

# The Florida Bluebird Society

**Dedicated to the Protection  
And Conservation of Bluebirds in  
Florida**



Volume 4, Issue 3

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## FBS 2014 Annual Meeting Scheduled; Speakers Listed

The Florida Bluebird Society will hold the 2014 annual meeting in Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1100 W. Highland Blvd., Inverness, on Saturday, August 16, from 9 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

FBS members and non-members are invited to attend the meeting, which is open to all individuals interested in bluebirds.

Speakers will include:

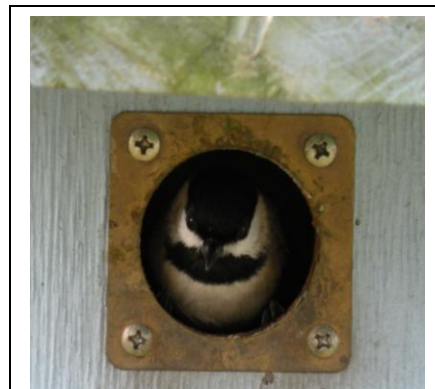
Harry Mitchell, manager of Ft. Cooper State Park in Citrus County and manager of the Withlacoochie State Trail. He will give a history of the trail, and also share future plans for

the Trail.

Michele Kline, from Hope Wildlife Rehabilitation Inc., in Crystal River. Michele will bring with her some injured birds of prey that could not be released back into the wild.

Ken Custer, from Land O' Lakes in Pasco county and a member of the FBS. Ken will relate how he received permission to install bluebird nesting boxes along the Suncoast Trail.

Mike Kell, president of the Pasco Audubon Society, in Port Richey. Mike will discuss installation of bluebird boxes in Pasco county.



**UNINVITED GUEST -**  
Bluebirds aren't the only ones who find nest boxes an inviting place to raise a family.

The meeting also will include the election of officers and a drawing for a free bluebird nest box made by Louis Nipper, an FBS member from Hernando.

# *440 Bluebirds Reported Seen During 2014 Spring Blitz*

Highlands County  
Tops List With 48;  
Pasco Second  
With 40 Reported

A total of 440 bluebirds were reported seen in 44 counties during the Florida Bluebird Society's 2014 Statewide Spring Blitz.

That is just 29 more bluebirds than the 411 reported during the 2013 Statewide Spring Blitz but 38 fewer bluebirds than the 478 average reported during the past three Spring Blitzes.

The 44 counties were one more than the 43 reported during the 2013 Spring Blitz and 11 more than was reported in each of the 2012 and 2011 Spring Blitzes. One county - DeSoto - reported bluebirds for the first time and another county - Gadsden - reported bluebirds for the first time during the Spring Blitz. Bluebirds were reported seen in Gadsden during the Fall 2013 Blitz.

## **Increase in 16 Counties**

Sixteen counties reported more bluebirds seen during the 2014 Spring Blitz than the average number reported for the previous three Spring Blitzes. Thirty counties reported fewer



bluebirds seen than reported during past Spring Blitzes. Seven counties which had reported seeing bluebirds in at least one of the past three Blitzes did not report seeing any bluebirds during the 2014 Spring Blitz

Bluebirds continue to be reported in three of the southern Florida counties -- Lee, Collier, and Miami-Dade.

The most bluebirds birds - 48 - were reported seen in Highlands County. Bill Dwinell reported 39 of the birds in the Lake Wales Ridge Wildlife and Environmental Area - Royce Unit, with 32 of the reported birds being nestlings. Other

counties with high sightings were Pasco, 40 bluebirds reported seen; Lake County, 39; and Citrus, 38.

A total of 143 reports were used in compiling the Spring 2014 Blitz totals. The most reports - 15 - were received from Citrus County, with 38 bluebirds reported seen. That is higher than the average of 27 bluebirds reported seen during the past two Spring Blitzes.

## **Fall Blitz Scheduled**

The Florida Bluebird Society thanks all individuals who participated in the Spring Blitz. The Fall Blitz will be held November 7-8.



### UNUSUAL NESTING -

Two weeks after a regular nesting in which four chicks fledged, these four eggs were found on a bare floor, with only the start of nest around the edge of the box. During the regular check the following week the female flew out of the box, but only three eggs remained. It will be interesting to see if the eggs can survive while resting on the bare floor.

### Bluebird Battles Starlings

Dave Schuster from Murray Hill wrote about a confrontation between a bluebird and starlings. He wrote: "I witnessed the male (bluebird) attack a pair of starlings that got too close to his territory. He basically went high above, folded his wings, and hit it like a rock. Then he bounced back up about 10-12 feet and did it again. The starling was left laying on its side in the grass. The bluebird flew to the top of his nest box and watched. When it appeared the starling was going to start just feeding again, he flew directly after him. Both the victimized starling and another that was grazing with him flew off with the bluebird in chase until I could no longer see any of them.



# WELCOME

## To the Nest!

The FBS extends a warm welcome to the following new members:

Thomas Sipprell

Orlando

Jordon Stone

Naples

The Florida Bluebird Society is a registered IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN FLORIDA 800-435-7352.

REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT OR

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