

Spring 2009
April 2009



The Fledgling

The official Newsletter of the Missouri Bluebird Society



The Missouri Bluebird Society is an Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

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Letter from the President.....

Well it is an exciting time of year. The bluebirds are nesting as are several other native cavity dwelling birds. Trees are starting to bloom and the first spring flowers are appearing. I know that many people have been hit hard by the recent economic problems. Some may be worrying about keeping a roof over the heads of their own family. This may make it harder to worry about the bluebirds, on the other hand nature can be a wonderful source of enjoyment and tends, for me at least, to put things in perspective. I hope for the best for all of us.

Jack Dodson

President, MOBS

2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference !

Thanks to the hard work of MOBS members Scott & Susan Kelley, we have begun gathering details for the 2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference. The conference will be held **Saturday, October 3rd** in **Cape Girardeau, MO**. Space has been reserved at the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center** for a portion of the conferencemore details coming soon!!

Missouri Bluebird Society 2008 / 2009 Officers & Board of Directors

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Benefits of Nest Box Monitoring and Record-Keeping

by Janelle Schulte, MOBS Board Member

photos by Janelle Schulte

Information from Janelle's Bluebird Trail 2008 Season

It was just a few years ago I had no idea how to get Bluebirds to nest in my boxes or know what happens in them, so last year I applied and participated in the Nest box Grant Program sponsored by MOBS. About once a week I checked my boxes and recorded what I found on paper. This year I fledged more than **39 Bluebirds and Tree Swallows!!** To my surprise I had a terrible ANT problem accounting for 7 eggs lost and numerous nests removed. *So, we put up "ant guards."* I learned that many boxes had only BB & TS nests but no eggs? *Huum, maybe I need to reconsider the location?* I had "snoot" predator guards on houses that only one house fledged TS babies. *Huum, off comes the "snoots" I don't think BB or TS like "snoots."* I also know what "style" house the birds like. My square style house had **NO** activity all year (not even sparrows, notice the little letters, we don't give them too much credit) and the Peterson and Gilwood style raised lots of babies. *So this year I am changing out my square boxes.* My, what a difference makes in collecting "INFORMATION" once a week. You can bet this is worth the effort, I wonder how many BB & TS I will fledge this year!!

Just think if we write down what happens in our boxes what kind of data we will have at the end of this next season? This is not "scientific data" that requires formulas, qualitative/quantitative data or meta analysis etc. or fancy magic or hocus pocus, anyone can do this!.... The goal is to collect and **share information** collected in our area & learn from each other which may make our BB boxes and trails more successful.

My challenge to each birder is to download the attached form, monitor each week, & turn your data into MOBS for compilation and at the end of the season we'll share the information in a newsletter for everyone next winter to review for FUN!

PS Thanks to my husband Jim for helping me monitor, repair, etc, and coming up with the ant guard idea using a plastic Folders coffee can to shield the sticky tangle foot goop. You're a genius Gump. ☺



Above: A Bluebird nest of seven eggs from one of Janelle's nest boxes on her trail last year.

Right: Jim Schulte's Ant guard cover placed beneath the nest box to protect birds from getting in the product applied to deter ants on the Schulte's Nest Box Trail.



2008 Nest Box Trail Report

Janelle Schulte New Bloomfield, MO

BOX #	1st Egg Laid	Last Chick Fledged	Species	Nestg Attempts	Successful Nestg	Eggs Laid	# Chicks Hatched	# Fledged	Pest/Preds	box type	Pred/ Guard	
1			BB	nest only		0		0		Peterson		
2			BB	nest only		0		0	ants	Peterson		
3	4/6/2008	9/10/2008	BB		2	6	4	4	ants	Peterson		
			BB	nest only		0	0	0				
17	4/17/2008	7/21/2008	BB	1		7	0	0	ants	*Gilwood		lost all eggs to ants
			BB		1	5	5	5				
4	5/26/2008	6/11/2008	TS		1	5	4	4	ants	sq box	yes	
5			TS	nest only		0		0	ants	sq box	yes	
			BB	nest only		0		0	sprw		yes	
16	6/1/2008	8/1/2008	BB		1	4	4	4		*Gilwood		
			TS		1	5	5	5				
6			TS	nest only		0		0	ants/sprw	sq box	yes	
7			TS	nest only	0	0	0	0	ants/sprw	sq box	yes	
8	6/27/2008	8/1/2008	BB		1	4	4	4	ants	Peterson		
			BB	nest only		0	0	0	ants			
9			sparrow	0	0	0	0	0		sq box	yes	sprw all yr:-(
10	4/6/2008	5/17/2008	BB		1	?	?	all		Peterson		female on nest
	6/27/2008	7/13/2008	TS		1	2	2	2	sprw			
15	5/26/2008	6/27/2008	TS		1	5	3	3	sprw	*Gilwood		
			BB	nest only		0	0	0				
11			BB	nest only		0	0	0	wasp	sq box	yes	
12			BB	nest only		0	0	0	sprw	*Gilwood		
13	6/11/2008	7/10/2008	BB		1	5	5	5	sprw	*Gilwood		
14			no activ			0	0	0	sprw	*Gilwood		
gr/bfl			no activ			0	0	0				
brwn			no activ			0	0	0				
Total Fledged								36+	* denotes grant nest boxes			
Total Eggs Laid						48						

Get Ready for the 2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference! Saturday, October 3rd, 2009 Cape Girardeau, MO

Registration Form & Details in next issue of *The Fledgling* !

Thanks to the very hard work of MOBS members Scott & Susan Kelley, we are well on our way to having all of the details in place for our 2009 Bluebird Conference. This issue contains some basic information about the conference & location, with more complete information available in the June issue.

The basic Format is as follows:

The "Welcome", Annual Meeting, Conference Programs, and Raffle/Silent Auction will take place at the **Osage Community Centre** on N. Kingshighway Street (see info below). Lunch will also be held here. Susan has chosen boxed lunches from the locally-owned "**My Daddy's Cheesecake**" Bakery & Café. (BRAVO, Susan!!) . We will depart the community center in the afternoon for a program and trail tour at the **Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center**. (read all about them on page 5 of this issue). Listed below are a few lodging options, but please bear in mind that no hotel has been designated as having special rates for MOBS at this time. We will print that information in the June *Fledgling* issue, and of course you can check with the hotels directly.

Everything in close proximity: The Osage Community Centre & the Nature Center are less than 2 miles apart, on the same main thoroughfare. The listed Hotels are all within 4 miles of the community centre.



The Osage Community Centre is located at
1625 N. Kingshighway Street
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-334-2859



Check them out at:
www.mydaddyscheesecake.com

Lodging Options:

Drury Lodge (4 miles from Osage Community Centre)

104 Vantage Drive/ Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-334-7151

The Victorian Inn (3.5 miles from the Osage community Centre)

3265 William Street/ Cape Girardeau, MO 63703 573-651-4486

Additional Lodging Option:

Super 8 / 2011 N. Kingshighway Street/ Cape Girardeau, MO 63701 573-339-0808

See info about the Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center on Page 5

www.missouribluebird.org

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center

(continued information on the 2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference)



2289 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701-1840
573-290-5218
<http://mdc.gov/areas/cnc/cape>

The Conservation Nature Center is located within Cape Girardeau's North County Park and showcases the rich cultural history and diverse natural resources of Southeast Missouri.

Campus Features

Site of the
“afternoon portion”
of the **2009**
Bluebird Conference
Don't miss it!!

- The nature center features a 160-seat auditorium, three classrooms, hands-on exhibits for all ages, a scientific research laboratory, freshwater aquariums, and an indoor wildlife viewing area.
- The “White Oak Trace” features two miles of nature trails allowing visitors to traverse rolling river hills with sinkholes, deep hollows, and ravines covered with prominent stands of poplar and oak.
- Native plants featured in the nature center’s landscape provide habitat for hummingbirds, butterflies, and other wildlife species.
- The nature center’s gift shop features a wide variety of educational books, videos, and nature-related items

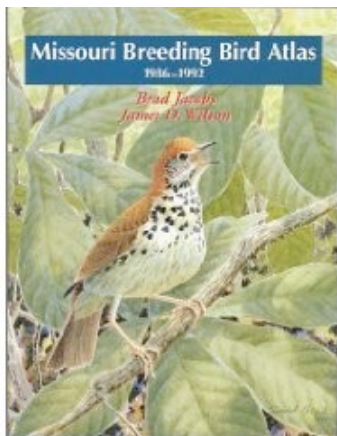
Exhibit Gallery

Gallery visitors can start their experience by learning from Paul Corbin’s collection of Native American artifacts by viewing primitive tools that were used to harvest plants and animals hundreds of years ago. Interactive exhibits encourage exploration of the forest, marsh, swamp, and big river habitats of Southeast Missouri. Visitors can learn where to go in the region to experience these unique natural features and gain insight into local opportunities for camping, hunting, and fishing.

No Room for Nest Boxes on your property??.....

Would you like to have a nest box trail to monitor , but don't have the space to set up multiple nest boxes? Well, this may be just the opportunity for you! A couple of trails here in Jefferson City are in need of some assistance in monitoring. One trail is on the golf course at the Turkey Creek Golf course and at that location a golf cart is available for use for nest box monitoring. For more information on how you can be involved, contact Joe Wilson at **573-338-6066**. Please do not contact the golf club for info on the nest box trail. This is a perfect opportunity for a parent /child project or grand parent/child project. AND...it would be very beneficial to the birds that are already nesting there!





MDC Donation to Missouri Bluebird Society

The Board of Directors for the Missouri Bluebird Society would like to take this opportunity to thank the Missouri Department of Conservation for their generous donation of 24 copies of the *Missouri Breeding Bird Atlas*. These books will be used in conjunction with our upcoming **2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference**. As soon as registration opens for the conference (next Newsletter issue will have forms), MOBS will award a copy of this fantastic book to the first folks who register for the conference! (one per household, based on date of receipt of the conference registration forms to the MOBS PO box, and to be given out at the conference in October). Over 400 pages and full of GREAT information, this is a terrific book for ALL birders, and a kind donation!

The Fledgling 2009 Schedule (Updated)

Submission Deadline

June 5, 2009
 August 24, 2009
 December 1, 2009

Print Date

June 15, 2009
 September 1, 2009
 December 8, 2009

I welcome & encourage submissions from all members! Please make submissions via email (Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, or PDF files are appreciated) or by mail or Fax (512-685-4327). Items I can "copy and paste" make you my favorite contributor!
 Thanks! Regina Garr, **The Fledgling** Editor
 regina@birds-i-view.biz 573-638-BIRD(2473)

Missouri Bluebird Society Membership Information. Please make checks payable to: MOBS

- Individual Membership One Year ...\$9.00
- Two Years...\$16.00
- Family Membership One Year....\$15.00
- Two Years...\$28.00

(Family Memberships to include family members living in the same household)

- DONOR.....\$50.00
- SUPPORTER.....\$100.00

Renewal Date for all memberships is Jan. 1st following the year of Expiration.

Please mail this membership Application, along with your check, to :

**MOBS/Attn: Membership
 P.O. BOX 105830
 Jefferson City, MO 65110**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

How many nest boxes do you monitor? _____

Membership Applications are also available on-line : www.missouribluebird.org

Who's at your "Bluebird" Feeder??

Most of us who regularly feed Bluebirds at feeders specifically designed for them, are accustomed to seeing many other great birds eating there as well. For most of us, the Chickadees, Titmice, Carolina Wrens, and even Nuthatches are a fairly common sight. However, last year I started having Baltimore Orioles come to my Bluebird feeder to get a *mouthful* of mealworms at a time to take to babies at the nest. I suspected that the Orchard Orioles may be able to fit through the wire around my Bluebird feeder, but was not certain the rounder-shaped Baltimore Oriole would be able to do so. Well, I am happy to report that they could and did! And better yet...they remembered how to do it this Spring! Just this morning Baltimore Orioles were going inside my Bluebird feeder (which has 1 1/2" woven wire around it to keep out larger birds). Many of you may have had the same experience. I have never had the Orioles go inside the style of Bluebird feeder that has the Plexiglas sides and an entrance hole at each end, but maybe some of you have. Please let me know. I keep waiting to catch a warbler of some sort going in to eat the mealworms, but so far no takers! I have had Tennessee and Yellow-rumped Warblers coming to my waterfall bird bath only 5 feet away, but no warblers at the Bluebird feeder.....yet! *Steve Garr*



Baltimore Oriole taking mealworms



Upcoming Events

Do you have an event you would like listed in The Fledgling? Please note the submission info listed on page 6 of this issue and send your event info to me! Regina

- **6/12/2009 –6/14/2009 Mountain Bluebird Trails 35th Annual Celebration!**
Great Falls, Montana Speakers: Bill Thompson III, Al Batt, Julie Zickefoose, Scott Johnson, Steve Scholler, Fay Scholler contact: **Bob Niebuhr 406-453-5143**
- **September 9-13th North American Bluebird Society Convention**
Hosted by the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Grantville, PA Host Hotel: The Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey
Hotel is located at Exit 80 on Interstate 81
Hotel Reservation deadline for Group Rate is **July 18, 2009**
Complete conference schedule and on line registration is available at:
www.thebsp.org
Contact info for this event:
Kathy Clark(BSP President) 717-695-0700 KCBSP@aol.com
Registrar: Joanne Slavinski 717-458-5645
- **Saturday, October 3, 2009**
The Missouri Bluebird Society Conference!
Cape Girardeau, Missouri See info in this Newsletter!
Registration Form available June issue of The Fledgling
Check the MOBS Website: www.missouribluebird.org



www.missouribluebird.org

NEW: Check your address label for
your membership expiration date



The Fledgling
The Official Newsletter of
The Missouri Bluebird Society
P.O. BOX 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110

The Fledgling 2009 Spring Issue

- **2009 Missouri Bluebird Conference information!!**
- **A word about Monitoring & Record Keeping**
- **Nest Box Monitoring Form & Summary Form enclosed**
- **Who's at your "Bluebird" Feeder?**

Photo by Steve Garr

Right: A common sight this time of year!
A female Eastern Bluebird is not deterred
from her "job" as Steve checks the boxes
on his trail!



