

The Florida Bluebird Society

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



Volume 7, Issue 3

Summer 2017

Nest Box WebCam Streaming Live from Orville & Lucy's Nest

Our initial nest cam with a live stream was set up in January, and rejected by Orville and Lucy, a nesting pair of bluebird in the Tampa area. There is no way to know for certain what triggered Lucy's rejection of our nest box. The new box had been placed on the same post as their original nest box, a box they have used the past few year.

Several pieces of nesting material were brought into the new box. Within a day or two the birds had removed every bit of nesting material.



It was obvious there was something about this new box Lucy did not like. Not wanting our action to prevent them from nesting, Bruce Hall quickly removed the new nest box and put their old nest box back on the post.

The pair did not immediately take to their old nest box. There were



Five Nestlings at Day 2

some stressful days when we feared Orville and Lucy were going to choose a different location, or not nest at all.

Finally, the last day of February, bluebirds were observed taking nesting material into their original next box. There was a successful first nesting, and the babies fledged in April.

Everyone had been intrigued by the images seen on the live stream during the few weeks the new nest box was in operation and we wanted more. Ken Bell was willing

Continued on Page 3

Annual Meeting “All About Bluebirds!” July 29



Where: Commons Building
Penney Retirement Community
Penney Farms, Florida
*(located on Route 16 between
Stark & Green Cove Springs)*

When: Saturday July 29, 2017
9:30 a.m. Meet & Greet
10:00 a.m. - noon Meeting

Bluebirds will be the focus of this meeting. An information-filled presentation will be followed by a few clips from our nest cam live stream. There will be a Q&A session, so bring your questions.


The meeting will also include election of Board members. We will also visit the bluebird trail at the Penney Retirement Community. There will be a light lunch and door prizes.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

FloridaBluebirdSociety.com

FloridaBluebirdSociety@yahoo.com

Cheri Martin Spray	President, Citrus Co. Coordinator	floridabluebirdsociety@yahoo.com
Ken Custer	Vice President, Pasco Co. Coordinator	custerk@aol.com
Rhonda Ockay	Communication, Clay Co. Coordinator	rhondaockay@gmail.com
Faith Jones	Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter	floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com
Joanne Heinrich	Director, Duval Co. Coordinator	joanne.heinrich1@comcast.net
Brett Moyer, PhD	Director	moyerb@bolles.org
Robyn Sieron	Director	rsieron@comcast.net
Bill Pennewill	Founding President, Emeritus	floridabluebirds@yahoo.com



WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Gordon Blandford	Gainesville
Cheryl Ganzel	Lake Wales
Ideal Office Support	unknown
Carol Platt	Jacksonville
Joanne Weinman	unknown

Hatchling—Nestling—Fledgling

What's the Difference?

Baby birds go through three developmental stages. The information below refers to Eastern Bluebirds. The day the eggs hatch is considered Day 0.

Hatchling

From the time of hatching until its eyes open and the baby is capable of regulating its own body temperature, a bird is considered a hatchling. This is a critical time in the bird's life. It is totally dependent on its parents, and it must successfully compete with the fellow hatchlings for food.

This stage usually lasts until Day 5-8

Nestling

This stage basically lasts from the time the bird opens its eyes until they leave the nest. The mother no longer needs to brood as nestlings can regulate their own body temperature. Their feathers develop during this time.

This stage usually occurs between Day 6 – 20

Fledgling

This bird has left the nest. It is fully feathered. Its wings and tail may be short, and it may not be a great flyer, but it can walk, hop, or flutter. Although it has left the nest, its parents are usually nearby, taking good care of it.

This stage usually occurs between Day 16-25

Juvenile

This stage lasts until the first molt when they get their adult feathers.



Find us on:
facebook®

Nest Box Web Cam

Continued from Page 01

to create a second prototype. So we conducted an evaluation of the new box, the equipment we had installed in the box, and video of Orville and Lucy in the box. The birds appeared uncomfortable in the box. They appeared nervous and kept looking up. We decided two things, the lights used with the camera were distracting the birds, and the entrance opening needed to be lowered.

A taller nest box had been constructed for this project. The entrance hole was cut the standard distance from the top of the box instead of measuring from the floor of the box. It was a simple matter for Richard Poole who covered the original hole and cut a new opening where the guard is placed is the image to the right.

The difficult work fell to Ken Bell who obtained a newer version of the raspberry pi computer, a different camera, and smaller lights. He assembled and programed the components. This new prototype was tested to be certain it would properly transmit images to our live stream.



Raspberry pi computer with cover and wired to camera



Raspberry pi computer with camera being brought down into place. Fingers in the image provide perspective for the size of this computer.



Three lights



Raspberry pi computer in case with camera and lights. The case is fixed to the roof of the nest box with Velcro. The two cords, for power and Ethernet, run from the nest box into the house.

This work was accomplished while Orville and Lucy were raising their first brood of season. About ten days after fledging, Bruce Hall replaced the original nest box with the new nest cam box. Bruce and Ken made all the required connections with the new equipment and we were back live streaming. Almost immediately Lucy and Orville were in the new box. This time they accepted the box. I do hope you watched as the nest was prepared, five eggs were laid, and have now all hatched. The link to the live stream is on our website.

This brood should fledge sometime between June 15-18. You have a few more days to observe their behavior and watch them grow. Below are images from the live stream.



**All FBS
Memberships
Renew in August**



Here is how you can renew....

Credit card payments can be made from the membership section of our website, floridabluebirdsociety.org

OR

Mail a check to:

Florida Bluebird Society
763 Mallard Drive
Sanford FL 32771

Membership Levels:

\$15 Regular	\$100 Sponsor
\$25 Family	\$500 Life
\$50 Patron	\$10 Senior

Bluebird Research Continues at Bowles School

Bluebird boxes are best accepted when placed on posts in open areas with short vegetation. In Florida these locations can be very hot. Five students from the Bolles School in Jacksonville were concerned with high temperatures inside Florida nest boxes. They wondered if green roofs on nest boxes would significantly reduce the internal temperature of the box. They decided to test it as part of a project in their Honors Environmental Science class.

The students designed and planted the green roofed boxes. The boxes were a modification of a green roof design used in a bluebird project at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. No soil or vegetation was added to the roof of the control box. The experimental box had several plant species (Purple Fountain Grass, Allyson, Juncus, and Purslane), which were species that the students determined might do well in such a green roof application. The first trial was conducted when the ambient temperature was 90 F. The internal temperature in the box with the green roof was seven degrees cooler than the 113 F internal temperature of the control box.



One student took the boxes home to set up on her family's property, so we may get a subsequent report on such questions as whether the bluebirds like the design, whether some of the plant species are more hardy than others, and whether the wood of a green roof deteriorates more quickly than the wood of a roof without soil and vegetation above it. Kudos to these five girls for tackling a project that pushed them to learn about carpentry, gardening, science, and caring for bluebirds!



The Florida Bluebird Society, Inc. is a recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization
Donations to the Florida Bluebird Society, Inc. are considered tax deductible

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