



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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Photo Courtesy of Daryl and Berry Kuehnast

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 May issue is May 12, 2012



A pair of bluebirds readily accepted our new nest cam box, laying their first of five eggs on 29 Feb - incidentally, we found it both very interesting and enlightening that she laid each of the five eggs a day apart between 6:30 and 7:30 AM every day on successive days!! How's that for biological clockwork? Will be interesting to see if the hatching of the eggs is as structured.



She is sitting on the eggs nightly with her feathers fluffed and appearing to enter a torpid-like state for different periods of time, sometimes for several hours, with her head tucked down into the nest making her seem to fit into the nest like a cork - no heat will escape from that "oven"! Wow - gotta be one of Nature's finest performances!!

Looking forward to the following chapters of this showcase!

Fortunately, no evidence of predation thus far! Discovered a gray squirrel nest about 40 feet from the box, but the two adult birds continually harass it with "vicious" beak attacks and seem to be creating a neighborly response.



New babies!

FBS Member Hal Dowell



FLORIDA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY's STATEWIDE
BLUEBIRD BLITZ

April 13-14, 2012

www.floridabluebirdsociety.com

What is a Bluebird Blitz?

A Blitz is a concentrated effort on a specific target date to locate as many Eastern Bluebirds in your locale as possible.

Why a Bluebird Blitz?

The Spring Blitz, April 13-14, 2012 will help us to know where the Bluebirds find food and survival habitat during the breeding season.

How do I participate?

From the Florida Bluebird Society Website www.floridabluebirdsociety.com print out a report form for the appropriate Blitz (winter or spring), choose the area in which you will look for Eastern Bluebirds, record your results on the downloaded form, and either email your results to:

floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com or mail to: Bluebird Blitz, 763 Mallard Drive, Sanford FL 32771. Please send your results even if no bluebirds are located.

THAT'S IT! Together we can make a difference in the conservation and protection of Florida's bluebirds *Photo courtesy of photographer, Glenda Simmons.*



Bluebird eggs, like those of other birds that nest in dark places, never evolved protective markings as camouflage, and are clear pale blue or white.

5 white bluebird eggs!



Photo courtesy of FBS member Ce Worley

Welcome New Members!



Joyce Bryan	Middleburg, FL.
Clifford & Joy Elrod	Fleming Island, FL.
Michelle Hord	Orange Park, FL.
Debra Kuhnly	Ormond Beach, FL.
Sandra Zubrowski	Middleburg, FL.

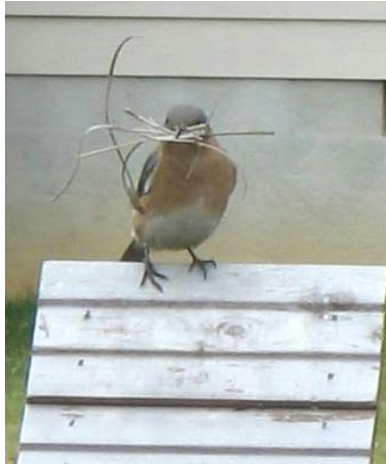
We are glad you joined our nest!

Bluebird babies 6 days old



Photo courtesy of our new member Debra Kuhnly

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

CODE OF ETHICS

The Florida Bluebird Society's Board of Directors is formulating a Code of Ethics for monitoring bluebird nest boxes.

This is an important endeavor and the Board is soliciting input from other members of the FBS in an effort to create a standardized procedure which is practical, legal and minimizes the impact on the adult birds, nests, eggs or nestlings.

The Code of Ethics will adhere to the Florida Bluebird Society's stated mission to further the conservation and presentation of bluebirds and other federally protected cavity nesting bird species in North America through educational program and the collection and dissemination of pertinent information

The educational aspect of the Florida Bluebird Society includes providing the best available information on creating and maintaining a bluebird trail in Florida, whether the "trail" consists of one box or many boxes. The Code of Ethics is intended to provide guidelines for the legal monitoring of bluebird nest boxes in Florida.

In drafting a Code of Ethics, the Florida Bluebird Society will review guidelines published by other like-minded organizations, including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch Nest Monitor's Code of Conduct, the American Birding Association Principles of Birding Ethics, and numerous state bluebird organizations.

The Florida Bluebird Society has been issued Scientific Collecting Permit Number LSSC-11-00093 by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The germane portion of the permit states that "Permittee(s) are to inspect nest boxes without disturbing (touching) nests, eggs or young during the breeding season. Permittee(s) are to clean out the nest boxes after the nest season has passed in order to allow re-nesting in subsequent years."

Criteria listed in the Florida Bluebird Society Code of Ethics will adhere to this provision in the permit issued by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The Code of Ethics also will adhere to all present interpretations of applicable rules and regulations issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

In adhering to the stipulations in the state-issued Scientific Collecting Permit and to other state and federal legal guidelines, the Florida Bluebird Society Code of

Ethics may differ from illegal practices publicized or advocated by other state bluebird organizations.

With this in mind, the Code of Ethics seeks to adhere to two guiding principles:

1. The Florida Bluebird Society recognizes the necessity of providing artificial nest boxes to help replace the growing loss of habitat and the increasing population of feline predators if there is to be a healthy population of Eastern Bluebirds in Florida.
Thus the Florida Bluebird Society will, as much as possible, confine its role to that of providing artificial nest boxes and refrain as much as possible from assuming a caretaker role.
2. The Florida Bluebird Society also seeks to promote the monitoring of nest boxes with the least minimum disturbance to help insure that bluebird nesting activities remain as “natural” as possible, given the provision of an artificial nesting box, and that the bluebirds retain their “wild” status.

Above all, members of the Florida Bluebird Society should serve as examples to other individuals who are interested in helping insure a brighter future for bluebirds in the Sunshine State.

The initial draft of the proposed Code of Ethics includes six major areas. They are, with a brief description:

1. Do no damage - For both ethical and legal reason, it is essential that all activities associated with the bluebird nesting box be done as quickly as possible and with the least amount of impact upon the birds.
2. Plan ahead - Planning is important in order to maximize monitoring efforts and minimize time at the nest box.
3. Caution is the key - For the sake of the birds – and sometimes also for the monitor – it is a good practice to announce your presence before opening the nest box
4. Hands off - When monitoring the nest box do not handle the nest, eggs, nestlings or the parent
5. How often and when - The frequency of monitoring nest boxes can be summed up in a single phrase: At least once a week, never more than once a day.

The above six areas will be expanded as the board reviews input from members of the Florida Bluebird Society and develops additional criteria for inclusion in the Code of Ethics.



2012 Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday, April 10, "May All Your Blues be Birds". FBS member Cheryl Anderson will present this program on bluebirds for the Hendry County 4-H Nature Club in LaBelle, FL. Please email Cheryl at AZLEBIRD@aol.com for times and more information on location.

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, 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



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 Paula