

Spring 2018

May 2018

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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Specify your name and "Email Only Fledgling"

In the subject line.



MOBS

PO BOX 105830

Jefferson City, MO 65110

www.missouribird.org

Letter from the President:

Dear MOBS Members,

I have lots of folks to thank in this issue of *The Fledgling*!

First, as we all look forward to the 2018 Bluebird Conference, July 13th-15th, I want to thank our webmaster, Ann Smith, for having placed the **Conference Brochure and Registration form** on the MOBS website back in mid April, only days after she received it from us. AND, many thanks too to those of you who have already sent in your registration forms!

Also, many members have volunteered this year to participate in and organize specific jobs regarding the conference—I thank you for that. Three long time MOBS members are presenting programs and other members have volunteered to lead the nest box and baffle building workshop. Still other folks have signed on to prepare the "Educational Bluebird Packets" for conference attendees, and others are volunteering to set up and man the registration table and MOBS info booth. Jim Rathert is our "food chair", so you know we are in good hands there! Of course I want to thank members Norm and Beth Stucky for the hard work they do preparing for our arrival at the lovely "Mockingbird Hill" for our Saturday Social and Sunday Field Trip.

AND OF COURSE.....I want to thank in advance everyone who so generously prepares and brings those delicious "member-made" (or member-provided) desserts and snacks which have become a tradition now at MOBS conferences! That is a much appreciated and anticipated benefit to the event. ..it helps MOBS to keep our registration fees for the conference very reasonable. We could still use a few volunteers for a few tasksgive Regina a call or email her if you would like to help out. (573-638-2473 or regina@birds-i-view.biz.)

Check out the MOBS 2017 Nesting Report in this issue! Great job Greg Samuel putting all that data together for us. Let me encourage everyone to commit now to reporting your 2018 nesting data to Greg at the end of the season. Everyone's data really is important! See you soon.

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr, MOBS president



Missouri Bluebird Society 2018 Officers & Board of Directors

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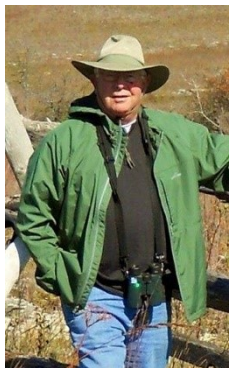
Introducing the 2018 Missouri Bluebird Conference

Program Speakers! July 13th– 15th Jefferson City, MO

See the Conference Brochure for details and Registration form

Steve Smith Sullivan, Missouri “Bluebird Basics”

Steve and his wife Ann live in rural Sullivan, Missouri, and are charter members of the Missouri Bluebird Society as well as members of the North American Bluebird Society. Steve served on the MOBS Board from 2010 through 2017. Steve is the owner of “Ned’s Nesting Boxes” and has built over 20 different types of nesting boxes for personal use and for sale. He monitors 4 bluebird trails for a total of 30 nesting boxes. He has been a citizen scientist for Cornell for over 10 years and has participated in their Project FeederWatch. Steve is pictured right holding the nest box he made with his father in 1977!



Mike Doyen Rolla, MO “The Great Missouri Birding Trail”

The Great Missouri Birding Trail is designed to introduce new and seasoned birders across the state, nation, and the world to the diverse habitats that over 320 species of birds visit annually in Missouri to create a diverse and colorful array of species.

Mike Doyen is the Trail’s Founder and has this to say about himself and the Great Missouri Birding Trail: *“I am a birder; over the past 30 years, I have traveled and birded every county in Missouri. I have seen natural beauty beyond anything I can explain and photos don’t do it justice. I have seen what government agencies, not-for-profits, and individuals have done to save native Missouri. It is this “ethic of conservation” that is the driving force behind the Great Missouri Birding Trail.”*

Find out more about the trail : www.greatmissouribirdingtrail.com



Bob Siemer and Ann Earley Chesterfield, MO “Wild about Monarchs!”

Bob and Ann travel all around Missouri on behalf of this beautiful butterfly spreading information, instruction, and hope. Come learn how you can help **and** enjoy Monarchs! Bob and Ann have been active in various organizations, including Missouri Native Plant Society, Missouri Prairie Foundation, and St. Louis Wild Ones (encouraging use of native plants in gardening for wildlife), for the last fifteen years. They also volunteer in various capacities as Missouri Master Naturalists and at Shaw Nature Reserve, where they conduct Wilderness Wagon tours for visitors and groups, such as the tour conducted for the MOBS annual conference in 2011. AND....they are dedicated Life Members of MOBS! Both Bob and Ann are members of MOBS Board of Directors.

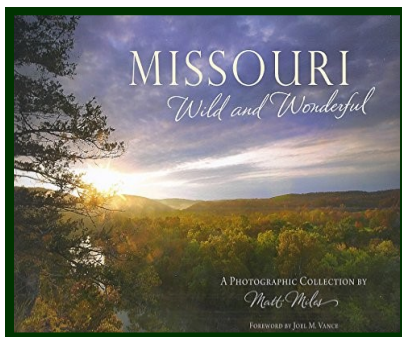


Matt Miles “Missouri Wild and Wonderful”

Matt will be our Friday evening banquet speaker

From bluebirds and black bears to copperheads and white-tailed deer: from tall-grass prairies and vistas atop the Ozark Plateau to lowland swamps and the depths of clear streams—MISSOURI, WILD AND WONDERFUL displays the work of award-winning wildlife photographer Matt Miles.

Matt has hiked, kayaked, backpacked, snorkeled, and explored virtually every county in Missouri to photograph wild animals and places for more than 20 years. **Matt will join us at the conference on Friday evening for an informal program about his book and his photography.** He will have books for sale and will be signing your copies!



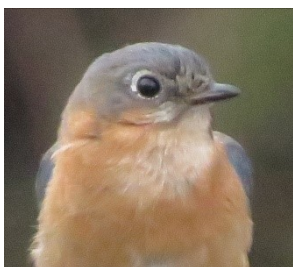
Would you like your Bluebird pics to be a part of the “Bluebirds and Friends” slide show at the conference? Please email **no more than Five pics** (jpeg format, compressed to document size) to steve@birds-i-view.biz by July 4th. We would like pics of cavity nesters (only native birds please) . Pics of PEOPLE on your trail or at your nest boxes are also welcomed!



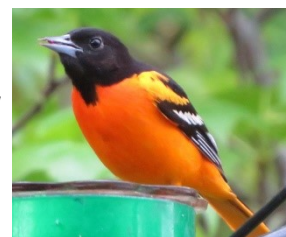
Survey Results

In the Winter 2018 issue of *The Fledgling*, we asked members to participate in a short survey. Approximately 11% of the membership participated in the survey so following are **the very non-scientific, just-for-fun results!** I thank everyone who took the time to respond and, even though the sample size for the data is pretty small, I think we can still glean some valuable insights into MOBS membership.

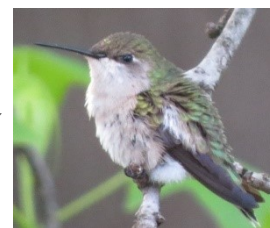
Congratulations to member Joanie Cradick — we drew her name from all the respondents and she won the \$20.00 gift certificate and one year membership renewal!



- **Favorite Bird:** 40% of the respondents chose Bluebird, while 60% chose these other species: Oriole, Hummingbird and Quail, plus Wild Turkey, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Martin, Finches, Blue bunting and Northern Cardinal. *Note from Surveyor: I found the responses here very encouraging because many times Bluebird Societies are accused of being "one species organizations". ..Obviously not so with our group!!*



- **Photographing Bluebirds:** 70% of the respondents reported to photograph "their" bluebirds only occasionally and for fun, 25% photographed them year-round for fun and for record-keeping, and 5% never photographed their bluebirds.
- **Young Birders you know (ages 10-18):** 50% of respondents knew NO young birders in this age range. 40% knew one to four young birders, 5 % reported knowing between nine and twenty, and 5% knew more than twenty young birders. **Of the 50% reporting to know young birders....** 84% of those reported they are related to one or two of the young birders they know, while 16% report to be related to 3 or 4 of the young birders they know.
- **Feeding Bluebirds:** 65% of the survey respondents report feeding Bluebirds, and 35% report they never feed bluebirds. 35% report feeding bluebirds daily or almost daily year-round, 20% feed only during nesting season, and 10% feed only during harsh or cold weather. **Type of food offered to Bluebirds:** of the 65% of respondents reporting to feed Bluebirds, 90% of them feed multiple types of food options to their bluebirds and 10 % feed only live mealworms. Among the 65% who report feeding Bluebirds, the food products offered are as follows (*Please note- the following numbers will not add up to 100% because most respondents are feeding MORE than one type of food option*) : 55% feed live mealworms, 40% feed a "shell-free" food such as sunflower hearts or shelled nut products), 30% feed a commercial suet product, 25% feed home-made suet dough/food, 20% feed dried mealworms, and 20% feed fruits or berries,



- **Nest Box monitor for how long?** 5% of survey respondents report they have monitored nest boxes for 2 years or less, 15% have monitored for 4-9 years , 30% have spent 10—13 years monitoring boxes, 25% have monitored for 19-29 years, 5% have monitored for 30 years, and 10 % report having monitored nest boxes for 40 years now! 10 % of the respondents report not having nest boxes.
- **How many Nest Boxes?** 15% reported monitoring 1-5 nest boxes, 10% monitor 6-12 boxes, 25% monitor 13-25 boxes, 15% monitor 36-50 boxes, 20% monitor 51-75 boxes, and 5 % monitor 76-99 boxes. 10% of respondents report no nest boxes.



- **Greatest Predator/Competitor issues:** *Again, Please Note that these numbers will not add up to 100, because respondents were permitted to choose more than one answer.* 60% of survey respondents listed House Sparrows, 40% listed House wren, 15% listed Wasps, 5% listed snakes, and 5% listed "other" Birds (not House sparrows or House wrens). No one listed ants or insects.
- **Nest Box Cameras:** 25% of the survey respondents reported they use or have used a "Nest Box Camera" while 75% report they have not. *To review the original survey questions please refer to your Winter 2018 issue of The Fledgling , or check it out on the MOBS website. Our thanks again to the survey participants!*

www.wildbirdrehab.org

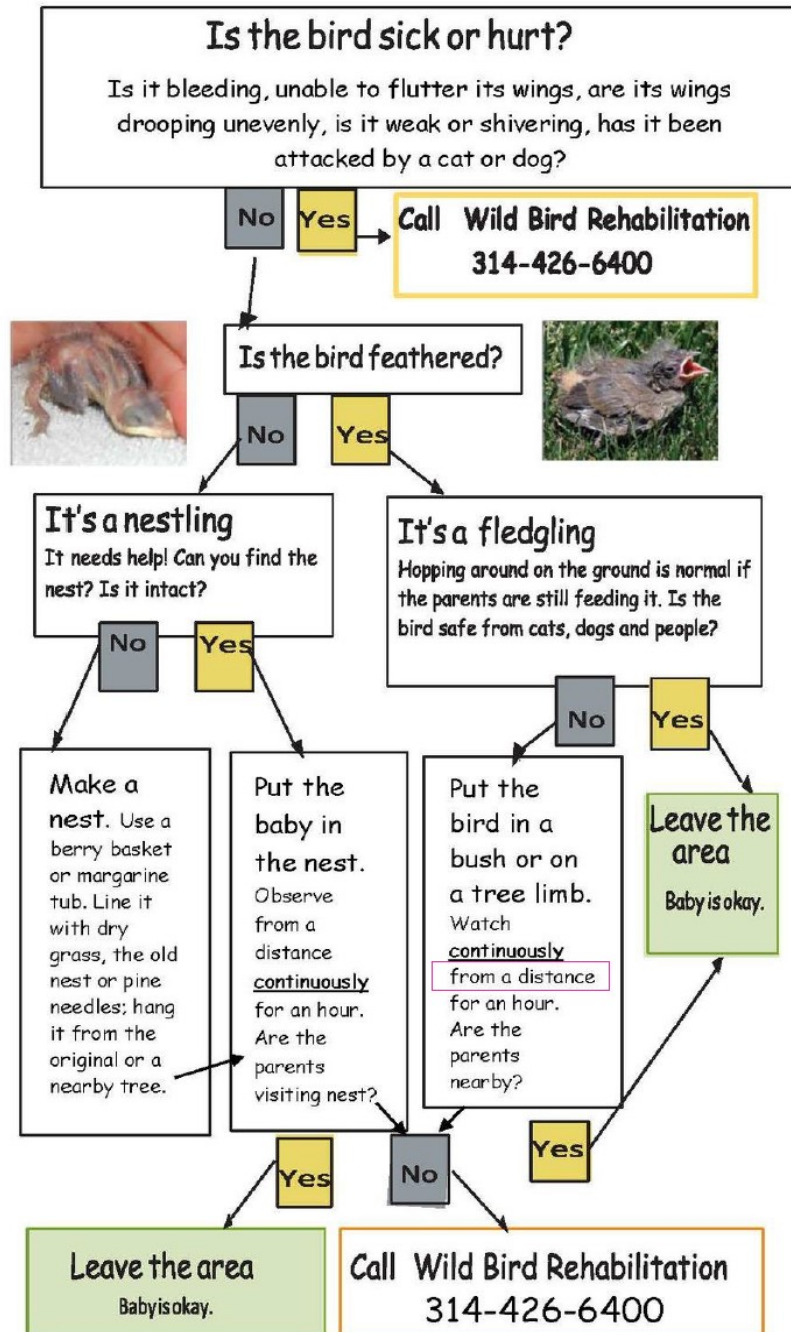


Taken from:

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

FYI: Beginning with the 2018 nesting season, MOBS Trail Summary Report Forms will have place to note information about any white Bluebird eggs you may have experienced in your boxes. Please keep track of that information in your records so you can report it at the end of the season!

Missouri Bluebird Society 2017 Nesting Report

Total Number of Nesting Reports		31	2 less than 2016					
Total Number of Nesting Boxes		726	6 less than 2016	Unused Boxes	112	15% Unused		
Eastern Bluebird Data								
Nesting Attempts		635						
Successful Nests		541	85% Success rate					
Eggs Laid		2,637						
Chicks Hatched		2,192	83% Hatch rate					
Chicks Fledged		2,054	94% Fledged rate					
Average number of eggs per nest		4.87						
Number of white eggs reported		19						
Number of white eggs hatched		17						
Number of white eggs fledged		16						
Species	Nesting Attempts	Successful Nests	Percentage	Eggs	Chicks	Percentage	Of Fledged	Percentage
Bald Eagle	1	1	100%	2	2	100%	2	100%
Chickadee	52	42	81%	242	217	89%	197	91%
Tree Swallow	172	146	85%	758	660	87%	595	90%
Tufted Titmouse	6	5	83%	27	20	74%	20	100%
Barn Swallow	38	36	95%	185	176	95%	169	96%
Bewick's Wren	7	5	71%	35	27	77%	27	100%
Carolina Wren	3	2	67%	14	12	86%	9	75%
House Wren	101	53	53%	294	265	90%	243	92%
Purple Martin	154	149	97%	778	625	80%	603	97%
European Starling	2	0	0%	5	0	0%	0	0%
Eastern Phoebe	8	8	100%	39	38	97%	32	84%
Prothonotary Warbler	14	8	57%	57	39	68%	34	87%
Northern Flicker	4	4	100%	20	18	90%	16	89%
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	100%	6	4	67%	4	100%
Wood Duck	5	4	80%	50	46	92%	46	100%
House Sparrow	40	0	0%	105	2	.02%	0	0%
Species Reported O/S of Missouri								
Eastern Bluebird	787	575	73%	3,433	2,280	66%	2,234	98%
Wood Duck	11	10	91%	147	101	69%	101	100%
American Kestrel	23	23	100%	104	89	86%	89	100%
Turkey Vulture	4	4	100%	8	8	100%	8	100%

Missouri Bluebird Society 2017 Nesting Report

Comparison Year to Year	Eastern Bluebird	All Other Species	Combined Total	Submitted				
	Fledged	Fledged	Fledged	Reports				
2009	1,107	180	1,287	10				
2010	1,231	329	1,560	15				
2011	1,383	1,264	2,647	15				
2012	1,174	1,021	2,195	19				
2013	1,444	1,272	2,716	22				
2014	1,483	585	2,068	20				
2015	1,773	1,565	3,338	28				
2016	1,512	1,020	2,532	33				
2017	2,054	1,997	4,051	31				
Total Numbers Fledged since 2009								
Eastern Bluebird	13,419							
Chickadee Species	1,075							
Tree Swallow	2,992							
Tufted Titmouse	123							
Prothonotary Warbler	471							
House Wren	1,172							
Bewick's Wren	42							
Carolina Wren	46							
Purple Martin	2,514							
Norther Flicker	80							
White-breasted Nuthatch	8							
Wood Duck	179							
Eastern Phoebe	128							
American Robin	4							
Great-crested Flycatcher	4							
Barn Swallow	388							
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4							
Brown-headed Cowbird	0							
House Sparrow	18							
European Starling	0							
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	0							
Bald Eagle	2							
Totals	22,669							

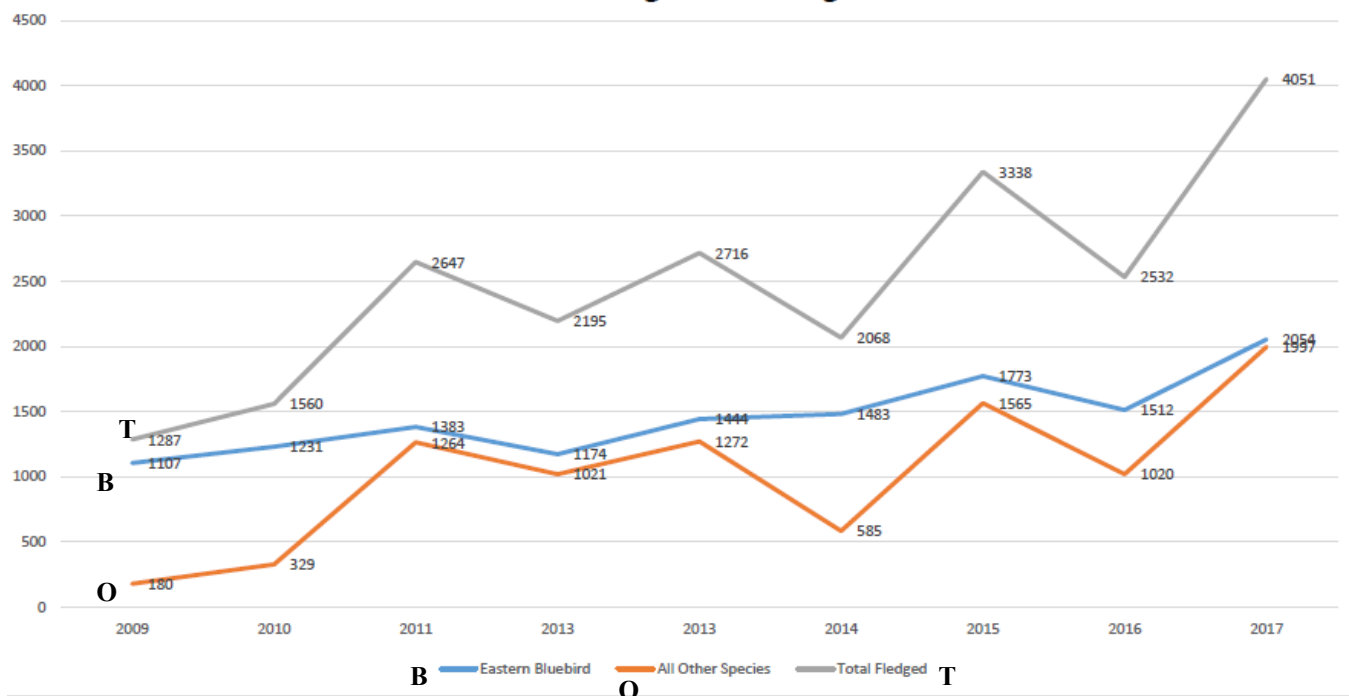
Missouri Bluebird Society



2017 Nesting Report

Thanks to Greg Samuel for his hard work compiling the nesting data and putting together this report for MOBS!

Year to Year Comparisons 2009-Current Total Songbirds Fledged



The following individuals have joined MOBS or renewed their membership since the last issue of *The Fledgling*.

We WELCOME our New members and THANK our returning members!!

Tom Beckman (Donor), Betty Browner, Larry and Sharon Bedford, Jack Corrigan, Pete and Ginny Culver, Steve DeVries, Ron and Valerie Dent, Carole Hopkins, Cynthia Longwisch, Scott and Julie Moose, J. Kent Nelson, Paula Peters, Daryl Rogers, Steve and Ann Smith, Libby Stiens, Delores Vlach, Jordan and Pam Waterman.

New Senior Life Members include:

Ronald and Sandra Bowen, Mike and Mary DeLacey, Larry and Mary Dobson, Jerry and Susie Montgomery, James and Carole Petersen, Paul and Donna Richardson, David and Kelly Warren



Roanoke Park Conservancy Trail

The Roanoke Conservancy held its educational event on February 10, introducing the community to the 10 bluebird boxes installed throughout the park, as well as some other projects we've been working on. A theme of the presentation was thinking about biodiversity in our natural spaces and how everyone can make choices to help our native birds. We talked with them about MOBS help with the grant, and the City's approval of the installation, and where the boxes were located. We tried to make it as interactive as possible. At the kids' table, we had black-and-white printouts of each of the birds and a box of crayons for them to illustrate that bird's page, before the next one would be introduced several minutes later. It helped that one of our Board members' daughters is an accomplished artist. She had the idea for a craft project, and brought a bag-full of the caps from large acorns from the Park. These served as the "nests," and she brought clay for the kids to create a bluebird and/or eggs to put in it. (the clay was fired in the community center art room oven). Each child then got to take these nests home with him/her.



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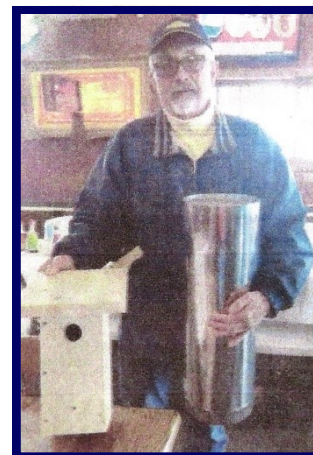
*Bret Kassen, Roanoke Park Conservancy,
Midtown Kansas City, MO.*



Lake Bloomers Garden Club

were awarded a "MOBS Save the Clutch" Baffle Grant to assist in placing predator baffles on their bluebird trails in Camden County.

MOBS member Ron Darling generously made a special presentation to the group, instructing them on how to correctly utilize the baffles from the grant and how to construct more of them. He also donated a nest box he made to the garden club! The club has maintained one nest box trail in Laurie since 1999, and in 2017 established a second trail for a total of 12 nest boxes.



Thanks Ron for sharing your time and expertise to help others in their efforts to conserve and prosper our native cavity nesting birds. And our thanks to the Lake Bloomers club members for their continued efforts in Bluebird Conservation!

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

Individual two year membership \$16.00

*Family one year membership \$15.00

*Family two year membership \$28.00

*All family and life memberships are for individuals residing at the same address

** for individuals 65 years old or older

DONOR (Annual) \$50.00

SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00

*Family LIFE Membership \$175.00

**Senior Family LIFE Membership \$100.00

How many nest boxes do you monitor? _____

How long have you been a Bluebirder? _____



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P.O. BOX 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110

The Fledgling 2018 Spring Issue

- **2018 Missouri Bluebird Conference Brochure and Registration.**
- **The 2018 Bluebird conference SPEAKERS profiles and Topics**
- **See the 2017 MOBS Nesting Report!**
- Results from the Member Survey in the Winter 2018 issue
- “I found a baby bird!”....WHEN to help.

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.

