

Summer 2017
JUNE 2017



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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Send an email to the Editor at:
regina@birds-i-view.biz

Specify your name and

"Email Only Fledgling"

In the subject line.



MOBS

PO BOX 105830

Jefferson City, MO 65110

www.missouribluebird.org



I want to take this opportunity to thank this year's Conference chairs, Larry and Mary Dobson, for all of their planning and diligent work. They have worked hard to bring us a special event and I am sure they have succeeded. I also want to say a big thank you to Bob and Judy Peak and to Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke. These folks will be presenting programs for us at the conference and have taken time out of their very busy schedules to do so. All four of these individuals have a wealth of knowledge to share and have been great friends to MOBS. I am looking forward to learning more from them!

Do what you can to

help the Bluebirds

Steve Garr

MOBS president



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Reminder about the “Bluebirds and Friends” slide show!

Don't forget to choose your favorite pics of YOUR birds and email them to Steve (JPG format only please to : steve@birds-i-view.biz) for inclusion in the Bluebirds and Friends slide show at the Bluebird Conference. This is always such a fun part of the conference— to see everyone's birds and pictures “on the Big Screen” as we enjoy each other's company! Please email a **Maximum of FIVE images** to Steve at steve@birds-i-view.biz. Please only include **Cavity-nesting species (Native cavity-nesters please)**. And pics of you and your nest boxes and trails would be great too! (*Compressed images are always appreciated to ease downloading them— thanks!*). **Deadline to email: 7/5/17** Sorry, after that we just won't have time to incorporate them into the slide show!



Photo by Arvil Kappelmann

Look for these pics at the 2017 “Bluebirds and Friends” slide show at the conference...**have you emailed Steve YOUR pics yet??** See info and details above.



Above: Bewick's Wren photo by Shirley Scrivner



Right: FLEDGLING Bewick's Wren photo by Shirley Scrivner



Conference Dessert/Snack Reminder: We are really looking forward to all of the good information on Bluebirds and other birds at this year's conference.....however, we ALWAYS look forward to the snacks our members bring! We do SO appreciate your help with this, and **it really does help to keep our costs down** —plus it is fun! **Please bring your desserts to the Friday Banquet or Saturday Morning before the conference “welcome” and programs.** Call Larry or Mary at 816-331-2888 if you have questions.



MOBS Current Donor and Supporter Members

SUPPORTERS:

Bernie Bahr

DONORS:

Mary List
Tom Beckman
Ron Darling

Life SUPPORTERS:

David and Anita Hartwig

*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!*

Margie Ayens, Dan and Lynda Blessing,
Sally Ann Boline, Jim and Mary Carlson,
Ron and Valerie Dent, Donald Dick,
Cathy Harris, Pat and Joy Henthorne, Gordon Hopp,
Lois Kimrey, Linda Kyser, Janet Mills,
Jerry and Susie Montgomery, Sarah Mueller,
Dr. Dudley Pautz, Jim and Carole Petersen, Jim Prenger,
Terry Rohslan, Judy Ruzicka, Jim and Janelle Schulte,
Ed and Debbie Whitmore

MOBS Life Members

Ann Early & Bob Seimer
Steve and Cheryl Eno
Steve and Regina Garr
David and Anita Hartwig
Arvil & Jean Kappelmann
David and Linda Patton
Bob and Judy Peak
Susan Dyer
Sandy and Bill Seibert
Bet Zimmerman Smith
Keith and Sandy Kridler
Tom McRoberts
Jerry Bahls
Leland and Elva Osten

Learning more about our 2017 Missouri Bluebird Conference!

(See the insert of this newsletter for a complete **Conference Brochure and Registration Form** or download a registration form /brochure at www.missouribluebird.orgnote **July 5th deadline** to register!)



Bob and Judy Peak are special friends to MOBS. They are Life Members and graciously spoke at our 2011 Conference in Chesterfield. They are doing double duty at THIS conference, speaking at the Friday Banquet (“**White Bluebird Eggs**”) and again on Saturday (“**Curiosities in the Bluebird World**”). Bob and Judy have received various state and national awards from the Kentucky Department of Parks, the United States Department of the Interior, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the USDA-Forest Service. Together they monitor 230 nest boxes and have fledged over 32,000 Eastern Bluebirds to date!

Read more about
our Presenters in
the 2017
Conference
Brochure!



Steve Garr will present
“**Bluebird Basics**”
Read Steve’s bio in the 2017
Conference Brochure

We DO read your Survey forms!

During the 2016 MOBS conference attendees were asked to complete a short survey. The most repeated suggestion was that each conference include a session on beginning bluebirding or “**Bluebird Basics**”. Well, MOBS president Steve Garr is pleased to present on that very topic at the 2017 Bluebird Conference. Actually, none of us get so experienced that we can’t benefit from some “basic” review. Great idea conference attendees!

Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke, of the Missouri River Bird Observatory are also MOBS members and great friends to this Society. The contributions they make to SO many areas of conservation are countless, however at the 2017 Missouri Bluebird Conference they are going to be focusing on “**Birds as Educational Tools**”. They know first hand how exposure to birds—up close and personal— can initiate and foster further interest in all types of Conservation. It is obvious they have a heart for Conservation Education and we will benefit from their passion at the conference! Both Dana and Ethan have extensive experience in a wide range of avian study and projects— visit their website: www.mrbo.org

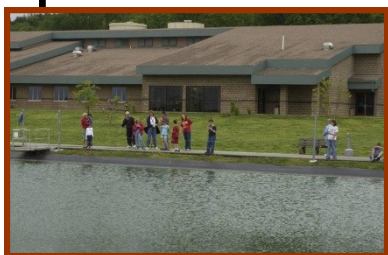
Saturday evening Social: Picnic at Shelter House #2 Below Truman Dam on the Lake of the Ozarks-**Directions will be given at the Conference**-you will have time to enjoy the many walking trails along the water, and practice your bird-watching skills. *There will be a Taco bar catered by the popular Warsaw restaurant “El Camino Real”. More good newsthere will be an Ice Cream Sunday bar as well!! (it’s all complimentary with your paid conference registration)*



Sunday, July 16th, 2017 Lost Valley Fish Hatchery

8:00– 9:15 a.m. ... “Bluebird Trail Walk” at Lost Valley Fish Hatchery
9:30 a.m.--Private tour of Lost Valley Fish Hatchery, MODC’s largest hatchery and one of the largest in the United States! Belted Kingfisher, Dickcissel, and Common Yellowthroat are just a few of the bird species which have been spotted here in July. Join us for a fun morning together!

See the 2017 Missouri Bluebird Conference Brochure for more Information!



*The Missouri Bluebird Society would be hard pressed to find any group of individuals who has done more to support MOBS than the members of **Bluebirds Across Nebraska**. Since our inception BAN has been a very "present" influence and a contributing resource to our organization. Many BAN members have chosen to be MOBS members as well and routinely attend our Annual Conferences. The story below is an inspiring account of how they honored a fellow bluebirder. My thanks to BAN for allowing me to reprint this wonderful piece in the MOBS Newsletter. MOBS Fledgling Editor*

*The following article originally appeared in the June 2017 issue of **The BANNER**, **Bluebirds Across Nebraska** newsletter, Volume 24, Number 2, page 2 and is reprinted here by permission.*

Holliday memorial overlooks beloved park

By Joanie Cradick

Indian Cave State Park has a new home, a new home for pileated woodpeckers that is. The hand-crafted, 45-pound nesting box, mounted on a 24-foot pole equipped with a winch to raise and lower the box, is nestled among the oaks and hickories in the 3,400 acres of Indian Cave State Park. How the nest box happened to be stationed among the treetops in Nebraska's second largest park is a tapestry woven in bluebird strands.

At the heart of the tapestry is the loss of Sharon Holliday, who loved nature and dedicated her time as BAN's Gage County coordinator. Members who knew this kind, gentle and refined woman desired to honor her.

A few strands: BAN members attending the 2016 Missouri Bluebird Society's annual conference couldn't help but notice the massive pileated woodpecker box built and donated by MOBS President Steve Garr for the organization's silent auction. As soon as BAN Executive Director Steve Eno saw the box, an idea to honor Sharon took wing and he made the winning bid. Just a few weeks before the Missouri conference, at a BAN educational booth at Indian Cave State Park, Kevin Holliday, park superintendent and Sharon's son, told Steve that he had seen pileated woodpeckers flying in the park. Placing the large pileated the first pileated woodpecker nest box woodpecker box in Nebraska in the park closest to Sharon's heart seemed a fitting tribute.

A decision to place the nest box where Kevin first spotted the pileated woodpecker resulted, but that was no small undertaking. BAN photographer and mechanical genius Leland Osten devised the setup, which included the use of a 3-inch tube steel on which to mount the box. He supervised the welding and created the winch system to lower and raise the nest box. Five 80-pound bags of cement were used to anchor the pole.

The final strands: On a rainy and overcast April day, which suddenly morphed into blue sky and fluffy white clouds, Sharon's family and BAN board members gathered at the base of the tall planted nest box. A granite plaque memorializing Sharon's love of nature was affixed to a wood post in front of the pole that read: "In memory of Sharon ('Babi') Holliday. Sharon had a love for the outdoors, birds and this state park. Sharon's love of nature is her legacy to her children and grandchildren, and to all who visit Indian Cave State Park."

The final strand: As if on cue, as Bill Seibert read a tribute to Sharon written by BAN President Sandy Seibert, a pileated woodpecker's call was heard in the distance.



Family and friends commemorate the tall planted nest box.



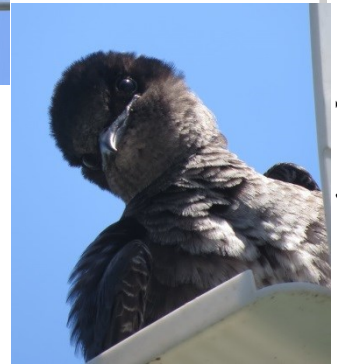
The large pileated woodpecker box

Is it time to RENEW your MOBS membership? See the 2017 Conference registration form inside this issue of **The Fledgling** for a membership application/renewal form. Excluding Life Memberships, all MOBS memberships expire on **December 31st** of the year of expiration. Check the mailing label on your newsletter for the year your membership expires. And thank you for supporting MOBS!

Thank you Ivan Ray Miller Family for a wonderful 2017 Open House!

Each June MOBS member Ivan Ray Miller and his family graciously open their beautiful farm in Jamesport to visitors for one special day to share the excitement and joy of their 115 pair Purple Martin Colony (Along with their MANY other species of wildlife...including Bluebirds, of course!). Folks

come from all over to attend this event and for good reason: the Millers are such gracious hosts and have made a special effort to make this an educational event. Ivan makes it a point to lower houses and gourds from his Martin colony throughout the day so visitors may see nest, eggs and nestlings. This year MOBS president Steve Garr made four presentations on House Sparrow and Predator Control. We know it is a lot of work for the Millers to provide this opportunity and we THANK them for doing so! It is always a fun and learning experience.



All photos by Steve Garr



S	A	T	R	R	B	A	R	E	E	D	T	E	N	F	G	Z	T	E	N	N	A	N	T	B	O	X	Z
O	R	B	S	T	R	E	E	T	S	O	E	M	E	L	T	R	O	H	I	I	N	C	Y	A	S	S	L
L	J	U	M	B	L	R	S	K	B	L	M	T	S	B	E	O	P	P	H	J	A	H	M	D	F	L	I
I	P	K	C	R	R	Z	T	I	L	L	N	O	T	S	G	D	Q	Y	P	I	E	A	Y	N	O	O	B
D	L	X	E	E	T	P	C	A	O	K	U	M	S	M	F	T	E	W	L	I	X	T	D	A	M	I	D
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K	S	O	E	S	Y	P	P	O	E	T	I	H	W	B	Z	A	L	E	T	H	I	N	K	F	U	E	N

Find these
Words ..they are
all about the
2017 Missouri
Bluebird
Conference!

Missouri Bluebird
Society

Warsaw

White Eggs

Blue Eggs

MOBS

Dessert

Bluebird Basics

Hatchery

Education

Truman Lake

Lake of the
Ozarks

MRBO

Education

Conservation

Missouri River
Bird Observatory

Curiosities

Thirty Two Thou-
sand (as in Bluebirds
Fledged by the Peaks!)

Nest Box Trail Summary Year _____

Date: _____

TRAIL MONITOR NAME: _____

Address: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____



Number of Nest Boxes _____ Number of "Unused" Nest Boxes _____

Species	Total nesting attempts by species	Total successful Nest for Species *	# Eggs laid By species	Total chicks By species	Total fledged (by species)	Additional notes
TOTALS :						

* A successful nest is considered to be one that has fledged at least one chick

How often was the trail monitored? _____

First date monitored for this season: _____

Last date monitored for this season: _____

Signature of Trail Monitor: _____ date: _____

Please print name of Trail Monitor _____

PLEASE NOTE Address! Please send this completed form to :

Greg Samuel 4749 State HWY Z Fordland, MO 65652

Please mail form to arrive by Dec. 31st

Everyone's data is important! Please report your data to MOBS!

www.missouribird.org

Protect nest boxes from excessive Heat *by Steve Garr*

(We know we just printed this in the Winter Newsletter, but it is SO important we felt it warranted a repeat....PLUS, we added a few things so take a look!)

The MOBS 2016 nesting report shows the bluebird hatch rate was down. Some of the decline was due to the extreme heat during the 2016 nesting season. Better protection—and a little planning—often means more Bluebirds.

It is a good idea (especially in Missouri!) to have some ready-to-assemble and install oversized roofs to quickly place on active boxes when temps suddenly turn extremely hot.

Things to consider when you are installing a double roof: Try to shade as much of the nest box as possible. An air gap between the two roofs of at least a quarter of an inch will make a huge difference on a 90+ degree day in full sun. The spacers can be made out of washers, machine nuts, strips of wood, and other items. Simply attach the oversized roof to the existing roof with screws inserted through the wood from the top, through spacers, and into the existing roof. (this might take more than two hands!)



Extended Roof Materials List

- Thin wood approx 18 x 24 inches
- 6 spacers 1/2 inch (spacers can be made from rigid tubing or pieces of wood)
- 6 screws 1 to 1 1/2 inches long (the length of the screws depends on the

thickness of the roof).

- The extra roof needs to be installed where it blocks most of the afternoon sun and has air flow between the two roofs.

The same techniques for attaching can be applied to mounting **Aluminum Reflective panels to boxes:**

Aluminum side panels are attached with screws and spacers.

Cut the aluminum sheets to match the sides, use four spacers per side to allow air flow between the side and the aluminum.

Aluminum siding cut to fit

4 spacers 1/2 inches long per side and 4 screws 1 to 1 1/2 inch long



Above:

An infrared thermometer can be a valuable tool to determine the temp inside a nest box.



WORKING DOGS
for **CONSERVATION**

Four-legged Conservationists!

Have you heard of Working Dogs for Conservation?
What a unique and special organization. "High energy"

working dogs are rescued from shelters and given (as they say) what they really need: **a job!**

Their main projects are in the following areas:

- Invasive Species Detection and Eradication
- Poaching and Trafficking Prevention
- Ecological Monitoring and Habitat Mapping
- Aquatic species Detection
- Disease and Contaminant Detection

Here's an example from their website (detecting invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels):

"Our dogs identified 100% of the watercraft containing mussels, while human inspectors found only 75%. The dogs did it faster, while proving to be **great ambassadors** for the project, helping facilitate the education and outreach that is an integral part of prevention. Our dogs were **also able to detect mussels' microscopic larvae**, which can invade a lake just as effectively as adults of the species." Go to their website to read about their work to prevent the spread of **Emerald Ash Borer!**

www.wd4c.org

www.missouribluebird.org



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P.O. BOX 105830
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The Fledgling 2017 Summer Issue

Bluebird Conference Registration

*Deadline **EXTENDED!***

- July 2017 Bluebird conference info & MORE details enclosed
- Play our “Bluebird Conference Word Game”!
- **Preventing overheated Nest Boxes** (yes, again)
- MOBS Member Bird Pics
- Bluebirds Across Nebraska honors one of their members in a BIG way
- **MOBS member hosts wonderful, Educational Open House!**
- Have you heard of “**Working Dogs for Conservation**”?



Photo by Steve Garr

2017 Missouri Bluebird Conference
Brochure & Registration Form Enclosed!