Spring 2019

April 2019

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.missouribluebird.org

Letter from the President:

Dear MOBS members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of nesting season as much as I am. Even though some members have birds already with nestlings, for the most part much of Missouri had a bit of a later start than usual due to lingering cold and wet weather. On sunny days the Bluebirds were busy courting– singing and wing-waving and inspecting nest boxes– only for it to turn off cold or stormy again. However the courtship has been fun to watch, and I think we are finally into the first wave of the nesting season for most of the state.

Please take time to look over the **2018 Nesting Data Report** in this issue. Greg Samuel again did a fine job pulling our data together. I commend him on a job well done, and also thank all those members who submitted reports. The more reports we get, the more relevant and useful the data becomes. Greg also re-designed the monitoring form MOBS has been providing to members and I think it is definitely an improvement! I will be using this form now on my trails as I monitor this season (see page 10 of this issue).

Of course, MUCH gratitude is extended to our **2019 Bluebird Conference** chairs, Bob Siemer and Ann Earley. They have worked diligently tending to all the details involved in the production of our state Conference. It is truly a consuming task and Bob and Ann are doing an outstanding job! I am already looking forward to the speakers they have selected. Actually, I want to thank the entire board for their willingness to give so readily of their time and efforts. We have had two Board meetings since the beginning of the year and your MOBS Board of Directors/Officers have shown up with an enthusiastic attitude and a readiness to go to work! My thanks also to MOBS member Ron Darling for volunteering to join the "conference team". There will be a special Bonus Issue of ***The Fledgling*** in the coming weeks with more details on the Conference—so stay tuned!

I think all MOBS members should be encouraged by Joe and Linda Pridgeon's presentation in Northeastern Missouri. Read all about it on page 8...and then host a program in YOUR area! (Read how MOBS can help).

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr, president, Missouri Bluebird Society

Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Officers & Board of Directors

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

Vice- President... Greg Samuel pls@arczip.com 417-767-2241

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

Treasurer...Mary List 573-635-6513 **Board Member....Jim Rathert** jim@jimrathert.com

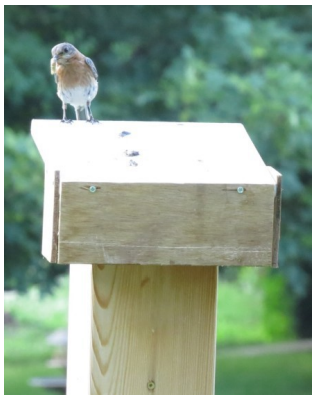
Board Member....Bob Siemer AEE623@prodigy.net **Board Member ...Ann Earley** AEE623@prodigy.net

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

Approaching issues on your trail with a PLAN

No nest box monitor WANTS to experience problems during nesting season, however being prepared to handle some issues (particularly if they have occurred in the past) really can make a difference in successful nestings on your trail. For example, BEFORE House Wrens arrive, take some time to package together a few "modular" wren guard kits. They can be made from a variety of materials and will usually involve three pieces of thin wood or vinyl and the necessary screws to attach to the nest box roof.

In some areas, House Wrens are so prevalent and aggressive that *discouraging* them by making a particular nest box less attractive to them than to other native species can give our other cavity nesters a chance. (Particularly since House Wrens will frequently try to dislodge the contents of a nest box, even after another bird has already built a nest and laid eggs.). ***This behavior is ONLY typical of House Wrens and NOT Carolina Wrens.***



The concept behind this style of **House Wren guard** is to block the entrance hole to the nest box enough to discourage a house wren from being able to bring in the long twigs and sticks they like to build with, yet leaving it open enough to allow Bluebirds and other cavity nesters access. Note that the plywood guard hides the entrance hole from view. BEST used after the bluebirds have already committed to the box by building a nest and possibly even waiting until the first egg is laid.

Make a plan NOW to protect nest boxes from excessive Heat

by Steve Garr

(Reprinted in part from the Winter 2017 issue of The Fledgling)

It may seem to be an early thought now, however those hot late spring and summer days will be upon us before we know it. The inside of a nest box can become considerably warmer than the temp outside the box during nesting season. While studies vary, it is generally accepted that an Eastern Bluebird egg exposed to temps over 105 degrees for very long will likely not hatch.

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

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.**

Meet Me in St. Louis

The 2019 Missouri Bluebird Conference! July 12th—14th

An invitation from Bob Siemer and Ann Earley, the 2019 Bluebird Conference Chairs:

"Mark your calendars to join the flock at the 2019 MOBS annual conference in St. Louis! Learn more about the latest in bluebird tips for both beginning and experienced bluebirders, and find out how to attract more birds to your yard and garden. Share bluebird photos and network with MOBS friends, and enjoy a special presentation about owls. Meet us in St. Louis, July 12-14!"

Photo by S. Garr

Bluebirds! Owls! Habitat Restoration! Attracting Native Birds! Field Trips, the Annual Bluebird Banquet, and MORE!!

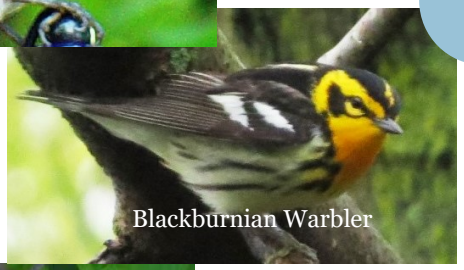


Photo by S. Garr

Blackburnian Warbler

Photo by Keith Kridler

The 2019 Missouri Bluebird Conference

Come have FUN....Come LEARN!

July 12th—14th St Louis

The Friday Evening Bluebird Banquet

Our speaker for Friday evening will be Margy Terpstra, who lives in Kirkwood and is an active member of Missouri Nature & Environmental Photographers.
Check out her blog and photography here https://hummerhavenunltd.com/blog

Photo provided by Margy Terpstra

ABOVE: Margy and Dan Terpstra commemorate having achieved Platinum Level status in St Louis Audubon's **"Bring Conservation Home" Habitat Restoration Program.** To achieve Platinum Status, the property owner must have removed all invasive species of plants (specifically Bush Honeysuckle, English Ivy and Wintercreeper Euonymus) AND must have naturescaped with at least 50% native plants (the Terpstras have 80%). There are also criteria to be met in the areas of Wildlife Stewardship, storm water management, Education and Volunteerism. Of course, the **149 species of birds** which have visited their yard are indeed a testimony to their success in Habitat Restoration!

Margy will present a program she has given at Missouri Botanical Garden, and she will modify it to include more about her experiences with Eastern Bluebirds. Here is how she describes her program—

The title of this program is, **"Why Our Yards are So Important to the Full Life-cycle Conservation of Our Native Birds."** All of the images in the program were taken by me, here in our garden. It touches on several connected topics.

1. What is a native bird? Do all native birds reside here throughout the year?
2. Habitat Loss and Full Life-cycle Conservation of Birds
3. Building Layers of Native Plants to Sustain Life in Our Gardens
4. Ways to Add Moving Water
5. Ways to see "MO Birds"!

Saturday Educational Programs

Of course, no MOBS Conference would be complete without a program on **"Bluebird Basics"**! Presenting a program annually on this topic comes directly from recommendations and requests from our Bluebird Conference attendees. From beginners to experienced Bluebirders, there is always something to be learned at a good Basics review.

Brenda Hente will be presenting her program titled **"Owls of Missouri: Myths and Superpowers".** which she describes as follows—
Does an owl hoot to ward off evil? Can it turn its head all the way around? Do owls bring good fortune, or are they a bad omen? These discussions will take place as we learn about the owl species that live in the state of Missouri all year, along with those who migrate through our state. We will also discuss the superpowers that owls have to help them survive as a species. (This is a combined and shortened program of each of the following presentations; *Owls of Missouri, There Must Be Some Myth-Understanding and the Engineering Marvels: The Science behind the Owl.*)

Brenda is an educator by day, teaching middle school science and history and was recently awarded the *2018 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award*. She is also a contracted Instructor for the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Shaw Nature Reserve, giving classes on owls, raptors and other native birds and leading bird walks for them and the St. Louis Audubon Society. She researches raptors of all kinds and has studied under world-renowned ornithologists such as Scott Weidensaul and Dr. Stephen Kress, at Maine's Audubon camp on Hog Island, off the coast of Bremen, Maine for three summers.

Brenda has been a consultant and guest moderator for the Oklahoma City Owl Cam for 6 years. She presented at the International Festival of Owls in Houston, Minnesota in March of 2018 and has been a very active volunteer at World Bird Sanctuary since 2014, being named volunteer of the year in 2017, giving owl shows, being a member of the banding team, banding spring migrants and banding Northern Sawwhet owls in the late fall, early winter and writing curriculum for some of their educational programs.

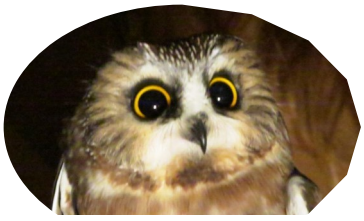


Photo by S. Garr

Watch for more info on the 2019 Bluebird Conference coming soon to the MOBS website AND a special edition of ***The Fledgling***!

Missouri Bluebird Society

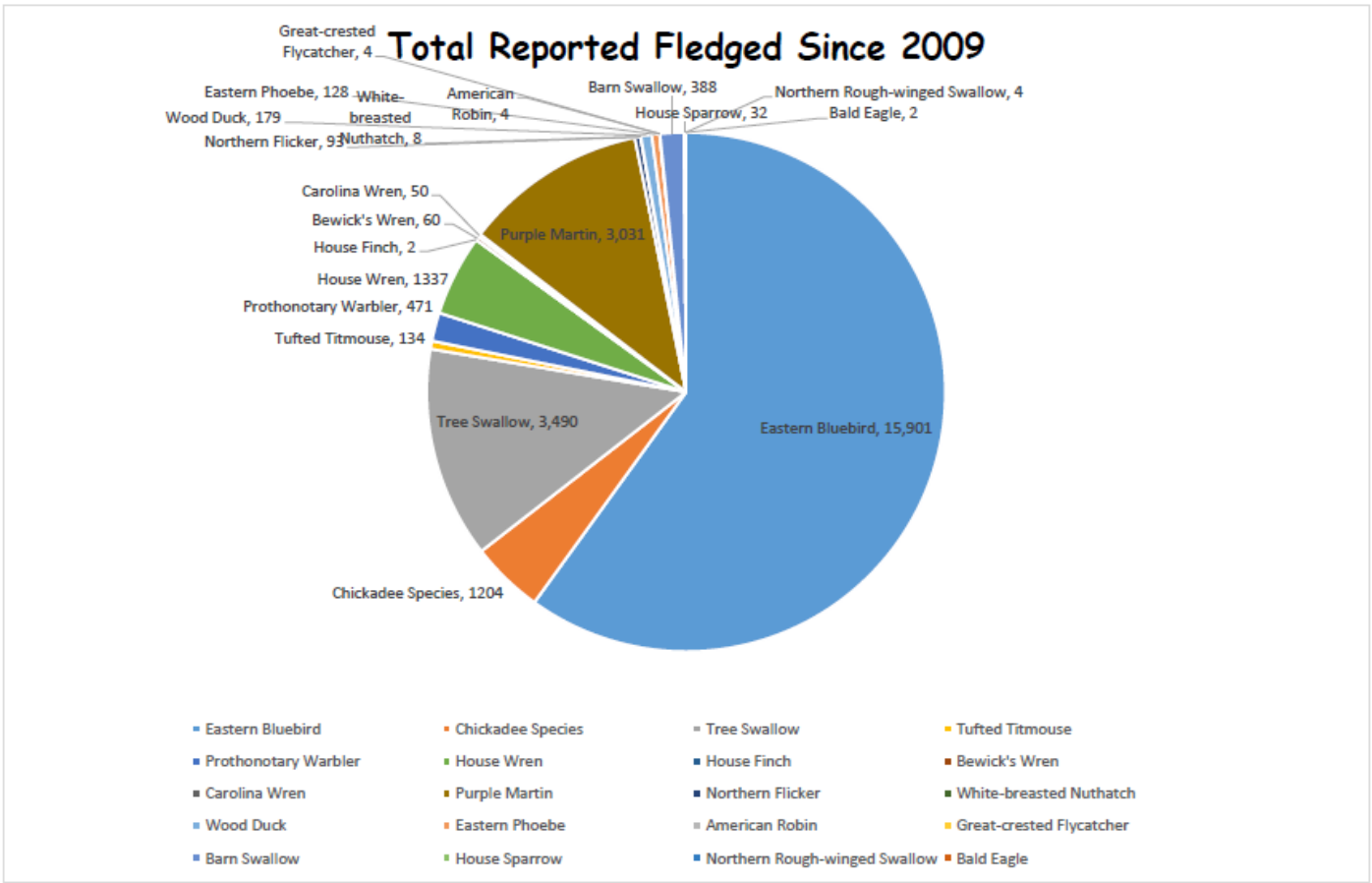
2018 Nesting Report

Many thanks to MOBS' terrific **Nesting Data chair, Greg Samuel** for putting together another informative report.

AND a **special thank you** to all the members who contributed data. More of you submitted reports for 2018 than in any previous seasons so thank you again! Whether you are reporting data from a large trail or one nest box your data is valuable.

Steve Garr, MOBS president

Missouri Bluebird Society 2018 Nesting Report



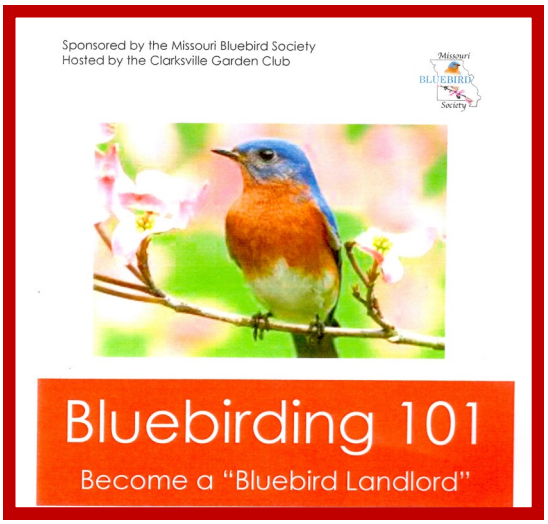
Missouri Bluebird Society 2018 Nesting Report

Total Number of Nesting Reports	46	15 more than 2017						
Total Number of Nesting Boxes	764	38 more than 2017	Unused Boxes	136	17% Unused			
Eastern Bluebird Data								
Nesting Attempts	769							
Successful Nests	633	**82% Success rate**						
Eggs Laid	3,081							
Chicks Hatched	2,617	**85% Hatch rate**						
Chicks Fledged	2,482	**95% Fledged rate**						
Average number of eggs per nest	4.87							
Number of white eggs **reported**	74							
Number of white eggs hatched	X							
Number of white eggs fledged	X							
Species	Nesting Attempts	Successful Nests	Percentage	Eggs	Chicks	Percentage	Of Fledged	Percentage
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	1	100%	3	0	0%	0	0%
Chickadee	49	35	71%	203	176	87%	129	73%
Tree Swallow	135	112	83%	593	527	89%	498	95%
Tufted Titmouse	3	3	100%	15	11	73%	11	100%
American Kestrel	1	1	100%	3	3	100%	3	100%
Bewick's Wren	3	3	100%	18	18	100%	18	100%
Carolina Wren	3	1	34%	4	4	100%	4	100%
House Wren	100	43	43%	196	168	86%	165	98%
Purple Martin	138	124	90%	676	565	84%	517	92%
House Finch	1	1	100%	4	2	50%	2	100%
Prothonotary Warbler	x	x	X	x	x	X	x	X
Northern Flicker	3	3	100%	13	13	100%	13	100%
House Sparrow	58	3	.05%	167	15	.09%	14	93%
Species Reported O/S of Missouri								
Eastern Bluebird	792	643	81%	3,449	2,679	78%	2,557	96%
Wood Duck	13	13	100%	225	168	75%	168	100%
American Kestrel	17	16	94%	78	55	71%	55	100%
Turkey Vulture	5	5	100%	10	10	100%	10	100%
Bald Eagle	1	1	100%	x	1	x	1	X

Missouri Bluebird Society 2018 Nesting Report

Comparison Year to Year	Eastern Bluebird Fledged	All Other Species Fledged	Combined Total Fledged	Submitted 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				
2018	2,482	1,374	3,856	46				
Total Numbers Fledged Since 2009								
Eastern Bluebird	15,901							
Chickadee Species	1,204							
Tree Swallow	3,490							
Tufted Titmouse	134							
Prothonotary Warbler	471							
House Wren	1,337							
House Finch	2							
Bewick's Wren	60							
Carolina Wren	50							
Purple Martin	3,031							
Norther Flicker	93							
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							
House Sparrow	32							
Bald Eagle	2							
Totals	26,522							

MOBS Members partner
with local Garden Club to promote Bluebird Conservation



Longtime and devoted MOBS members, Joe and Linda Pridgeon, partnered with the Clarksville Garden Club to present "Bluebirding 101" at the New Life Christian Church in Eolia, MO on March 28th. Enthusiastic and knowledgeable speakers, the Pridgeons are the first to utilize MOBS new program for sponsoring Bluebird Workshops/Programs given by MOBS members. Upon Board approval, MOBS will provide some expense and advertising funds to MOBS members willing to put on a Bluebird program in their area. In additions to the funding of course, MOBS has an Educational Power Point Program (available to download on the Educational Page of the MOBS website) and wonderful 4-color educational brochures and handouts, generously provided by funding from **The Bluebird Network** telecommunications company (www.bluebirdnetwork.com). Please contact one of MOBS Board of Directors or Officers if you are interested in hosting a Bluebird Program in your area! Contact info listed on page 1 of every issue of ***The Fledgling.***

From Joe and Linda Pridgeon:

"What a first for our area in Northeast Missouri! Interested birders and garden club members learned a great deal from Joe Pridgeon's talk about Bluebirding 101. Some came from over 100 miles away to learn more hoping to create their own bluebird trail and how to attract this family-minded bird to their back yards.

We will be speaking to the local Stark's Nursery in Louisiana as we spread the word about creating a safe zone for backyard birds. We were so fortunate that the North American Bluebird Society and our own Missouri Bluebird Society provided us professional handouts from building your own birdhouse and predator baffle, to recognizing nesting habits and eggs for different species. Seeing the actual birdhouse with baffle on the pole made a big difference to our group. This is critical information and everyone wanted to stop the House Sparrow from taking over nest boxes. They quickly picked up handouts showing ways to discourage or eliminate the cursed House Sparrow. Joe and I can't thank Steve and Regina and the MOBS Committee enough for all your help. You made our first lecture a success. Thank you again."

MOBS member Joe Pridgeon displays a nest box, pole, and MOBS pole-mounted Predator Baffle at "Bluebirding 101" presentation.

Drop by the MOBS Booth at the "Birds and Bees Festival"
in Arrow Rock, Missouri **Saturday, May 11th**
Find out more: www.mrbo.org
660-837-3888

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.** (if your membership expires in "2019", it does not expire until Dec 31, 2019)

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

_____**Senior Life Membership $100.00

_____Individual two year membership $16.00 _____SUPPORTER (Annual) $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

**Is a family Life membership available for individuals 65 or older (family members must reside at this same address)

SAVE the DATE!

SATURDAY, June 1, 2019 8 am—5 pm

The Annual **Purple Martin Open House** at the Home of MOBS' member Ivan Ray Miller.

Ivan routinely hosts 115 + pair of Purple Martins each season! Come visit and enjoy the Miller family's thriving wildlife habitat and their special hospitality (serving refreshments including home-made ice cream!). The 2019 speaker will be Ivan's brother from Michigan, Nelson Leroy Miller, who just happens to be the individual who initiated Ivan's journey into being a Purple Martin landlord.

22885 340th Street/ Jamesport, MO

(Two miles East on HWY F and two miles South on 340th Street—watch for Signs). For more details contact:

Ivan Ray Miller **660-684-6563**

The following individuals have joined MOBS or renewed their membership since our last Newsletter. We WELCOME our New Members and THANK our Renewing Members for their continued support!

Kristen Potter, Mathew Harline, Lynn McClamroch, Dudley Pautz, Paula Peters, Daryl Rogers, Jeanne Russell, North American Bluebird Society, Norm and Beth Stucky, Karen Meyer, Cindy Haeffner, David and Cynthia Harkey, Kristie Hertzog, Penny Holtzmann, Edward and Nancy Thomas, Carole Hopkins, Betty Browner, Rich and Celeste Koon, Betty Lusby, Pam Waterman, Bill Mees, Chuck and Connie Clark, Mary Turner, David and Beth Bliese, John Bursewicz, Vera Gladden, Mary Kladiva, Sarah Dale, Jim Rourke, Maida Worland, Susan Reinagel, Mathew Kramer, Susan Burk, Marie Colvin, Marcia Rosenkoetter, Richard and Gail Carlson, Ron and Valerie Dent, Bernie Bahr (supporter)

NEW Life Memberships:

Gordon Hopp and Shari Timm, Greg and Laura Samuel, Sheryl Wright, Robert Hawkins, Derry and Phyllis Wolford, Sandy and Brad Sullivan, Dan and Kim Basler, Ron and Terry Darling, Jerry and Jane Hemmersmeyer, Leslie Limberg, Linda and Joe Pridgeon, Tony and Charlotte Wening, Bobby and Linda Arnold, Janet Mills, Herb and Lois Kimrey

Missouri BLUEBIRD Society	Monitor:	Year:
	Trail:	Box #
	Habitat:	Box Totals:
	Nest Box Description & Mounting:	
	Seasonal Comments:	

Please note all white eggs

Date	Species	Eggs	Chicks	Fledged	Comments

Box Summary

Please note: Carolina Chickadee vs Black-capped Chickadee if possible

Species	Nesting Attempts	Total Eggs	Total Chicks	Total Fledged	Total Predated
Totals					

This form provided for your own record-keeping purposes. Please do not send this from to MOBS. A SUMMARY record form will be provided in future issues and is on the MOBS website. Please use that form to report your nesting data to MOBS.

Important ordering info: When ordering product from MOBS, please remember to enclose these completed order forms, and **include your NAME, shipping address, and phone number** with your order. ***Thank You !***

Our wonderful MOBS Logo mugs by Jim Rathert are dishwasher & microwave safe!

The MOBS Logo Mug

by Jim Rathert Photography

11 ounce white ceramic Mug with blue interior featuring the beautiful Logo of the Missouri Bluebird Society (designed by Jim Rathert).

_____Mugs @ $13.00 each= $_____

Shipping $7.50 (for up to 2 mugs)

Shipping $12.50 (for 3-4 mugs)

Shipping $_____

TOTAL$_____

****Please note your mugs will arrive via PRIORITY MAIL**

Please make checks out to :

"MOBS" or the "Missouri Bluebird Society"

(Checks or money orders only– PLEASE do not send cash) Mail to: **MOBS product sales**

P.O. Box 105830

Jefferson City, MO 65110

Nest Box Signs are $3.75 each, or buy FIVE, get ONE FREE!

_____signs x $3.75 each = _____

_____5 Signs get ONE FREE = $18.75

_____10 Signs get TWO FREE = $37.50

Shipping & Handling + 2.00

TOTAL_____

Make Checks to the MO Bluebird Society

Mail to:

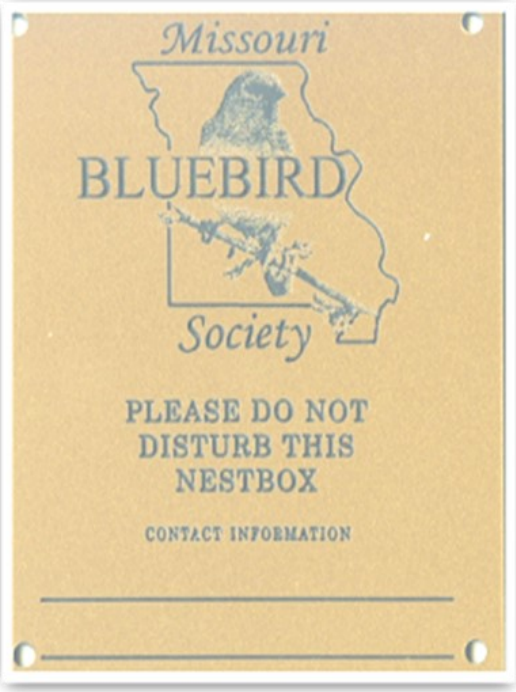
MOBS Nest Box Signs

P.O. BOX 105830

Jefferson City, Mo 65110

Order your MOBS Nest Box Signs

(Order Form left)



www.missouribluebird.org

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The Missouri Bluebird Society
P.O. BOX 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110

The Fledgling Spring 2019 Issue

- **The 2018 Nesting Report Summary is here!** *(Many thanks to all who submitted data and to our terrific Nesting Data chair Greg Samuel for pulling it all together)*
- **MOBS 2019 Bluebird Conference …we have info!**
- It's "courting season" in Missouri! (We mean Bluebirds of course)
- **Make a PLAN to address nesting season issues**
- **NEW! Birds and Bees Festival**
- **Successful Bluebird presentation** in Northeast Missouri…..you could have one in your area too!

Photo by Steve Garr