

SUMMER 2022

September 2022

The Fledgling



The official Newsletter of the Missouri Bluebird Society



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

Letter from the President:

Over the years MOBS has had outstanding volunteers that have held positions as Board Members and Officers. Mary List is a member of the outstanding volunteers that served as Treasurer and helped at the registration table during the conferences. That is why we were honored to bestow on her the MOBS "True Blue Service Award". She was unable to attend this meeting because she has moved to Indiana to help take care of her aging mom. She also stepped down as MOBS' Treasure and we need a member to step up and take her place. **Please note this can be done (and has been done) by a member NOT in the Jefferson City area.** Please contact me if you would like more information. MOBS needs a Treasurer.



Photo by Steve Garr

Other members also helped with the conference again this year and it makes it so nice when so many volunteer. So, thank you Greg, Laura, Ron, Elisa, Linda, Bob, Ann, Carol, Betty, Regina, Jim **and all the others** that took the time to make arrangements in advance to help out and be responsible for getting things done during the conference!

Once again, the donations for the silent auction and raffle were fantastic and the proceeds will help fund the 2023 conference. As you can see we already have a great lineup of excellent presenters and field trips.

Now about our Bluebirds... 2021 was rough on our Bluebirds but your dedication to helping them is paying off. After just one year of many asking me "where are our Bluebirds?", I have had multiple reports of fantastic nesting numbers and several reports of their "best year ever". Oh, what a difference a year can make. Do not give up and keep up the good work and of course send in you nesting reports to Greg.

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr
MOBS president



Would you prefer to receive your copy of *The Fledgling* "Email Only"? Send an email to the Editor at: regina@birds-i-view.biz Specify your name and "Email Only Fledgling"



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MOBS
PO BOX 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110
www.missouribluebird.org

Missouri Bluebird Society Officers & Board of Directors

President....Steve Garr steve@birds-i-view.biz 573-638-2473

Vice-President and Nesting Data Chair: Greg Samuel finleycreekfarm@gmail.com 417-767-2241

Secretary & Fledgling Editor...Regina Garr regina@birds-i-view.biz 573-638-2473

Treasurer...Vacant Board Member....Jim Rathert jim@jimrathert.com

Board Member....Bob Siemer AEE623@prodigy.net Board Member ...Ann Earley AEE623@prodigy.net

MOBS Webmaster ..Ann Smith thesmiths91@yahoo.com 636-629-8267

2023 Missouri Bluebird Conference



Photo from www.moprairie.org



July 14th – 16th
2023
Jefferson City, MO
Lincoln University Carver Farm

Featuring:

FUN & Educational Field Trips and Presentations!

- **Nadia Navarrete-Tindall**, Native Plant Specialist, presents **“Native Edibles for People and Bluebirds”**

PLUS... Field Trip to the **Lincoln University “FINCA”** (Families Integrating Nature, Conservation, and Agriculture). This demonstration farm tour is sure to be a memorable learning experience.

- **Bob Peak** has managed over 200 nest boxes for the past 33 years and has kept exceptional records on his trails. To date, these trails have produced **39,963 Eastern Bluebirds** and **3127 fledglings of seven other native species!** Bob has contributed informative submissions to NABS’s Bluebird Journal, including a recent one in the Summer 2022 issue, titled “Some Uncommon Bluebird Nestlings” about atypically colored bluebird nestlings.

- **Ivan Ray Miller** shares his knowledge and decades of experience! Ivan hosted **142 pair of nesting Purple Martins** at his home during the 2022 nesting season, as well as Northern Flickers, Bluebirds, and many other native cavity-nesting birds. He also monitors a **Prothonotary warbler** trail on his farm.

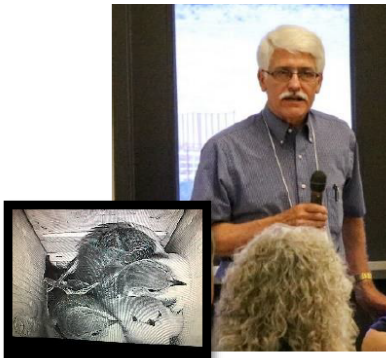
- **“Bluebird Basics”** and other Birding and Nature Programs!

And of course: Our Annual Friday Bluebird Banquet, Saturday Picnic, and time spent together at the one and only **“Mockingbird Hill”** for food, friendship, and bird walks!

Missouri Bluebird Society

www.missouribluebird.org

Contact Steve and Regina at 573-638-2473 for more details





Don't pass up this chance to enter this very special **photo contest!** It benefits the Missouri River Bird Observatory and their conservation efforts. **More details at:** www.mrbo.org after October 1, 2022

Bird Photographers get ready!

Beginning **October 1st** you will want to go to the MRBO website to check out how to enter the annual Missouri River Bird Observatory Photo Contest. There are youth and adult divisions and great prizes! www.mrbo.org after Oct. 1st.

A Lifelong Interest in Bluebirds

by Bernie Bahr and his daughter, Cindy

Bernie B. grew up on a farm, and one of his chores was caring for the family garden plot. He recalls seeing the same bluebird on a fencepost as he grumped through his weeding and hoeing. He realized that the fencepost site was used to scout for insects. Curiosity led to a crude attempt to encourage nesting -- the young boy cut a hole in a coffee can and nailed it to the fencepost. Amazingly, a bluebird pair nested there. That was the start of a life-long interest in the bird.

Bernie now lives in a retirement community in St. Louis County and has found the 20+ acre site to be an excellent habitat for bluebirds. There are many trees next to open grassy areas, allowing the birds to keep a watchful eye on their nesting mate. The trees also offer scouting

sites for insects which bluebirds can see up to 50 yards away. In colonial America, the birds nested in tree cavities, but those sites



have rapidly dwindled. Like many species, bluebirds have adapted to humans by nesting in birdhouses.

Five birdhouses are located near the edges of the grassy areas. In the photo, an occupant sits on top of a house near the northwest

corner of the community's property. This year, those five houses hosted 18 fledglings. One house was barren, but another saw three broods thrive. This success is partially due to an obsession with the removal of sparrow nests from the houses. A sparrow can re-build a nest in a day, so it is a true challenge to obstruct them.

And, by the way, Bernie has an additional 26 houses on his property, at a nearby cemetery and at other locations in Montgomery County. Bernie apologizes to MOBS for not tracking and reporting this trail, but it is not possible to be thorough when he does not reside there.

Bernie Bahr is a Life Member of the Missouri Bluebird Society and resides in the St. Louis area. MOBS appreciates his lifelong contributions to Bluebirds and other native cavity nesters.

Bluebirds Across Nebraska 2023 Annual Conference



April 28th and 29th, 2023.....Platte River State Park

We'll see you there!

www.bbne.org



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.** You may also email Regina at regina@birds-i-view.biz if you need assistance. 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 ____ +Senior Family LIFE mbshp \$100.00

____ *Family one year membership \$15.00

How many nest boxes do you monitor? _____

____ *Family two year membership \$28.00

How long have you been a Bluebirder? _____

*For individuals residing at the same address

+for individuals 65 + years of age


Mark your Calendar!

Upcoming events from the Missouri Department of Conservation: [Go to www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov) from more info

- ♦ **September 27th, 2-4 pm** Monarch Butterfly Tagging at Runge Conservation Nature Center
- ♦ **September 27th, 3-4 pm** Butterfly Picnic at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
- ♦ **October 1st, 10 am—3 pm** Native Plant Sale and “Connecting to the Land” at Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center.
- ♦ **October 1st, 1-3 pm** “Trees of Tower Grove Park” at Tower Grove Park
- ♦ **October 4th, 6-7:30 pm** “Reptiles and Amphibians” at the Springfield Conservation Nature Center



Please check the MDC website and /or the individual Nature Centers for information on registering for these events.

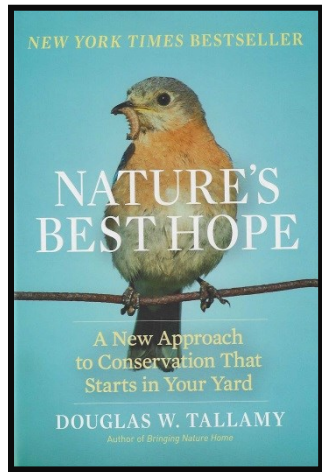
MOBS Nest Box Trail Summary						
			Trail Name:		Year:	
Trail Monitor:						
Address / City:						
County:						
Number of Nest Boxes:			Number of "Unused Boxes:			
Species	Total Nesting Attempts	Total Successful Nests	Total eggs laid	Total of White EABL Eggs	Total Chicks	Total Fledged
❖ <i>A successful nest is considered to be one that has fledged at least one chick</i>						
How often was the trail monitored:						
First date monitored for the season:			Last date monitored for the season:			
Signature of Trail Monitor:					Date:	
Please send this completed form to: Greg Samuel 4749 State Highway Z, Fordland, MO 65652						
Please mail form to arrive by December 31st						
Everyone's data is important! Please report your data to MOBS www.missouribluebird.org						
If you would like to enter your nesting data SUMMARY online instead of mailing it, Please use this address: https://tinyurl.com/2p8vrdpe						

Remember to send in your “Trail Summary Report” (page 5) so your data can be counted and compiled with other MOBS members! Truly, everyone’s data is valuable— whether you monitor one box or hundreds! 2022 Trail results will be printed in an upcoming issue of *The Fledgling!*



Bluebird Pic by Greg Samuel

Greg Samuel



Most folks are familiar with (or even own) the ground-breaking book by Doug Tallamy *Bringing Nature Home*. Well a more recent book of his is pictured left: ***Nature’s Best Hope***.

Mr. Tallamy coined the phrase “**Homegrown National Park**” (find out what that’s about) and included a terrific FAQ section in the book. **YOU could win your own copy of this terrific book!** Simply submit your 2022 Nesting Report (via USPS or online) by **Dec 31st** to be eligible to win.

Complete the form on Page 5 of this newsletter and Mail it to the address listed on the form to be entered to win the book pictured left

....OR...

this year, thanks to excellent work by MOBS member Laura Samuel, you have the option to enter your 2022 nesting data **ONLINE!**

Just go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8vrdpe>

L-R...Sandy Seibert and wall-hanging winner Susan Dyer.



MOBS 2022 Auction/Raffle

Of course, MOBS is grateful to each and every one of our Auction/Raffle contributors AND participants. However this year MOBS members (and textile crafters Extraordinaires) Sandy Seibert and Terrie Darling really went the extra mile with hand-crafted specialties that were indeed stars of the Auction/Raffle. We **thank them** for sharing their time and talent for MOBS.

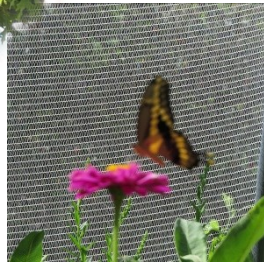


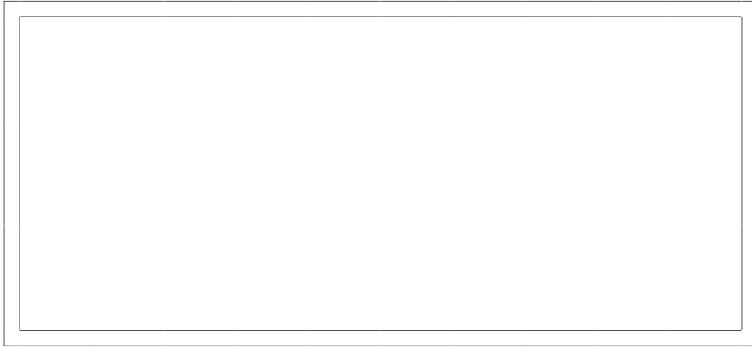
Sandy Seibert’s “Who’s the Cutest?” wall hanging (left) and Terrie Darling’s Bluebird Quilt (right).



MOBS 2022

July 8th– 10th
Springfield, MO





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- **Nest Box/Trail Summary Report Form enclosed!**
We can't wait to hear from you about "your" birds!
- **Pics** from the 2022 MOBS Bluebird Conference!
- MOBS member Submission-
"A Lifelong interest in Bluebirds"
- **2023 Bluebird Conference Info Enclosed!!**
Are the birds in YOUR county being represented?



Photo by Steve Garr