

The Florida Bluebird Society

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



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August Annual Meeting Fun & Informative



On Saturday August 29, 2015 at the Penney Retirement Community in Penney Farms, Florida about fifty people gathered for our Annual Meeting. Dr. Ann Harwood-Nuss shared information about her two favorite avian species, the American bald eagle and the eastern bluebird. Her outstanding presentation included interesting facts and amazing images. The two species are similar in that they each were nearly driven to extinction by human actions. They differ in size, lifespan, and nesting habits.

During the meeting we elected two new members to our Board of Directors, Rhonda Ockay from Clay County and Joanne Heinrich from Duval County. The meeting marked the completion of Louis Nipper's term on our Board. We thank Louis for his contributions and enthusiasm for bluebirds.

Bill Pennewill provided a brief summary of the Nest Box Temperature study that is being conducted on the trail at Penney Retirement Community. Bill then led the group on a tour that included two of the nest boxes being used in the study. He also answered many questions. The gathering concluded with a tasty lunch. It was an enjoyable morning with fellow bluebird enthusiasts.

We gave out two door prizes, a nest box constructed in the design found on our web site and a kit to construct the same style nest box. The door prizes were donated by BASCA of Orange Park.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

FloridaBluebirdSociety.com

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WELCOME

New Members

Jack Beery	Shalimar
Janet Day	Land O Lakes
Evalyne Eckles	Green Cove Springs
Leonard Guffey	Land O Lakes
Joanne Heinrich	Jacksonville
Shirley Lohman	Fernandina Beach
Brett & Anna Moyer	Jacksonville
Rhonda Ockay	Fleming Island
Ellie Pearce	Jacksonville
Judy Widergren	Orange Park

Bluebirds Nest in Gourd on Porch

To our knowledge, Seminole County in Central Florida, does not have many nesting bluebirds. As in other parts of the state, this may be due to limited nesting cavities. Bluebirds with a desire to nest are continuing to prove they will use what is available. This spring, a pair of bluebirds chose to nest in a decorative gourd on a porch in Longwood.

This Spring Shirley Reilly provided our first report of bluebirds in Longwood. She has multiple Carolina wrens and Northern cardinals in her yard, and it is not uncommon for her to see them near her porch. She began to notice a different bird in the yard this year. It was not until the male bluebird was sighted that she realized her new bird was a female bluebird.



Imagine her surprise when she happened to look out of her window as the female bluebird was exiting a gourd she had hung on her porch for decoration. The next day she saw the bluebird enter the gourd with pine needles in her beak. A few days later, she happened to see the bluebird exit the gourd. She was ready with a mechanic's

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Bluebirds Nest in Gourd on Porch

mirror to take a quick look inside. Sure enough there were six blue eggs in a nest that the bluebird had constructed in the gourd!

As evidenced by these images, it was a successful nest. Five of the eggs hatched and fledged from this unlikely nest location.



Area Meeting Saturday February 6, 2016 Tallahassee

Glenda Simmons, a member who lives in Tallahassee has volunteered to help coordinate an area meeting in February.

Our guest speaker will be Jody Warthall, wildlife ecologist and owner of Native Nurseries. Jody's presentation will feature ways to attract wildlife to your yard. The program will be followed by a tour of Glenda's yard which has successfully been designed to attract wildlife.

Exact time, location and other details of the meeting have not been finalized, but you will be notified when they are available.



FBS Display at ButterflyFest

Over 2600 visitors attended the 10th annual ButterflyFest held on September 19th at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville where FBS had a display. Rhonda Ockay did an excellent job drawing people to our exhibit where she and Cheri Martin Spray told people about the FBS, nest boxes, baffles and our monitoring principles. We thank Cheri & Rhonda for giving up their Saturday to promote the FBS.

Time to Clean and Repair Nestboxes

Nesting season has ended and now is the time to prepare for next season. We suggest you not only clean out your boxes, but take a good look at them. If you see anything about your box that might pose a hazard to birds now is the time to make repairs. Do leave your boxes in place as birds will take shelter in them during cold weather.



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We Want Your Nesting Season Data

Part of the FBS Mission is the collection and dissemination of pertinent data. When we first organized, it was agreed that nesting data would be one of our priorities.

If you participate with Cornell's NestWatch program and have already submitted your data that is all you need to do. We are hoping to work with Cornell to share their data for bluebirds in Florida. If you have not submitted data to NestWatch we ask that you share it with us.

Three ways to send us your data:

1. Complete the google form online. It is located at:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W0q1Y5OyU3qTckLCFwYvTbAq3Fmgk9W1vbn7_Rz6ga4/viewform?usp=send_form
2. Complete the Excel spreadsheet that is attached to the email with this newsletter.
3. Print the questionnaire attached to the email with this newsletter an mail it to us at the address at the top of the questionnaire.

Ideas for Bluebird Research Needed

Is there a question about bluebirds you would like to try to answer? The FBS has Grant Funds available. Information and application forms are located in the Resource section of our website, floridabluebirdsociety.com.

FLORIDA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY'S STATEWIDE BLUEBIRD BLITZ

November 6 & 7



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 Blitz, November 6 & 7, 2015, will help us to know where the Bluebirds find food and survival habitat between the end of the breeding season and migration time, until breeding activity begins again

How to participate

Simply choose a location, count the number of bluebirds you see, and send us a report of your sightings. We offer three ways to submit your sightings.

1. Enter your data on a spreadsheet and email it to floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com. The spreadsheet is attached to the email with this newsletter.
2. A report form can be downloaded from our website. Record your results on the downloaded form. Immediately after the Blitz either email the completed form to floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com, or mail it to: Faith Jones, FBS Statewide Bluebird Blitz Chair, 763 Mallard Drive, Sanford FL 32771.
3. Enter you sightings at ebird.org. If you are a Cornell NestWatch participant, you will use the same login and password to access ebird.org.

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