barbie. Also if you would like to receive any back issues of our newsletters please contact 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

Goodbye and see you next month!



Photo courtesy of Phil Berry

In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.

Aristotle - *Parts of Animals* I.645a16