

Summer 2010

June 2010



The Fledgling

The official Newsletter of the Missouri Bluebird Society



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

Inside This Issue:

President's LetterPg 1

Summer Bluebird Tips.....Pg 2
Snakes & Birds.....Pg 2

**Missouri Bluebird
Conference Brochure &
Registration Form....Pg 3- 6**

Conference Map.....**Insert**

Providing Nest Boxes for MANY
Native Species!.....Pg 7

MOBS Donors & Supporters.....Pg7

From the President...

Oh Happy Bluebirders!

This year many are reaping the success of last year's work. New people are enjoying bluebirds for the first time. The beautiful blue and the sweet songs of the bluebird are being enjoyed by more and more people because of all the work bluebirders have been doing over the years. We have learned that it takes more than just putting up boxes to be successful with bluebirds. Monitoring and controlling problems is proving the best way to help bluebirds thrive. At the conference, I will be sharing some of the joy we all have experienced over the past years in our desire to bring back bluebirds for everyone. We have some fantastic speakers & field trips lined up for you and I think there will be something for everyone to enjoy. I want to thank everyone who is contributing their time and effort to make this conference come together. Please take time to join us at the Conference this year as we share our bluebird success stories and learn from one another!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Steve Garr

MOBS

PO BOX 105830

Jefferson City, MO 65110

www.missouribluebird.org

2010 Missouri Bluebird Conference !
Sept. 24th & 25th

Missouri Bluebird Society 2009 / 2010 Officers & Board of Directors

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

Board Member...Jack Dodson jackdodson@missouribluebird.org

Board Member....Jim Rathert birdfoto@mchsi.com

Vice- President...Janelle Schulte jf101spots@aol.com
573-295-6820

Board Member....Julian Distler maryanndistler@aol.com
573-635-2030

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

Treasurer...Tammy Simmons blizzard@socket.net

"The Fledgling" Editor: Regina Garr regina@birds-i-view.biz 573-638-2473

MOBS Website "Webmaster".....Jack Dodson jackdodson@missouribluebird.org



Summer Bluebird Reminders *by Steve Garr*

1. Remove used nests from boxes after birds have fledged
2. Check boxes routinely for ants & parasites and control as needed
3. Remember to make allowance for HEAT this summer --add roof overhang, move boxes, or make adjustments as necessary to control heat inside the boxes.
4. Keep vigilant with house sparrow control
5. Provide water for Bluebirds and all birds
6. Record your nest box/trail findings to report to MOBS at season's end.
7. Register NOW to attend the Missouri Bluebird Conference in Jefferson City, Missouri September 24th & 25th!

Snakes in Bluebird Boxes....Just Nature?? *by Regina Garr*

For decades, I have heard the occasional comment that it is inappropriate to baffle our nest boxes against snake predation because “Snakes have to eat too, and after all, it is just nature for them to eat birds”. A recent study by researchers at the University of Illinois and conducted in Southern Illinois, shed some very interesting light onto the topic of snake predation. For the study, researchers implanted rat snakes with radio transmitters to retrieve data, plus tracked the happenings at over 300 bird nests (not in nest boxes). They also monitored other nests which weren't an official part of the study via video cameras. Here's a few highlights:

- Snake predation is higher in “fragmented forested areas”. (snakes go into the wooded area to eat and come back out to the edges or open area to regulate body temperature, breed, and shed their skin)
- Snake predation is much higher on nests where young are being fed than where eggs are being incubated.

My own nest box records over the years certainly concur with that second statement! And I think many other bluebirders would agree that it seems to be the nestlings that are the most often preyed on by snakes. Why? Researchers point to observations of snakes watching parent birds flying back and forth to the same place to feed young.

Another comment made by one of the researchers in this study, caught my eye: ***“Everywhere there have been camera studies, as long as it is wooded or semi-wooded habitat, rat snakes emerge as the single most important predator. They're common throughout the range and they're really good at finding bird nests”***

I also think that it is significant that rat snakes appear to gain an advantage with the *unnatural* fragmentation of forested areas due to development, etc. Considering the above information, I have concluded that the rat snake predation in my nest box atop a metal pole is really not terribly “natural” and I will continue to use baffles to protect bluebirds in my nest boxes. The rat snakes appear to be doing quite well without bluebird meals from my boxes! Check out this study at www.sciencedaily.com/release2010/05/100504124738.htm

Journal Reference: Linking snake behavior to nest predation in a Midwestern bird community. Ecological Applications 2010;20 (1): 234 DOI: [10.1890/09-0059.1](https://doi.org/10.1890/09-0059.1)

2010 Missouri Bluebird Conference

Cedar City Room in the North Jefferson City Multipurpose Building
For directions only Call 573-634-6482; Call Steve Garr at 573-638-2473 for conference info

Jefferson City, Missouri

Sept 24th & 25th, 2010

www.missouribbluebird.org



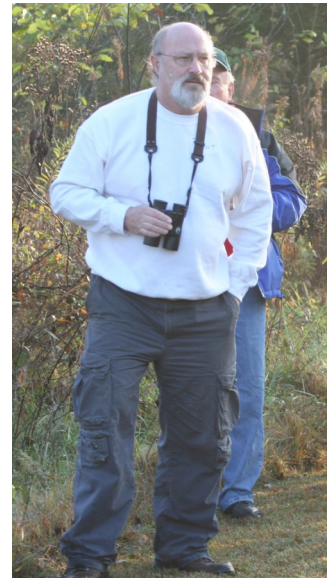
Jim Rathert: Our Keynote Speaker !

**Come join us for a Conference
dedicated to
Missouri's State Bird
and featuring
Missouri's Favorite Wildlife Photographer!**



Male Eastern Bluebird Photo by Jim Rathert

Jim Rathert (pictured right) is the retired Wildlife Photographer for the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine. His vast knowledge of all native birds, including Bluebirds, combined with his fabulous photography, makes Jim's program one you will not want to miss!



Jim is a founding Board Member of the **Missouri Bluebird Society** and the society has Jim to thank for donating his time and talent to create the spectacular Logo for the organization (pictured above).

In addition to the many other conservation efforts in which he has been a part, one of Jim's most recent contributions is the development of a wonderful Community **Wild Bird Garden** within one of Jefferson City's most popular city parks. Much planning and organization went into the creation of this special garden— designed especially for the enjoyment of birders. It includes a unique “water bubbler” irresistible to birds. In addition to his presentation at the Bluebird Conference, **Jim will also be leading attendees on a Field Trip to this exceptional bird garden.** Don't miss it!

Area Hotel Options:

Hotel DeVille.... 573-636-5231 (Special Rates for Missouri Bluebird Conference)

Days Inn 573-761-3600

2100 Jefferson St., Jefferson City, MO 65109

Econo Lodge....573-636-2797

1926 Jefferson St, Jefferson City, MO 65109

www.missouribbluebird.org

Directions & Map to Conference

*****PLEASE NOTE: *****

The Missouri Bluebird Society is not recommending the use of mapping software based on the street address alone of our Conference Site. Please use the directions MOBS provides to the Conference Site on their website : **www.missouribbluebird.org**

You may call 573-634-6482 for

Directions **ONLY**.



2010 Missouri Bluebird Conference

Friday, Sept 24th & Saturday, Sept. 25th, 2010

**Cedar City Room in the North Jefferson City Multipurpose Building
Jefferson City, Missouri**

Conference Information: call Steve Garr at 573-638-2473
for **directions** please call 573-634-6482 & see information at bottom of page

Friday 09/24/10

5:30 pm : Registration table opens—Although, not necessary to register for Friday night program

6:00 -7:00pm **Open to the Public- “Bluebirding for Everyone” -Steve Garr**

(No charge for attending the Friday night program)

Saturday 09/25/10

7:30 am **Early morning bird walk** –led by River Bluffs Audubon Society

9:00 am Conference Registration Table Opens - pick up Conference Packets

9:30 am **Welcome, annual meeting, and elections**

10:00 am Break (Raffle/ Auction bidding- Snacks, coffee, etc.)

10:15 am **Keynote Speaker: Jim Rathert** – Jim is the retired Wildlife Photographer for the ***Missouri Conservationist*** magazine. His vast knowledge of all native birds, including Bluebirds, combined with his fabulous photography, makes Jim’s program one you will not want to miss!

11:15 am Break- snacks/coffee & raffle /auction bidding

11:30 am **Steve Smith** - Nest Box Styles for a variety of Cavity- Nesting birds

12:30 pm **LUNCH!** (Included in the Conference Registration Fee)

1:30 pm **Jack Dodson-** Feeding Mealworms , Plus an update on the new
MOBS Website & BLOG

2:15 pm Break – Raffle/Auction bidding--Snacks

2:30 pm : **Raffle & Auction closes** Pick up & pay for product

3:00 pm : Travel to Afternoon Field trip

3:30-5:30 pm **Afternoon Field Trip**

5:30 pm **Conference Concludes at end of field trip**

How can you help make a Successful & Fun conference?

Contact our Raffle/Silent Auction Chair, Janelle Schulte, about bringing items for the Raffle/ Auction. This is our organizations largest source of income for the year, so contributions are appreciated! This helps to fund the next Bluebird Conference. **Contact Janelle at : jf101spots@aol.com** If you need to send Raffle/Auction items ahead of time for the conference please make arrangements with Janelle.

Directions & Map

included on the MOBS Website as soon as possible!

*****PLEASE NOTE: *****

It appears that MapQuest, Yahoo Maps, & other mapping systems are giving **INCORRECT DIRECTIONS** based on the street address alone of our Conference Site. Please use the directions MOBS provides to the Conference Site. You may call 573-634-6482 for Directions **ONLY**.

Missouri Bluebird Society
2010 Missouri Bluebird Conference
Jefferson City, Missouri
Sept 24th & 25th, 2010
www.missouribbluebird.org



A Few of our Spectacular Conference Speakers !

Steve Garr is President of the Missouri Bluebird Society, Bluebird Columnist for the *Nature Society News*, and a former President, Vice-President, and Board member of the North American Bluebird Society. He has co-founded two separate State Bluebird Societies, and has maintained Nest Box Trails and backyard nest boxes since the early 1980's. Much of Steve's research on Bluebirds has focused on bringing Bluebirds back to suburban and metropolitan areas. His presentation "**Bluebirding for Everyone**" will equip Bluebird enthusiasts— from beginners to veterans- to successfully maintain nest boxes in a variety of habitats.



Steve Smith and his wife Ann live in rural Sullivan and are charter members of the Missouri Bluebird Society and members of the North American Bluebird Society. Steve's interest in birding started as a young boy when his dad shared his interest in bluebirds. This turned into a lifelong journey of being an avid birder and outdoorsman. Steve currently works for the Sullivan Parks Department which allows him to help in the education and promotion of bluebird conservation along with all other species of cavity nesting birds. He has built over 15 different types of nesting boxes for personal use and for sale. Steve monitors 4 bluebird trails for a total of 30 nesting boxes. Data and photos are taken and sent to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology for their Nestwatch program. Steve has been a citizen scientist for Cornell for over 10 years and has participated in their project feeder watch. Steve's presentation will highlight Nest Box Styles for a variety of our native Cavity-Nesting Species!

Jack Dodson will present "**Growing Mealworms – a supplemental food for Bluebirds**". Jack is a native of Missouri who is a family doctor by trade and an amateur naturalist at heart. He is also a Board Member, the Webmaster, and past President of the Missouri Bluebird Society. Jack maintains an extensive nest box trail in Jefferson City, Missouri with a wide variety of nest boxes styles and in a diversity of habitats. He will also be presenting information on the Society's newly developed **Website & BLOG!**



www.missouribbluebird.org

The Missouri Bluebird Society invites you attend the Fifth Annual
Missouri Bluebird Conference
September 24th & 25th, 2010

The North Jefferson City Multi-Purpose Building Jefferson City, Missouri

(in the "North Jefferson City Cedar City Room")

See our website for Map & Directions or call 573-634-6482, M-F, 8 am-5pm for directions

Call 573-638-2473 for *Steve or Regina Garr* for conference information

www.missouribuebird.org

Registration for the 2010 Missouri Bluebird Society Conference

Please make Checks payable to:

The Missouri Bluebird Society and mail to: Missouri Bluebird Society/ P.O. BOX 105830 /Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name(s) _____

Street Address : _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ Email : _____

Missouri Bluebird Society members: please enclose **\$20.00** for each member attending the conference

Non-Members of Missouri Bluebird Society: please enclose **\$25.00** for each non-member attending

Lunch and a "Bluebird Information Packet" are included in your Registration Fee

Please choose from the following Lunch Options:

Lunch catered by **Roly Poly Sandwiches** in Jefferson City

Number of Lunches

_____ Roast Beef Sandwich with chips, dessert , drink
_____ Monster Veggie Sandwich with chips, dessert, drink
_____ Roasted Turkey Sandwich with chips, dessert, drink

Total number of Members attending: _____ **Total number of Non-Members attending** _____

Total \$ amount enclosed for Conference Fees: \$ _____

Please Note that the conference registration fee does NOT include membership dues

Not yet a Missouri Bluebird Society Member ??? Join now and save on your Bluebird Conference Registration Fee! (Please enclose check for dues with this membership application)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

Total \$ amount enclosed for Membership Dues: \$ _____

Membership Levels:

(Mail check to: PO Box 105830/Jefferson City, MO 65110)

_____ Individual one year membership \$9.00
_____ Individual two year membership \$16.00
_____ Family one year membership \$15.00
_____ Family two year membership \$28.00
_____ DONOR (Annual) \$50.00
_____ SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00

The Missouri Bluebird Society gratefully acknowledges 2010 Donor & Supporter members!

DONORS

Leslie Limberg, Wentzville, MO
Charles & Sheryl Wright, Holt's Summit, MO

SUPPORTERS

Tom Smith, Columbia, MO
Charlotte Wiggins, Rolla, MO



ABOVE: Piliated Woodpecker and
Barred Owl boxes.

Steve Smith
will be one of our
Conference Speakers
Don't miss the opportunity to hear (and see!)
all about his work to
help so MANY different
types of our Native
Cavity-nesting species.
Read about Steve on
our "speakers Page" of
the Conference
Brochure, and check
out these photos!



LEFT: Steve working in his
shop on a bluebird and
wren nesting box order.



ABOVE: Nesting box display at the Sullivan
Home and Garden Show. Boxes shown are
bluebird, woodpecker, owl, wren, winter roosting
box and more.



RIGHT: Putting up Wood Duck nesting
box in late March at the
Sullivan City Lake.

Next *Fledgling* Issue submission deadline: Aug. 16

Email submissions to regina@birds-i-view.biz

Or mail to : MOBS , Fledgling Editor / PO BOX 105830/Jefferson City, MO 65110



Conference Registration
Brochure Enclosed!

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

The Fledgling 2010 Summer Issue

- **Missouri Bluebird Conference** *Details Inside*
- **Bluebird Conference Registration Form**
- **What about Snakes? (interesting study)**
- **Boxes for Owls, Woodpeckers, Kestrels, Wood Ducks, Mason Bees, AND Bluebirds of course!**

Eastern Bluebird Fledgling (taken 6/12/10)
Photo by Steve Garr

