

The Florida Bluebird Society

Dedicated to the Protection
and Conservation of Bluebirds in Florida



Volume 7, Issue 4

Fall 2017

2017 A Year for Late Nestings

By Joanne Q. Heinrich
Vice Pres, Florida Bluebird Society
Northeast Florida Coordinator



August 4, 2017 Jacksonville

I thought I had a late brood, but noooooooo, my good friends, Bobby and Charlene had to show me up!

First, I'll start with my own experience in the beginning of the year. I have a box in my front yard that the bluebirds just love. They had their first egg laid February 20th this year!! This is pretty early for bluebirds so I knew it was going to be a great season! The pair had 2 broods with the box and 8 babies fledged, out of 10 eggs laid. Two never hatched.

But then, the box was looking like it needed some repair and I didn't think it would hold up through the summer, so I took it down and put another one up. Well, they didn't like the new one. It was one that a friend made for me but it had the hole guard on it that apparently, they didn't care for. But the pair had another brood in the trees. I still fed them mealworms and I know when they hatched because they had the tell-tale sign of stuffing about 10 mealworms in their beaks then would fly off to the trees. But unfortunately, they stopped taking mealworms away to the trees within a week, so I knew a predator probably got to the babies.

I repaired the old box and put that up again, in the very off-chance that they would do a 4th brood, and they did! A few weeks after they lost the 3rd brood, I noticed the pair starting to build another nest in the old box around July 9th! July 13th she laid her first egg. I was so thrilled and shared it with my fellow FBS board members. They agreed it was pretty late for a brood. She laid 4 eggs and all 4 fledged on August 14th. I then saw all four following their parents around to the feeder and birdbath on August 28th, such a wonderful sight!

But the really amazing story is about my friend's, Bobby and Charlene's, backyard nestbox. Here I'm thinking my front yard pair is pretty rare, but then I get a text from them on **July 31st** saying they think another nest is being built, their 3rd brood! I thought, well maybe...but I doubt if any eggs will be laid...but lo and behold! First egg laid was August 4th! Four eggs total and first one to hatch was on August 20th, I know because I went over for a visit and we checked it together! Totally awesome!

Continued on Page 2

Late Nestings

Continued from Page 04

Bobby and Charlene have been sending me pictures as they monitor. I was just visiting again on August 30th and peeked in for a check. It appears that only 2 eggs hatched, but the twins look very healthy!

We need to wrap this story up now because Faith has to get the newsletter out, but I know it's not yet the full story! So you'll need to "tune in next time" to find out the grand finale to this wonderful late season brood story!!!

TO BE CONTINUED.....

Timeline of Bobby and Charlene's Late Brood:

Approx. 7/31 started building nest

8/04/17: 1st egg laid

8/06/17: 3 eggs

8/10/17: 4 eggs, starts incubating

8/20/17: hatched 1

8/23/17: 3-day old twins, other 2 eggs didn't hatch

8/30/17: 10-day old twins, looking good!..



August 10, 2017 4 eggs
incubation has started



August 20 1st hatched



August 23, 2017



August 30, 2017

FBS WebCam Video on Website

The video images we were able to stream from Orville & Lucy's nestbox in Tampa this Spring proved interesting information. A few of the things we documented include:

- Female bluebirds do not just pluck out feathers to create their brood patch. They actually rub some off when they press and rotate their chest creating the cup in their nest.
- Bluebirds do eat feathers.

Orville and Lucy's nesting is documented in an 11-minute video on our web site <http://floridabluebirdsociety.org/watch-live-inside-bluebird-nestbox/>



Bobby & Charlene—Proud Hosts of a Pair of Prolific Bluebirds

2017-2018 Board of Directors

FloridaBluebirdSociety.com

FloridaBluebirdSociety@yahoo.com

Ken Custer	President, Pasco Co. Coordinator	custerk@aol.com
Joanne Heinrich	Vice Pres., NE Region Coordinator	joanne.heinrich1@comcast.net
Rhonda Ockay	Communication, Clay Co. Coordinator	rhondaockay@gmail.com
Faith Jones	Treasurer, Membership, Newsletter	floridabluebirdsociety@gmail.com
Cheri Martin Spray	Citrus Co. Coordinator	floridabluebirdsociety@yahoo.com
Brett Moyer, PhD	Director	moyerb@bolles.org
Linda Ashley	Director	lmashley425@gmail.com
Bill Pennewill	Founding President	floridabluebirds@yahoo.com



WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Linda Ashley	Penney Farms
Susan Beittel	Sanibel
Rishi Jain	Jacksonville
Ed Kawecki	Jupiter
Jim & Jan Nichols	Palm Coast
Barbara Walker	Venice
Marge Williams	Penney Farms



Find us on:
facebook®



Message From President

Ken Custer



Thanks to everyone who attended our annual FBS meeting at Penney

Retirement Community (PRC) on July 29th. The presentations by Faith Jones and Bill Pennewill were very informative and generated a lot of group questions, discussions and great ideas. My personal thanks to the residents of PRC for hosting us again.

Our newly elected board members for the coming year have already hit the ground running and we are hoping that our own enthusiasm and actions will inspire others to volunteer their own time and service. Some of the ideas/projects we are considering (most of them based on our discussions at the annual meeting) are:



Registration Desk
Rhonda Ockay, FBS Secretary &
Nancy Lee Kennedy, Charter
Member

Continued on page 3



Message From President

Ken Custer

Continued from page 2

1. Organizing more *Local/Regional 'Get Togethers'* to generate projects in our own communities that will help to better inform more people about FBS. Last year's West Coast/Central FL meeting initiated the "FBS's Orville & Lucy Nestbox Webcam" project that included extending the perimeter walls to allow an internal camera to monitor the nest box activities—our very own *Reality Show*! I am happy to report that it is now fully operational and is viewable 24/7 by anyone who clicks on the special link on our website. A special THANKS to **Fern Kinion** and **Ken Bell** for making this happen! We are now anxious to install an exterior camera as well so that we can also monitor the activities outside the nestbox. Our objective is to create our own FBS-approved/sponsored webcam system (including all of the instructions, material list, etc.) that can be purchased by our individual members and made accessible on our website.



Bill Pennewill, Founding President, with Ken Custer newly elected President at Annual Meeting July 29, 2017

2. Develop and produce a "*Membership Location Map*" to help better identify where our current members live which will also help us in identifying the best location(s) for our future get-together meetings. Ocala seems to be the most "central" point and within a couple of hours drive (at the most) for all of our current members. Our newest board member, Linda Ashley (Penney Farms), has agreed to be our Publicity Director. We will all be working with her to initiate/develop/produce creative ideas that we can use to educate and inform others about FBS.

3. Create "*How To ...*" videos that will hopefully help and encourage more people to get involved in FBS, especially our K-12 children. Such as:

- "*How to build the right nest box?*" ... starting with our FBS "approved" plan/drawing ... then deciding on the right size piece of CEDAR to get the least amount of waste ... To keep the viewer's attention, we might want this topic up into smaller volumes like "*Selecting the right materials for a nest box*" ... "*What is the best size CEDAR to produce the least amount of waste?*" ... "*Step by step tutorial on putting the nest box together*"...
- *How to select the ideal location for my nest box?* Examples: grassy area ... tree branch close by but out of reach for invaders ... close to water ... shade ... etc.) Have the video show the ideal location(s) and the narration could be added in by voice over as well as any graphics...
- *How to protect the nest box from invaders?* (predator guard, pvc/metal poles and sizes ... Etc.)
- *How to plan/install a bluebird trail?* ... basically focus on the layout of the trail and things to look for and avoid...

4. Research the Internet for suitable line drawing (copyright free and no cost) prints and make them available to our viewers, especially the K-12 children. FBS could work with our local communities (day care, K-12 schools, churches, artistic organizations, etc.) and have contests (prizes) to select the winners and publish them on our website.



Membership Renewals

We greatly appreciate all of you who have renewed your membership with FBS. Your support is vital for FBS to continue our efforts to help bluebirds in Florida.

There has been a good response to this years renewal notices mailed in July. If you have not yet mailed a check or renewed via the membership page on our website we encourage you to do so today!

A few members who have made the decision to support FBS at one of our higher membership levels deserve special recognition. These members are also acknowledged on our website.



Life Members

Madison Alderson	Williston
Joanne Heinrich	Jacksonville
Louis Nipper	Hernando
Pam Overmyer	Panama City

2017—2018 Sponsors

Elizabeth Beese	Palm Coast
Susan Beittel	Sanibel
David Foster	Jacksonville
Ann Harwood-Nuss	Jacksonville
Shannon Joyce	Clermont
Edwin Kaweck	Jupiter
Jean Middleton	Amelia Island

2017-2018 Organizations

Native Nurseries of Tallahassee
Wild Birds Unlimited - 450 SR 13 N, Saint Johns

2017-2018 Patrons

Ulla Benny	Gainesville
Candace Bridgewater	Fernandina Beach
Phyllis Hendry	Jacksonville
Cheri Martin-Spray	Inverness
Carol Platt	Jacksonville

**All FBS
Annual
Memberships are
August—August**



"Bluebirds are molting this time of year and often go into hiding. This is a remarkable detailed photograph of a molting bluebird. Thanks so much David Kinner for sharing!"



Find us on:
facebook®



Meet Our New Board Member

Linda Ashley was born and raised in Jacksonville in a big southern family with several generations in Jacksonville. Linda worked at WJXT TV and later went to work with Jefferson Pilot Broadcasting in Charlotte, NC. She eventually decided to become a social worker and in five years accomplished a bachelor and master's degrees, grey hair and all!

She started her social work career in HIV/AIDS. After seeing the lack of resources in the three rural counties she served in South Carolina, she founded the Catawba Care Coalition and created a non-profit HIV social services agency and a medical clinic. Starting with one social worker, one nurse and a part-time infectious disease specialist, the clinic served about 100 folks. In a few years she had written many grants, enlarged the staff to include a full time nurse practitioner and others and the clinic was serving more than 600 folks. That agency is now a full service free medical clinic in Rock Hill, SC.



Linda Ashley

Linda worked as director of the clinic for about 10 years and then became Field Director for a new Master's in Social Work program at Winthrop University. She stayed there until retirement.

After checking out many retirement communities, Linda settled on Penney Farms Retirement Community. She moved here last year and jumped right in to volunteer work, helping to facilitate the building of a new nursing home for residents, hospice work and just for fun began attending the birding club. There she met Bill Pennewill, who monitors and maintains the bluebird trail at the retirement community. She asked to do a ride along with Bill and that was the beginning of her love for bluebirds. She looks forward to many years of learning and helping to spread education about those beautiful birds



Update on the Bolles Bluebird Project

2015: No nest boxes. No program. Initiated contact with FBS for information and support.

2016: 8 nest boxes on one campus and 27 total bluebird fledglings

2017: 25 nest boxes on three campuses and two San Marco Parks. 103 bluebird fledglings and 5 Carolina Chickadee fledglings. Involved students and faculty from Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School.

The Bolles Bluebird Project would not be the success it is, if it weren't for the advice and support of the Florida Bluebird Society.

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