



## 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.**

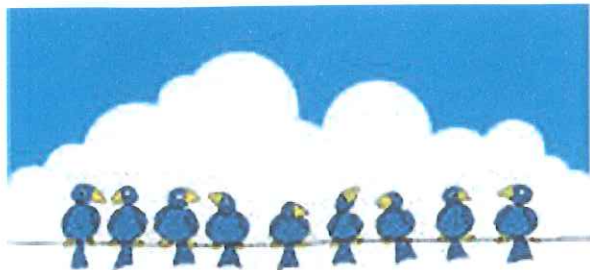
**We can use several submissions per monthly issue so we will save multiples received for future issues. Please email your nature pictures and stories to Barbie Arms, FBS Corresponding Secretary at [floridabluebirds@aol.com](mailto:floridabluebirds@aol.com)**

Below is a photo of what we woke up to early one morning last year. In spite of greasing our pole we still had an unwanted "visitor" at one of our boxes! Luckily, that nest had already fledged so there weren't any birds in the box at the time, but he did catch a couple of our finches at the feeder before we got the snake down off the pole. So we now have greased baffles on all of our poles! Also it clearly is not a good idea to have any feeders or other apparatus close to the box where predators can use it as a tool to enter the box.

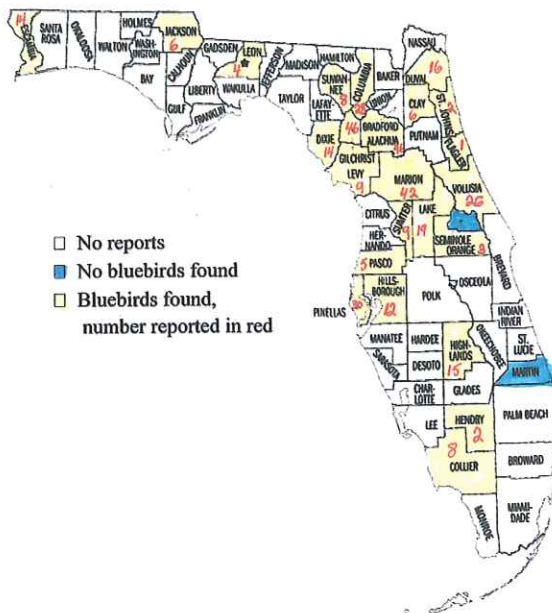
**-Jane-**



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



November 2011  
Statewide Bluebird Blitz Results



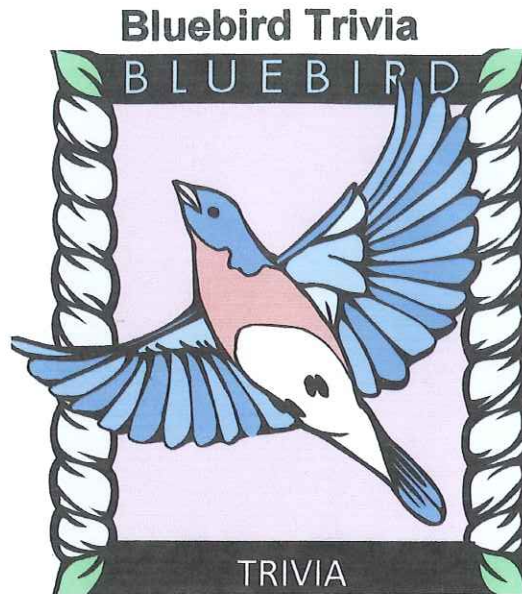
### Fall 2011 Blitz Results

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 Blitizes. 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**.





## Did You Know....?

Did you know when the Smithsonian Institution United States National Museum bulletin #196 was printed in 1949 the eastern bluebird (*Sialia Sialis*) was thought to have four subspecies or geographic races?

The bulletin states eastern bluebirds (*Sialia sialis sialis*) are found east of the Rocky Mountains except southern Florida and southern Texas. Florida bluebirds (*Sialia sialis grata*) are found in the southern half of Florida. Tamaulipas bluebirds (*Sialia sialis episcopus*) are found in northeastern Mexico and the lower Rio Grande Valley in Texas. Azure bluebirds occur from southeastern Arizona south into Mexico. It was believed that there were additional races in Central America.

The Florida bluebird (*Sialia sialis grata*) was named by Outram Bangs in 1898. He described the Florida bluebird as being about the same size as the eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis sialis*) but with a bigger and stouter bill, larger tarsus and foot, its upperparts having a clearer blue and less purple than the eastern. He felt the blue in *Sialia sialis sialis* to be about small blue, and that in *Sialia sialis grata* to be about French blue.

In 1932, Arthur H. Howell wrote that the Florida bluebird (*Sialia sialis grata*) could be found "nearly throughout peninsular Florida, from about Lake County south to Royal Palm Hammock." He also wrote, "The Florida Bluebird lives chiefly in the open pine forests where there is an abundance of rotting stubs suitable for nesting sites. The birds are not at all shy, and their sweet, mellow whistles and charm to the desolate wastes that compose so much of central and southern Florida. The nests are in hollow stubs or fence posts, usually from 4 to 25 feet above the ground."



**Eastern Bluebird**



**Mountain Bluebird**



**Western Bluebird**



## FBS Participates in a Charity Benefit

The Florida Bluebird Society participated in the "Blues on the Hill" benefit held February 25 to raise funds for the Ahhochee Hill Wildlife Sanctuary in Brooksville. Members of the Hernando Audubon Society, along with the Florida Bluebird Society and other organizations joined forces to explain to the more than 100 individuals who attended the event how to attract bluebirds and monitor nest boxes. Shown from left at the Florida Bluebird Society's display are Nell Pennewill; Linda Vanderveen, President of Hernando Audubon; Bill Pennewill, Founding President of the Florida Bluebird Society; Joyce Rinehart, and Joan Lemos-Armstrong.



**Welcome New Members!**



**No new members this month**





## Meet the Board of Directors Elena Sachs our FBS Recording Secretary



Elena coordinates the Florida Bird Conservation Initiative for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. She has been in Ocala, FL for four years and before that, worked throughout the southeast with various agencies and species. She has an undergrad degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Georgia and earned her Master's Degree from Clemson University, where she studied Brown Pelicans on the South Carolina coast. In 2009, the year that the Florida Bluebird Society was formed, Elena discovered a pair of bluebirds nesting in her mailbox! She took it as a sign that she should become an active member in this fledgling organization! Though not a seasoned birder, Elena is involved with many different avian projects and organizations and enjoys birdwatching and exploring Florida's natural areas. These days she spends most her time at work in front of a computer screen, so free time is spent outside as much as possible – walking the dogs, biking, kayaking, or feeding the neighborhood chickens (a surprisingly amusing past-time).





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





## 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](http://floridabluebirdsociety.com) or by contacting Faith Jones, FBS Statewide Bluebird Blitz Chair, at [floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com](mailto: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, Tuscahill 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://jacksonville.wbu.com))

Wild Birds Unlimited, Tallahassee ([wbutallahassee@centurylink.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Nature does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.  
Lao Tzu