

FALL 2022

November 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....

Dear MOBS Members,

It has been a beautiful Fall here in Mid-Missouri. I am wishing everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving Season!

And speaking of thankful— I have many people to thank in this letter. For starters, I am so grateful for the two very special members who stepped up to fill positions for MOBS when the call went out. I am **pleased** to announce that Carol Ware is the Society's new Treasurer and that Jack Corrigan has volunteered to fill the newly-formed position of "Grant Program Ambassador". (read more on page 3).

I know Regina wants me to thank those members who have contributed submissions to this newsletter. It is truly so helpful to have members willing to share their experiences and ideas—especially when they share them in ready-to-print copy! So great job Joanie and Joe and Ron. Thank you for contributing to this issue.

Please turn in your nesting data to Greg Samuel by Dec 31st REMEMBER...we have opened reporting up to members **and** NON-members alike. If you know someone who provides nest boxes for cavity nesters in Missouri and they are not MOBS members, please urge them to report their nesting data. Thanks to the good work of Laura Samuel they can now do so ONLINE (see page 7). Folks have been asking us for years to provide a way to enter their data online...and thanks to Laura, now we have! Still, if preferred, they may use the form in the newsletter to mail or email to Greg Samuel.

Lastly, mark your calendar for the [Bluebirds Across Nebraska Conference](#) April 28th and 29th at Platte River State Park. I will look forward to seeing you there!

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,
Steve Garr, MOBS President

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.

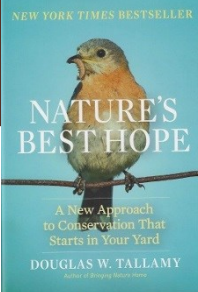


Inside This Issue:

- Letter from the President.....Pg1
- Inspired for **Chimney Swifts!**Pg2
- WELCOME committed members in NEW roles for MOBS.....Pg3
- Fall Trail Check List.....Pg3
- Bluebird Program for FGC.....Pg4
- **MOBS 2023 Annual Conference....Pg5**
- MORE outreach by MOBS members..Pg6
- Thank you Members and Donors.....Pg6
- Trail Summary **Report Form....Pg 7** (or ...NEW this year: report online!)

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" In the subject line.



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Missouri Bluebird Society 2022 Officers & Board of Directors

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

Vice- President & Nest Box Data Chair..... Greg Samuel finleycreekfarm@gmail.com 417-767-2241

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Newly appointed Treasurer! ...Carole Ware (contact info TBA)

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

MOBS' CONFERENCE PICNIC IGNITED SPARKS!!!

By Joanie Cradick

MOBS' 2022 CONFERENCE IN SPRINGFIELD ignited sparks in the birding hearts of the Nebraska bluebirders attending this past July. The speakers were great. The food was super. The Springfield Botanical Gardens were fabulous. Reconnecting with friends and making the acquaintance of new birding amigos was delightful.

But, spotting four tall and narrow sparkling white towers from the picnic grounds that Saturday, was the creme de la creme. Bluebird Across Nebraska (BAN) members couldn't resist taking a closer look at the chimney swift structures. BAN had, in the past, considered building a tower or towers for swifts but the project never materialized. Supporting bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds, including chickadees, wood ducks and kestrels, has been our focus.

What luck it was to talk to MOBS member, Greg Samuel, who erected the towers at the behest of Springfield Botanical Gardens. Samuel, crediting Jim Fossard as the man who financed and donated the towers, stood by to answer our questions and flesh out the building details that Saturday.

Samuel informed us about swift background, including the fact that, typically, one nesting pair will nest in a tower while simultaneously providing shelter for hundreds of roosting swifts.

Alluding to a helpful book by Texans Paul and Georgean Kyle entitled, "Chimney Swift Towers/ New Habitat for America's Mysterious Birds," Samuel chatted with us about the building ma-

terials and specs, patiently answering our questions as they arose.

"What is important is the product inside (the towers)--the cedar-wrap siding," he said, pointing out the advantage of rough or scored wood which enables swifts to cling vertically to the walls with their specialized, forward-facing claw-like feet and balance on the stiff shafts of their tail feathers.

When BAN members returned



Photo by Scott Somershoe

home from the conference, a lively discussion ensued. Awareness that swifts are vulnerable plus the combination of seeing completed towers and visiting with knowledgeable builder Samuel set us in motion. Research began. Web sites were explored. Folks were contacted in Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, No. Carolina and Texas.

To date we have identified partners, developed a plan, and are in the process of exploring sites. A grant application has been submitted. A qualified

builder, Mike Pleskac, will build the tower (s), first creating a full-scale model for approval. An interpretive sign, designed by Sandy Hokenson for the Zumbro Valley Audubon Society in Minnesota, meets our needs and Hokenson has graciously given us permission to use her design.

Isn't it amazing what we learn from each other? If none of us had attended your July conference, chimney swifts would not be gaining a claw-hold in Nebraska. A huge thank you goes to MOBS' members for the venue sparking this venture and all they do to ensure a wonderful annual event. Furthermore, a heartfelt thank you goes to Missourians Greg Samuel, Regina Garr, Charles Skornia and Betty Richey for their valuable information.

Joanie Cradick holds the office of Secretary with Bluebirds Across Nebraska and is a long time and very supportive member of both BAN and MOBS. She has been an enthusiastic attendee at MOBS conferences since our inception and we appreciate her support and helpful nature!



Photo by Steve Garr
Swift towers at Springfield Bot. Gardens

Photo of swifts inside a swift tower. From Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).



MOBS Members Step Up to meet Society needs!

MOBS is pleased to announce that long time MOBS member Carol Ware is the Society's new Treasurer! Carol's official appointment came with the unanimous support of the entire Missouri Bluebird Society Board. We thank her for her willingness to serve.



After being in the corporate world working as an accounting specialist for 37 years, I decided to retire. Retired to being a member of the Loch Lloyd Home and Garden Club Treasurer for 14 years. Being a chair or co-chair of 3 committees. One of which is the Nesting Box Trail Committee. With 91 boxes to check every week in the season that keeps us busy. I enjoy playing bridge, being with family and friends and being a member of MOBS. Being with friends and loving birds is the reason I have volunteered to be the MOBS Treasurer.



The newly formed MOBS position of "Grant Program Ambassador" has been filled! Jack Corrigan of Independence has volunteered to serve in the new position which is designed to support our nest box and baffle Grant Program Recipients across the state. We'll be providing more info and details on this new position in our next issue...but for now, a BIG Thank You to Jack for filling this need!



Fall/Winter checklist for your Nest Box Trail:

- 1. Remove old nesting material and debris from boxes and clean inside of box as needed** (of course per NABS + MOBS recommendations, nesting material should be discarded after EACH fledging).
- 2. Check for any needed repairs.** Do roofs have cracks that need repaired or should roofs be replaced? Has the entrance hole size on any boxes been altered by woodpeckers or by predators? A simple remedy here is to place a metal "portal" on the entrance hole to correct the size and prevent further damage. Check baffle components to ensure stove pipe baffles are positioned correctly and have not shifted on the pole in a way that would inhibit their effectiveness.
- 3. Routinely check inside boxes** even though the nesting season has ended. Is anything roosting in the box? Evidence of roosting birds can be droppings and /or regurgitated seeds in the floor of the box. If house sparrows are roosting in the box(s) you may need to consider implementing a trapping program. Remember to use care when checking for roosting birds so as to not startle a native bird from the nice warm shelter it has found! If you do need to open the box at night, doing so in the wee hours of the morning is a better option so you don't flush birds from their warm roost before they have really settled in.
- 4. Report your nesting data to Greg Samuel via mail, email, or submit online!!** (See Pg 7)

MOBS participates in Missouri's Federated Garden Clubs SE District Annual Conference

In early October, Bluebird Society member, Joe Corio, gave a Bluebird presentation to approximately 50 members of the Southeast district of the Federated Gardens Clubs of Missouri at their annual District Conference. The conference was hosted by the Hill and Dale Garden Club. The SE District is one of the 10 districts of the Federated Garden Clubs in Missouri and part of National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) which is the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. The Southeast District covers these Missouri counties: Jefferson, Washington, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Perry, Cape Girardeau, Iron, Wayne, Bollinger,

Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Dunklin, and Butler County.

The 50-minute presentation started with information on the Missouri Bluebird Society. Joe then talked about installing and

maintaining a Bluebird trail. He used the 30 house

Bluebird trail at Kress Farm Garden Preserve in Hillsboro, MO as an example. A question and answer period followed. The presentation was well received and several clubs expressed interest in starting a Bluebird trail.



This article was submitted by Joe Corio, Chairman of the Board of the 142 acre Kress Farm Garden Preserve in Hillsboro, MO. Joe is also a very supportive Missouri Bluebird Society member and MOBS is fortunate that he is actively "spreading the good word" about native cavity-nesters. Please check out the Kress Farm website and all the good work they do: www.kressfarm.org. The farm has a 30 box nest box trail among other spectacular conservation efforts.

BTW... Note the MOBS slides in the pics of Joe giving his presentation. Please know MOBS is pleased to provide color handouts and power point program slides for YOUR next presentation! Contact Regina at regina@birds-i-view.biz or 573-638-2473



Another new Nest Box Trail launched by Ron Darling, the undisputed King of Golf Course Nest Box Trail Initiation and Development!

(how's that for a title?!) FYI...the editor made up that title, not Ron...he's much too humble.



"This is the Bluebird nesting box line-up for my 5th Golf Course Bluebird Trail. Hopefully the install will be late fall this year.

The location will be at the [Old Hickory Golf Course](#), a 260 acre jewel in the City of St. Peters."

Ron Darling, MOBS member



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 has also established a very productive **Prothonotary warbler** trail!

- **“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



The Missouri Bluebird Society is deeply appreciative of ALL our Members and Donors. THANK YOU!



Missouri Bluebird Society Life Members

Julie Anielak
Bobby + Linda Arnold
Jerry + Donna Bahls
Bernie Bahr
Craig + Sonja Berry
Dan + Lynda Blessing
Ronald + Saundra Bowen
Earl Bradfield
Ben + Jodi Caruthers
Leonard + Ellen Conrad
Ron+ Terrie Darling
Mike Delacy
Steve DeVries
Larry + Mary Dobson
GMBT, Mike Doyen
Susan Dyer
Ann Earley/Bob Siemer
Steve + Cheryl Eno
Steve+ Regina Garr
Joy + Cindy Haeffner
Dr+Mrs Thomas Hall
David + Anita Hartwig
Robert Hawkins
Jerry + Jane Hemmersmeyer
Gordon Hopp/Shari Timm

Arvil Kappelmann
Linda + David Karns
Herb + Lois Kimrey
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Bet Zimmerman Smith
Norm + Beth Stucky
Sandy + Brad Sullivan
Ron + Pauline Tom
Delores Vlach
David +Kelly Warren
Tony + Charlotte Wening
Derry +Phyllis Wolford
Sheryl Wright

2022 Donor Level Memberships:
Kevin Hall
Mary List
North American Bluebird Society
2022 Supporter Level Memberships:
Ron+Terrie Darling*
Dave + Anita Hartwig*
*also Life Members

The Following individuals have placed membership or renewed their membership since the last issue:

Joe Corio, Terry Dankel, Linda Larson, Harold Nagel, Dudley Pautz, Jim Prenger, Della Rhoades, Rachel Thomas, Kris + Bill Vellema

Generous donations have been made by Joe Corio and by Susan Dyer to The Missouri Bluebird Society.

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

Contact info for Greg Samuel: finleycreekfarm@gmail.com or 417-767-2241

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 31 st							
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>

www.missouribluebird.org



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Jefferson City, MO 65110

The Fledgling FALL 2022

Inside this issue:

- *Fall Check List for your Trail and Nest Boxes*
- *GREAT member submissions...including info on Chimney Swifts, New Trails, and Educational Programs.*
- *The 2023 Missouri Bluebird Conference (Don't miss it!)*
- *Nesting Data Reporting form enclosed... TRULY, everyone's Data is so important. Please share!*

