

Spring 2016

May 2016

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:

Missouri is blessed with bluebirds. I rarely take a drive where I do not see bluebirds on a power line or fence post. I can understand why it is our state bird. This did not just happen. Many conservationists before us made this possible and I want to thank our members that keep this tradition of bluebird stewardship strong in Missouri. We may be considered a small organization in numbers, but our love for our bluebirds touches everyone in Missouri.



Our annual conference always brings together some of the most dedicated bluebirders; not just from Missouri but from the surrounding states as well. They share what they have learned over the years and take away from the conference a better understanding of bluebirds and how we can help bluebirds even more. Occasionally, people will refer to me as a "bluebird expert", yet each year I learn something new or a new way to solve a problem. And it is not just from the guest speaker that I learn. It is often from someone there to learn just like I am.

We always mention it at the conference, but if you have never attended, you may not realize that our speaker budget is funded by the donations you make for the silent auction and raffle. Whether you can attend or not your kind donations of items or gifts to the silent auction and raffle has allowed MOBS to invite the best authorities on not only bluebirds but some of our other native birds.

We of course will learn more about bluebirds but we will all leave the conference with a better understanding and appreciation of the nature around us. I am sure you are as interested as I am to learn how we can help the Red-headed woodpecker and the secrets of finding a hummingbird nest in your yard.Continued on Page 4

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 Specify your name and "Email Only Fledgling"
 In the subject line.



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Introducing the 2016 Missouri Bluebird Conference Program Speakers!

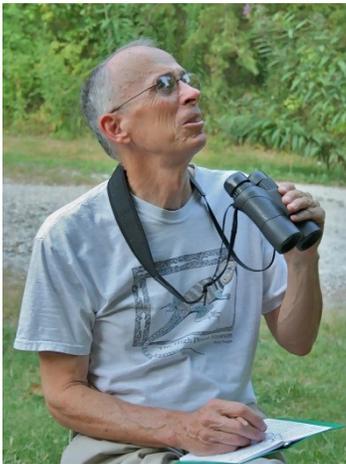


Keith Kridler Mt. Pleasant, TX

“Fifty Years of being a Bluebird Peeping Tom!”

Keith Kridler is a life-long bird lover and bluebird enthusiast extraordinaire! Since 1979, Keith and his wife, Sandy, **have fledged upwards of 1200 bluebirds a YEAR** from trails around Mt. Pleasant and have donated thousands of nesting boxes to youth groups and landowners! His bluebird trail is the oldest and most productive in Texas, and may well have fledged more birds than any other single trail in North America. Keith is a Charter Member of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) formed in 1978, and is co-founder of the Texas Bluebird Society. Keith is co-author for Cornell University’s **“The Bluebird Monitor’s Guide”**.

Keith is a Life Member of the Missouri Bluebird Society and honored us as our Keynote Speaker at the very first Missouri Bluebird Conference in 2006. We are so grateful Keith has returned to speak to us on the Society’s Ten Year Anniversary!



Dr. David Pitts Martin, TN

“The Hummingbirds That Nest In Our Yards”

Most people enjoy and are amazed by the hummingbirds that visit feeders or flowering plants. However, relatively few people find and observe the activities at a hummingbird nest. If hummingbirds feed in your yard, they probably nest there. This presentation includes descriptions and photos of the nesting cycle of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds with information about nest sites and suggestions for finding nests in your yard. Hummingbird nests may not be easy to find, but they can be found and enjoyed. Also included is information about nesting success, which is **based on 103 active nests that I studied during 2011-2015**.

About David: retired from teaching in December, 2013; now spend most of January trapping and banding chickadees and titmice; February through April I study chickadee nests; mid-April into September I study hummingbird nests. I try to spend part of each day (usually early AM) working on records and writing reports; recently submitted manuscript on hummingbird nest success; now working on manuscript describing chickadee longevity based on 40 years of banding data on our farm.



Jerry Bahls Fridley, MN

“The Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery Program”

Red-headed Woodpecker populations have been in decline since the 1960s. They are a beautiful and important “primary cavity-nester” and as such they are of special interest to the Missouri Bluebird Society. Come learn more about how to help this wonderful species!

About Jerry:

President, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2004 – 06, 2008 – 09, 2013 - 15; Conservation Committee Chair, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 2006 – 2008; Board Member, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis 1997 – present; Founding Member of Red-headed Woodpecker Recovery; Life Member of Bluebird Recovery Program; Long time member of National Audubon Society, Wood Duck Society, Sierra Club and Fresh Energy. Retired 3M Chemist. Biking, hiking, camping, fishing enthusiast and long time birder.

Did you know?.....

People who monitor bluebird nestboxes can collect eggs of house sparrows and donate them to the collection at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences.

The GOAL of the Project is to collect House sparrow eggs and **test management skills.**

Participants can opt to receive painted wooden eggs to swap into nests to keep house sparrows committed to the nest attempt instead of disrupting any other nests. **Participants monitor nest boxes and report the outcome of the egg removal or egg swap. Eggs in the collection will eventually be analyzed for contaminants as part of research to determine whether house sparrow eggs are useful bio indicators of human exposure to environmental contaminants.**



Check out the Website: www.scistarter.com (and then enter House sparrow swap in search projects).

Here is an instructional video about the Sparrow Swap Project: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iq9SVdsg7G8&feature=youtu.be>

Check out the facebook page (www.facebook.com/sparrowswap) for a very interesting photo story of what goes into making “egg replicas” for this project!

Repeatedly, MOBS members and other Bluebird landlords list House Sparrows as one of their main problems. Maybe your contribution to this program could lead to findings that would help bluebird landlords everywhere.

FYI: Our 2016 Bluebird Conference speaker, Keith Kridler, is very involved in this project.



Photo from the Sparrow Swap facebook page

Mobs membersShare!



Photo by Shirley Scrivner

Left: Here’s a great shot of a **Barred Owl**with a FISH it caught on the property of MOBS members Jim and Shirley Scrivner in Russellville, MO. The Scrivners have been blessed to have the owls nest in a box on their property some years...and other years in a natural cavity. Either way...they have been fun!



Pics by Araks Ohanyan



Above and Right: From Marshall, MO comes a great story about protecting a Chickadee in a natural cavity. MOBS member Ethan Duke noticed a nesting Chickadee being harassed by a House Sparrow as the Chickadee was trying to nest in a natural cavity in a Redbud Tree. Ethan immediately installed a 1.125 inch metal portal over the cavity, thus excluding the House Sparrow, and the Chickadees nested successfully!



MOBS Life Members Ann Early and Bob Siemers are spreading the word about **Monarch Butterfly conservation!** They have given MANY programs in the past year and have one coming up for the River Bluffs Audubon Society in Jefferson City on **May 12th at 6:30 pm.** The program is FREE and will be held at the Runge Conservation Nature Center 573-526-5544

“The Bluebirds at Old Kinderhook” were the focus of a March 11, 2016 post on Lakewebsonline.com . MOBS member Ron Thorenson initiated a nest box trail on the golf course of the subdivision in Camdenton in 2005 and has carefully tended it since. There was a short video and a very engaging post on the website. **Great job Ron!** Thanks for being a Bluebird Ambassador.

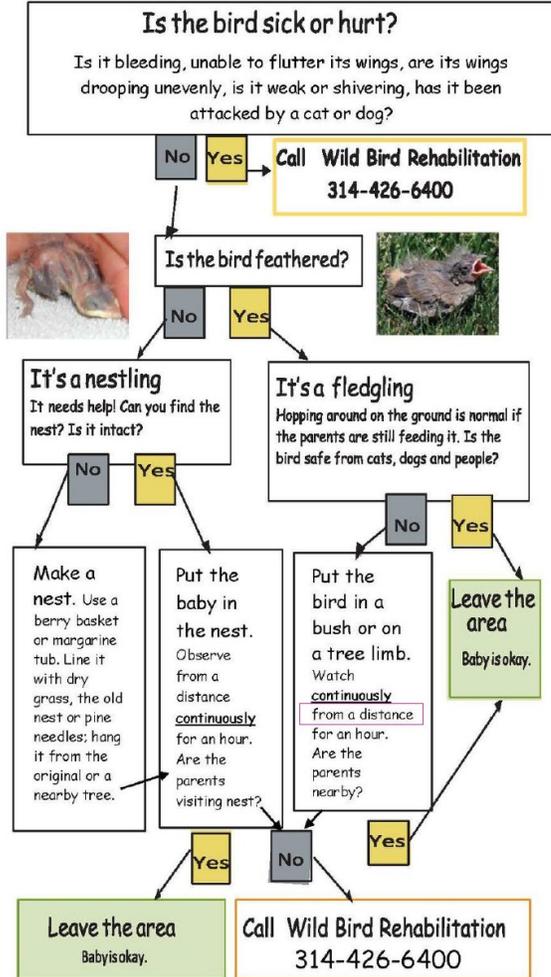




Taken from:
Wild Bird Rehabilitation
9624 Midland Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63114

I Found a Baby Bird

Wild birds live among us in our gardens and parks. Sometimes they need our help and sometimes they don't. How do you tell?



www.wildbirdrehab.org

Continued from Page 1.... Letter from the President:

At this milestone conference, two of the featured speakers are very dear friends of mine I have known for decades. David Pitts and Keith Kridler are special individuals. Exceptional scientists and teachers, but also good people doing good things. They have been good friends to me over the years and I am grateful. I have not yet met our other speaker, Jerry Bahls, but I hope he will become a new friend also. With a heart for those gorgeous primary cavity nesters, Red-headed Woodpeckers, I am certain Jerry will fit right in at the Missouri Bluebird Society!

I want to thank Norm and Beth Stucky for again opening up their beautiful Mockingbird Hill farm for MOBS. **And** to all those MOBS members who bring food to the conference, bring and make special auction items, help set up and clean up, **and invite and bring a new bluebirder-** I thank you very much!
See you soon.

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr, MOBS president

Planning a Bluebird Program for a group soon? Remember— MOBS has some wonderful, quality handouts available. The Bluebird Network telecommunications company made a generous donation to cover printing costs so please take advantage of these educational tools! Call 573-638-2473 if you need materials.



Love this Anniversary Logo?

We'll expect to see Commemorative mugs and other fun items sporting this logo for sale at the MOBS conference! Don't miss out on your chance to own these special items! (limited supply).

MOBS thanks Jim Rathert Photography for creating and donating our "Anniversary Logo" to the Society.



March 19, 2016 MOBS Grant Program Workshop

was a great success! Many thanks to all who turned out to help restock and refurbish supplies for our Nest Box Grant Program and the "Save the Clutch" Baffle Program. Your efforts will benefit birds and conservationists all across Missouri. The workshop was held in the "seminar room" of the Roly Poly Sandwich shop in Jefferson City. Steve Garr showed a short program of photos demonstrating how to assemble the grant baffles and then everyone divided into work stations and dove in! Sandwiches and refreshments were provided.

Visit www.missouribluebird.org for Grant Applications



Back Row L-R: Tom Halfen, Sheryl and Chuck Wright, Sandy Sullivan, Tim (Fulton Gdn Club)
Front Row L-R: Nancy McCormick, Shirley & Jim Scrivner, David Patton
Floor: Scout Patton, official workshop "Therapy Dog"
Not Pictured: Steve Garr

Photos by everyone! We put a camera in the room & folks snapped pics when desired!



MOBS members came from far and wide to participate in the workshop: St. Louis, Holt's Summit, Fulton, Russellville, Jefferson City, and Leawood, Kansas!



See pics from this workshop on the Missouri Bluebird Society Facebook Page!



*The following MOBS Members have either joined or renewed their **membership** since our last issue of **The Fledgling**. We **Welcome** our new members and we **Thank** renewing members for their continued support!*

BOBBY ARNOLD, DAVID & BETH BLIESE, DAMON BOND, JOAN BOWEN, BETTY BROWNER, ROGER & JUDY CARSTENS, RON & VALERIE DENT, LARRY & MARY DOBSON, ROGER DUNN, DR. & MRS. TOM HALL, CATHY HARRIS, ROBERT HAWKINS, GORDON HOPP, JERRY & LORRETTA KOCH, BARBARA LUTE, NANCY MCCORMICK, VERONICA MECKO, J. KENT NELSON, CHARLIE REDENBAUGH, TERRY ROHSLAN, JAMES & SHIRLEY SCRIVNER, SANDY SULLVAN, DEBORAH THOMPSON

The Lakewood Garden Club of Lee's Summit made a kind donation and received a one year Supporter MOBS Membership.

What's for Dinner? (and let's not forget lunch!) at the 2016 Bluebird Conference!

Friday evening's "Bluebird Banquet" will be catered by local favorite "Oscar's Classic Diner". Repeatedly voted a "Jefferson City favorite", conference attendees can look forward to Applewood smoked brisket, marinated chicken breast, veggies, salad, and the BEST dinner rolls you have ever tasted. What a bargain! (dessert by MOBS Members)



Don't forget the "Bluebirds and Friends" 2016 slide show! Email pics to steve@birds-i-view.biz a **maximum of 5 pics** in jpg format, 350 kb or less, by June 1st to have YOUR cavity-nester pics included in the program. (please native cavity-nesters only).



And on the menu for Saturday evening... Camaraderie, roasted hot dogs, and the great outdoors! Well, and the shelter of the 100 year old barn at Mockingbird Hill in Jefferson City. Our Saturday evening social will feature good times and good food with friends! Our thanks to our special hosts Norm and Beth Stucky.

Lunch Saturday 6/11/16

Chef Rathert is back by popular demand...Jim's Chicken and Wild Rice Soup!

PLUS.....Sides, and fixins and desserts by MOBS talented and generous members! Bring anything you like. From veggies to cookies to salad...just a little something to pitch in. **Still unsure? Give Regina a call at 573-638-2473 or email regina@birds-i-view.biz.** Drop food contributions off at Carver Farm after 5:30 pm on Friday 6/10/16 or between 8—8:45 Saturday morning, 6/11/16.

Tell us about your 2016 Bluebird Trail!

Larry Dobson, MOBS, Vice-president



Soon we will be meeting and greeting each other at the 10th Annual Missouri Bluebird Conference being held in Jefferson City. At last year's conference in Springfield, we caught you unprepared when we asked attendees to report how many nest boxes, eggs, fledglings and other species they had seen while monitoring their nest boxes. But people mentally visited their trails and estimated the results. The results were astounding. This year I challenge you to come to conference prepared to report the results of your birding efforts as of June 10th. Tell us **how many nest boxes** you monitor, what **species** you have found in your nest boxes, **how many eggs** of each species, and **how many babies and fledglings** you have observed so far. It will be fun to see how many nest boxes and birds we are monitoring and supporting. There might even be a prize or two to give out for participation and the highest numbers.

Reporting our results in midseason will help members prepare the end of year nesting report. As always, MOBS encourages all of our members to complete a summary sheet of their nest boxes findings and report that to Nest Box/Trail Data Chair, Greg Samuel. The Missouri Bluebird Society 2015 Nesting Report is posted on the MOBS website: www.missouribluebird.org Have a look and see how successful MOBS members have been.

See you in Jefferson City on June 10, 11 and 12.

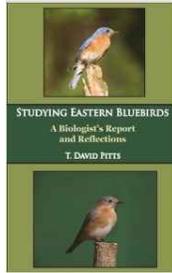


2016 Missouri Bluebird Conference Auction/Raffle

Lets take a peak at what's in store!



MOBS President Steve Garr stands beside a Pileated Woodpecker nest box he designed and built. He is donating one of these to the Auction! Check out the size compared to the Bluebird Nest box in the left of the picture.



ABOVE:
Dr. Pitts is generously donating a few of his terrific books "Studying Eastern Bluebirds"! (Signed by the author of course)



Remember this Print?

This 17 X 11 print was auctioned off at the very first Missouri Bluebird Conference ten years ago! It is signed and dated by Jim Rathert and has a special notation by Jim about the significance of the occasion. Well...the recipient of the print is donating it back to MOBS to be in the Silent Auction again and it will AGAIN be signed and dated by Jim Rathert commemorating the 10 year anniversary!

Check out the **MOBS Conference Brochure** for everything you need to know to contribute to this years Auction/ Raffle. FYI....It is very important this year in particular to let Auction chair Larry Dobson know ahead of time what you plan to donate. Please contact Larry at 816-331-2888 or lldobson@aol.com. And **THANK YOU** for donating to our organization's main fundraising program!



Farewell to a Special Bluebirder

April 7th Bluebirds and Bluebirders lost a very special friend, **Loren Hughes**. Together with his wife Gretchen (who passed away in 2010) Loren founded the **East Central Illinois Bluebird Society (ECIBS)**. Loren was 86 years old at the time of his passing and a resident of Paris, IL.

One example of Loren and Gretchen's kind thoughtfulness: At the very first Missouri Bluebird Conference in 2006 they showed up with nearly 100 miniature wooden nest boxes which Loren had constructed and made into magnets. Gretchen had printed out MOBS Logos and affixed them to each magnet. There were enough to give one to each attendee! A special man that will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be sent to: Hughes Family c/o Lorna Reeley - 608 Chestnut Dr - St Joseph, IL 61873.

The family requests all memorials to go to ECIBS.

Those should be sent to: Janice Thode - 2420 County Road 0 North - Broadlands, IL 61816 and marked "Loren Hughes memorial donation".

Is it time to Renew your MOBS Membership? Memberships expire on **December 31st of the year of expiration.**

Check your mailing label to see if you need to renew.

Please mail your renewal form, along with your check or money order (payable to **MOBS**) to:

Missouri Bluebird Society/ P.O. Box 105830/ Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ city/state _____ Zip _____

County: _____ Email: _____

Membership Levels:

____ Individual one year membership \$9.00 ____ DONOR (Annual) \$50.00 ____ *Family LIFE Membership \$175.00

____ Individual two year membership \$16.00 ____ SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00

____ *Family one year membership \$15.00

____ *Family two year membership \$28.00

*For individuals residing at the same address

How many nest boxes do you monitor? _____

How long have you been a Bluebirder? _____



Check out the special
Commemorative
Logoi (compriments
of Jim Rathert
photography)



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Jefferson City, MO 65110

The Fledgling 2016 Spring Issue

- **The 2016 Bluebird conference SPEAKERS profiles and Topics (Bluebirds and Hummers and Woodpeckers, OH My!)**
- **Hotel Deadline for Missouri Bluebird Conference... May 9th! Don't delay!**
- **What is the "House sparrow Egg Swap" Program? Should you participate?**
- **Help! I found a baby bird!**

