**Fall 2019**
*November 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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**PO BOX 105830**
**Jefferson City, MO 65110**
**www.missouribluebird.org**

## *Letter from the President:*

***Photo by Steve Garr***

Dear MOBS Members,

In this issue you will find information about events you'll want to do today and something **special** you can do in March. Regina and I have already registered for the North American Bluebird Society 2020 conference (March 11-15) hosted by the great folks at Bluebirds Across Nebraska. We truly hope to see MANY members from MOBS there! I have attended many NABS conventions and I can tell you when BAN hosts a NABS conference it is definitely worth making the trip to attend! Complete the enclosed registration form and mail it in today.

If you missed the 2019 MOBS Conference you missed a fantastic gathering of those wanting to learn and speakers that were eager to share. Our Conference Chairs, Bob Siemer and Ann Earley were fantastic and I thank each and every MOBS member who contributed to making the event a success..

Of course any day is a good day to install another Bluebird house. Bluebirds can always user more nest sites. With all we hear about the plight and decline of birds it might make you wonder about our Bluebirds. Well, I am proud to say that our Bluebirds in Missouri are doing very well! Their populations may not be increasing at the rate reported several years ago, however their numbers are very healthy. Bluebirds have the same issues they have had in the past with non-native species and that won't go away, but we know how to deal with those problems. The problem with loss of natural nest sites can largely be solved with proper nest boxes installed in safe locations. This solution is the same solution that bluebirders have been doing for years and that is the main reason that not only bluebirds, but many other native cavity nesters, are doing so much better than many open nesting birds. (see page 2 about the Missouri Bird Conservation Plan concerning our state's most at- risk birds.)

The results we achieve with our bluebird trails and even our individual nest boxes mean even more when they are shared. Now is the time to fill out your Trail/Nest Box Summery report and mail it to Greg Samuel.

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

*Steve Garr*, MOBS President

## Missouri Bluebird Society Officers & Board of Directors

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**Board Member ...Ann Earley** AEE623@prodigy.net **MOBS Webmaster ..Ann Smith** thesmiths91@yahoo.com 636-629-8267

# MDC's Missouri Bird Conservation Plan ... and You

The Missouri Department of Conservation recently released the technical section of the "**Missouri Bird Conservation Plan"** identifying the state's most threatened bird species and focusing on land and habitat management practices as a means to help reverse bird population declines in our state. Intentionally non-regulatory in nature, this plan is the cumulative effort of many individuals and organizations possessing keen knowledge of birds and their habitat needs and challenges in Missouri. This technical section is actually one of two parts of this plan– an "Outreach Section" will follow to address bird education and birding outreach.

It is easy for individuals and the general public to view "habitat management" as something solely in the hands of agencies or owners of hundreds of acres of land. Nothing could be farther from the truth and it is encouraging to know that a plan has been developed to help all of Missouri's many conservation-minded residents play a part in positively impacting habitat for birds.

Download **MDC's Missouri Bird Conservation Plan** at www.mdc.mo.gov (enter Missouri Bird Conservation Plan in the search box).

photo by S. Garr

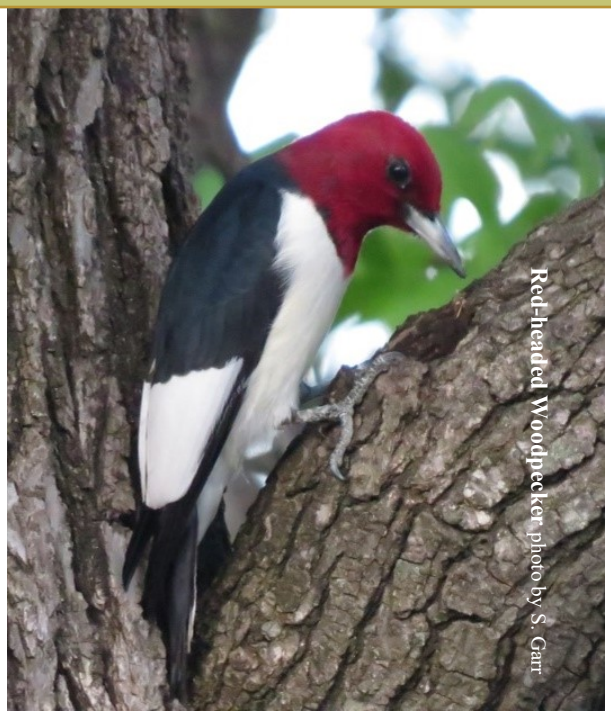
## Quotes from "The Plan":

***The Bird Plan acts as a high-level bird conservation resource and reference for land managers on public and private land, conservation planners, private landowners, and the general public.***

- ***The Missouri Bird Plan will be reviewed every five years to maintain an up-to-date list of the state's priority bird species and create opportunities to outline new threats, species trends, and research and monitoring needs***
- ***A united effort involving agencies, organizations, and the public is necessary to make substantial gains for birds, especially the most threatened species.***

**Virginia Creeper** (pictured above) and **Spicebush** (below) are two native plants beneficial to Missouri's birds. Learn more about Spicebush on pages 9 and 13 of this newsletter!

photo grownative.org



Red-headed Woodpecker photo by S. Garr

**Red-headed Woodpecker (left) and Prothonotary warbler (below) are two cavity-nesters listed among the 29 birds assigned individual "Missouri Concern Scores" for birds at risk in the Missouri Bird Conservation Plan".**

Prothonotary Warbler photo by S. Garr

# The Missouri Bluebird Conference

## July 12th—14th, 2019
## St. Louis

Our amazing Welcome Team for the Conference! Mary List and Elisa Oetting didn't just pull up a chair and start signing folks in at the conference ...they actually put in hours of work getting ready for this moment! From helping to fill Conference packets to getting reports ready for the registration table, Mary and Elisa's work began long before they started handing out name badges on Friday evening. (Although they did a fab job of that too!) Thanks you two.

MOBS Board Member Bob Siemer with presenter Amy Witt. Thanks Amy for the super program about those very special Bluebirds in Forest Park.

Above: Mike and Louise take in the Saturday programs from the Great Missouri Birding Trail booth. Hope you made it by their booth to see all the great resources and info they make available to Missouri birders! Below: Another successful Auction/ Raffle for the conference– THANK YOU contributors and participants!

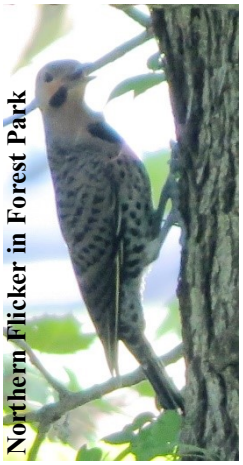
Brenda Hente wows the audience with her terrific program on Owls of Missouri

MOBS members Linda and Joe Pridgeon were a wealth of good advice and solid Bluebirding info during Joe's presentation "Bluebird Basics"!

Delicious food and Plenty of food ...HAPPY, HAPPY attendees!

Learning about Forest Park

Below:
Field trip leaders Bob and Ann get to show the group an active Bluebird nest in Forest Park ( complete with one egg in the nest even though it is mid-July!)



Northern Flicker in Forest Park

MOBS official "Recycling Capitan" Ron Darling did a terrific job managing our groups recycling efforts. From the conference venue to the cook out to the Sunday morning Field Trip...Thank you Ron and great job.

# 2020 NABS CONFERENCE

## HOSTED BY BLUEBIRDS ACROSS NEBRASKA

## MARCH 11-15

### HOLIDAY INN, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

- SANDHILL CRANE BLIND TRIPS
- BIRDING FIELD TRIP
- NATIONALLY KNOWN SPEAKERS & ENTERTAINERS
- PRAIRIE CULTURE FIELD TRIP
- WORKSHOPS
- RAFFLE, LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS

# 2020 NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE

## ITINERARY

### Wednesday, March 11

2 to 5 p.m. ..... Registration, pre-function area
4:45 to 9 p.m. ..... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

### Thursday, March 12

4:45 to 9 a.m. ..... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip
10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. ..... Registration, pre-function area
2 to 9 p.m. ..... Vendors, exhibitors, raffle/silent auction setup
2 to 3 p.m. ..... Putting WOW in Your Cellphone Pictures
3 to 4 p.m. ..... What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!
4:45 to 9 p.m. ..... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

### Friday, March 13

4:45 to 9 a.m. ..... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip
7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ..... Birding field trip, bus starts loading at 6:45 a.m.
7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ..... Prairie culture field trip, bus starts loading at 7:15 a.m.
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ..... Registration, pre-function area, vendor, exhibitor and auction areas open
3 to 4 p.m. ..... Finding Beauty Everywhere
4 to 5 p.m. ..... Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard
4 to 6 p.m. ..... NABS affiliates meeting
6 to 7 p.m. ..... Social hour with cash bar
7 to 10 p.m. ..... Dinner
Live auction
Entertainment by Al Batt

### Saturday, March 14

7:30 to 9:30 a.m. ..... Registration, pre-function area
7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ..... Vendors' tables, education displays and raffle/silent auction areas open
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ..... BAN awards presented
Conference speakers, including Al Batt, Bernie Daniel, Myrna Pearman, Bill Taddicken, Stan Tekiela and Julie Zickefoose
6 to 7 p.m. ..... Social hour with cash bar
7 to 10 p.m. ..... Conference banquet
NABS awards presented
Entertainment by Ron Cisar, Musical Reflections of Our Mother, the Earth

### Sunday, March 15

4:45 to 9 a.m. ..... Sandhill Crane viewing blind trip

*Note: Subject to minor changes prior to the start of the conference.*

## EVENTS

### SANDHILL CRANE VIEWING BLIND TRIP

The trips to the Audubon Society's Rowe Sanctuary begin at either 4:45 a.m. or 4:45 p.m. Be a witness to one of the birding wonders of the world! Half a million Sandhill Cranes descend to the Platte River Valley between late February and early April, consisting of more than 80% of the world's population. It is the largest gathering of cranes anywhere in the world. All trips are guided by experienced staff and volunteers and last two to three hours. Dress warmly, as the blinds are not heated; and bring your camera and binoculars. The morning and evening experiences at the blinds are very different, so you may want to attend both times. No car? No problem. BAN volunteers will help facilitate carpooling. **Space is limited, first come/first served.**

### BIRDING TOUR

Hundreds of thousands of Sandhill Cranes and millions of ducks and geese pass through the Platte River Valley this time of year. Our tour will begin with a trip to Harlan County Reservoir. Along the way, we will view waterfowl, black-tailed prairie dogs, hawks and other species. The viewing of a prairie chicken lek may be a possibility, as the males arrive before dawn and quickly begin their unique courtship display, characterized by stomping feet, towering leaps and resonant booming calls created by inflated yellow-orange air sacs along both sides of their necks. On the way back, we will view other waterfowl areas in the rainwater basin. Some viewing is outside of the vehicle, so dress for possible cold weather and bring your binoculars and field guide. Breakfast and lunch are included in the cost. (Changes are possible due to weather.)

### PRAIRIE CULTURE FIELD TRIP

Learn about Nebraska's history and culture through a tour of nearby landmarks and other sightseeing. The tour includes the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture, which offers a window into Kearney's past, its early rise and fall, and rebirth as a center for health and education. The Archway — a museum that spans I-80 — salutes the pioneers. The Museum of Nebraska Art celebrates visual artwork that reflects the state's culture. Both the birding and prairie culture tours include lunch at Burchell's White Hill Farmhouse Inn.

### WORKSHOPS

Don Brockmeier's greatest photography interest is in photographing wildlife. He has had photos published in magazines, websites, newspapers, calendars, and shown in galleries. Don recently became intrigued by the great pictures that can be taken with a cellphone with just a little know-how. Don will share his techniques with you at his workshop, **Putting Some WOW in Your Cellphone Pictures.**

Al Batt presents a show-and-tell workshop. We love birds and share our lives with them. Bring your stories on how you got interested in birds, what got you into bluebirding or how birds enhance your existence. With Al as the head of this workshop, everyone will leave, no doubt, with their sides aching from laughter. Remember, **What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!**

**Finding Beauty Everywhere**: Myrna Pearman will share photographs and stories from her new book, "Beauty Everywhere: Nature Photo Essays." She will share interesting information about lesser-known wildlife species and she will inspire participants to find beauty everywhere.

Julie Zickefoose presents **Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard.** Simple habitat enhancements can take a backyard from bland to bustling with wildlife. Julie will show how she transformed an 80-acre farm into a wildlife sanctuary — a perfect personal habitat.

*"I plan to attend NABS 2020 in March. It has been on my bucket list to get out to that WONDER one more time. Next to the Galapagos, witnessing the crane migration and all the other amazing birds in Nebraska was the high point of my 'birding' life."*

*— Anne Sturm, Maryland, founding member and past president of NABS*

# REGISTRATION FORM

*BAN is looking for items to be donated for the silent auction and raffle.*

| All events have limited seating, first-come, first-served. Register early. | No. of people/tables | Price before Jan. 1 | Price after Jan. 1 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Saturday — speakers and lunch** | | **$35** | **$45** | |
| **Field Trips** | | | | |
| **Sandhill Crane blinds** | | | | |
| Wednesday evening, 4:45 to 9 p.m. | | **$45** | **$55** | |
| Thursday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m. | | **$45** | **$55** | |
| Thursday evening, 4:45 to 9 p.m. | | **$45** | **$55** | |
| Friday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m. | | **$45** | **$55** | |
| Sunday morning, 4:45 to 9 a.m. | | **$45** | **$55** | |
| **Birding tour** (limited to 100 people) | | **$60** | **$70** | |
| **Prairie Culture Tour** (limited to 50 people) | | **$60** | **$70** | |
| **Workshops** | | | | |
| **Putting Some Wow in Your Cellphone Pictures** Don Brockmeier, Thursday, 2 p.m. | | **$15** | **$20** | |
| **What You Say in Kearney, Stays in Kearney!** Al Batt, Thursday, 3 p.m. | | **$15** | **$20** | |
| **Finding Beauty Everywhere** Myrna Pearman, Friday, 3 p.m. | | **$15** | **$20** | |
| **Personal Habitat: The Bird-friendly Backyard** Julie Zickefoose, Friday, 4 p.m. | | **$15** | **$20** | |
| ****All four workshops** | | **$50** | **$70** | |
| **Friday evening dinner and entertainment** | | **$25** | **$35** | |
| **Saturday evening dinner and entertainment** | | **$40** | **$45** | |
| **Vendors** Sales tables (includes electricity) | | **$35 + item for raffle** | **$35 + item for raffle** | |
| **Nonprofit organizations** Information display tables (includes electricity) | | **$35** | **$35** | |
| **Grand total enclosed** | | | | **$** |

**You can view and print the registration form by going to bbne.org or nabluebirdsociety.org.**

Name(s)_____ Phone_____

Address_____ Email _____

City_____ State/Prov_____ Postal code _____

**Complete this form and return with full payment to:**

Sandy Seibert, 2115 S. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68144.
Checks should be made payable to Bluebirds Across Nebraska.
Cancellation policy on next page.

Profits from this conference go to Bluebirds Across Nebraska's recovery efforts for bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds and to help offset some of the expenses of the conference.

# 2020 NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE

## HOTEL INFORMATION

Our host hotel is the Holiday Inn Conference Center, 110 2nd Ave, Kearney, Nebraska, exit 272 off Interstate 80. The room rate is $109.95 per night. Due to the popularity of this area at this time of the year, the demand for hotel accommodations is high. Please reserve early. You should make your reservation by calling the hotel directly at 308-237-5971. Please specify that you are with the NABS/BAN conference to get the group rate. The hotel is providing a 24-hour reservation cancellation policy. Please check with the hotel for complete cancellation information.

## CAMPING INFORMATION

Complete hookups are available for RVs at Fort Kearny State Recreation Area at South Hwy 10 and 44. Make reservations at reserveamerica.com.

## CANCELLATION POLICY

Due to the advanced commitments and expenses incurred by BAN, the following cancellation policy will be used:

- Before Jan. 1, 2020, a full refund will be issued.
- From Jan. 1 through Jan. 31, a full refund will be issued, excluding the cost for Sandhill Crane blinds.
- From Feb. 1 through Feb. 28, one-half refund will be issued for workshops, Friday night dinner, Saturday program and Saturday night dinner. No refund will be issued for Sandhill Crane blinds, or the birding or prairie culture field trips.
- After March 1, refunds will be issued on a case-by-case review only for illness or family issues.
- No refunds will be issued for inclement weather.

## CONVENTION SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINERS

### AL BATT

Performing double duty as Friday night's entertainment, Al (albatt.com) also will lend his nature-related storytelling skills as a Saturday speaker. A writer, speaker, storyteller and humorist, Al is also known for his cartoon strips, radio show and Bird Watcher's Digest column.

### BERNIE DANIEL

A retired environmental research scientist who has been bluebirding since 1953, Bernie serves as NABS' president. He will discuss distribution and trends for the population of the three bluebird species based on data from the Breeding Bird Survey.

### RON CISAR

An Iowa Western Community College professor, Ron teaches environmental science. He has helped educate groups of all ages for more than 30 years. The singer/songwriter shares his message through his Earth Music program.

### MYRNA PEARMAN

Myrna will give a short history of Ells Bird Farm, a conservation, research and education center founded by Alberta farmers, Charlie and Winnie Ellis. She will talk about how the farm has been developed to improve biodiversity and how the natural assets of the old homestead have been creatively used to address engaging children in nature

### BILL TADDICKEN

The director of Rowe Sanctuary's Iain Nicolson Audubon Center (rowe.audubon.com), Bill will discuss the Sandhill Cranes' annual migration to the Kearney area. He oversees all programs on the 2,400-acre sanctuary and has worked extensively on conservation of the Platte River for Sandhill Cranes, Whooping Cranes and other wildlife.

### STAN TEKIELA

A naturalist, wildlife photographer, radio show host and writer of more than 130 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation, Stan (naturesmart.com) will present "Captivating Bluebirds."

### JULIE ZICKEFOOSE

A widely published natural history writer and artist, Julie adopted an orphaned blue jay. She will discuss her book, "Saving Jemima: Life and Love With a Hard-luck Jay." More than a wildlife rehab story, it's a story of life, love and dealing with great loss; and finding grace and redemption in bonding with a wild bird.

# 2020 Missouri Bluebird Conference!

## *July 10th – 12th Jefferson City, Missouri*

Watch for updates on speakers, field trips, and more on the MOBS website and Facebook page and in upcoming issues of ***The Fledgling.***

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY MISSOURI

**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
____DONOR ( Annual) $50.00
____SUPPORTER (Annual) $100.00
_____***Family LIFE Membership $175.00**
___****Senior Family Life Membership $100.00**

____*Family one year membership $15.00
____ *Family two year membership $28.00
*For individuals residing at the same address
**For individuals 65 + years old

**How many nest boxes do you monitor?_____**
**How long have you been a Bluebirder?_____**

## *THANKING our Members who have joined or renewed since our last Newsletter!*

***Joe Corio, Joanie Cradick, Jill Cumming, Great Missouri Birding Trail /Mike Doyen (Donor), Barb Duncan, Cathy Harris, Susan Hazelwood, Aaron Hostetler, Nancy McCormick ( Life member), Ivan Ray Miller, Karl Miller, Don Moyer, Elisa Oetting ( Life member), Leslie Palmer, Terry Rohslan***

Missouri BLUEBIRD Society

# Meet Spicebush!

*by Regina Garr*

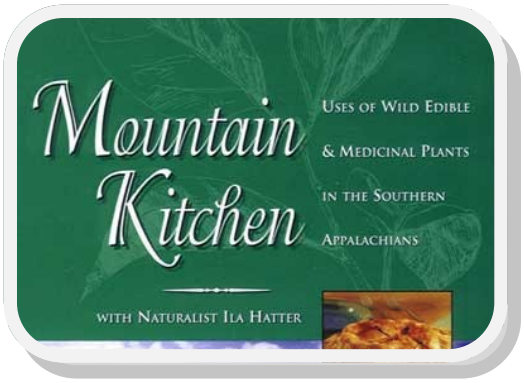
I was first introduced to Spicebush (Lindera benzoin) in the early 90s when my husband Steve was a monthly guest on a home and garden radio show. Another regular guest—a local landscaper-would often give a list of his favorite landscape plants and Spicebush always made it into his Top Ten.

At that time the plant was difficult to find in nurseries and garden centers however, so I really did not have personal experience with the plant until recent years. And now, I too would have to put it in my top ten favorite plants! The leaves turn a beautiful yellow in the fall making it a particularly nice plant this time of year.

**Here's a brief profile of this important native shrub:**

- A member of the laurel family
- Deciduous, multi-stemmed shrub growing 6 to 14 feet high
- Flowers in early spring with small yellow flowers that open before leaves appear
- Bright red fruit in late summer, 3/8 inch long, feed many birds and other wildlife
- **A dioecious shrub– only the female plant produces fruit and requires the presence of a male plant to do so.**
- Entire plant is aromatic
- Basically an understory shrub, spicebush grows naturally along the forest's edge, in open forests, and along streams and ravine bottoms.
- Prefers moderately moist soil but can tolerate drought.
- Moderate shade to full sun
- Host plant for the Spicebush Swallowtail Butterfly (leaves are food for the caterpillar)
- Leaves contain a small amount of camphor and can be used as an insect repellent.
- Grows naturally from Ontario south to include Florida and west into Kansas and Texas.

*Photo from grownative.org*




To learn more about Spicebush and other native plants, as well as their traditional uses, I highly recommend the DVD **"Mountain Kitchen"** with naturalist Ila Hatter. She is a staff instructor for the University of Tennessee's Smoky Mountain Field School as well as a guest instructor at other schools and organizations. She has spent decades teaching the cultural heritage of native plants (and she is a descendant of Pocahontas!) Order the DVD online at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian or call **828-497-3481.** Visit Ila Hatter's website : www.wildcrafting.com

***See Page 13 of this issue for Recipes (for people!) utilizing Spicebush***

**Most bluebirders are familiar with the famous quote from Henry David Thoreau: *"The Bluebird carries the sky on his back"*. However, did you know Thoreau also wrote: *"The woods and fields are a table always set"*?** That's a great quote too! And one brought to my attention by Ila Hatter. As a matter of fact, she claims that quote most accurately describes what she teaches.

The Penn State Extension website, along with many other websites and blogs tout spicebush as a fall and winter food for Bluebirds if available. Many books and papers site spicebush fruit as an attractive food source for Thrush family birds (of which our bluebirds are member of course). And, thinking in a "circle of life" kind of way, it has been noted that spicebush caterpillars appear to be a favorite food of Bluebirds to consume and to feed their young. So do plant plenty of Spicebush...we like our Spicebush swallowtail butterflies also and want to help them!

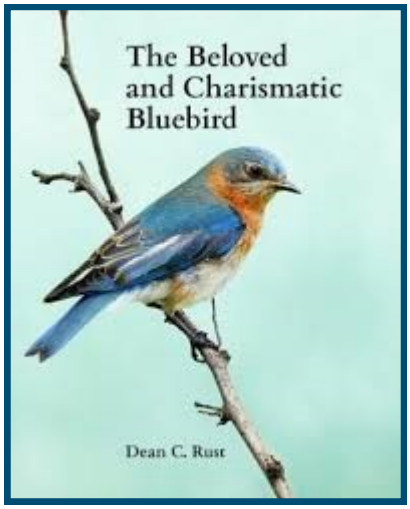
Other common names for Spicebush include: spicewood, northern spicebush, spice bush, and Benjamin bush. (some of those names are more common than others!).

So try adding Spicebush to your native plant offerings. Remember to have Spicebush fruit- and not just leaves and flowers- plant at least three Spicebush!

Other great sources to learn more about Spicebush:
www.grownative.org
***Shrubs and Woody Vines of Missouri*** by Don Kurz

**Remember** to send in your "Trail Summary Report" (See insert) so your data can be counted and compiled with other MOBS members!

***Truly,*** everyone's data is valuable– whether you monitor one box or hundreds! 2019 Trail results will be printed in an upcoming issue of ***The Fledgling!***




## Do you own this wonderful book yet?

If not, you COULD receive one **Free**...for yourself or to spread the good news about Bluebirds as a gift to someone else! Simply complete the enclosed MOBS Trail Summary Report and mail it to Greg Samuel **by November 30th** ....you will be entered in a drawing to win a copy of ***The Beloved and Charismatic Bluebird*** by Dean Rust. Over 150 pages filled with gorgeous images helpful and thorough information on all aspects of Bluebirding!

**Bluebird Pics by Greg Samuel**

Don't let the deadline to report your trail data slip by.....see INSERT of this issue.

*These gorgeous images from the Finley Creek Farm Bluebird Trail, courtesy of MOBS member ( and Trail Data Chair) Greg Samuel.*

## *A word about your 2019 Trail Summary/Nest Box Report.....*

*We say it often, but really it can't be over-emphasized. Everyone's nesting data is important. We so appreciate the folks who have consistently sent in nesting summaries but we really need to hear from more of our members.* ***(See insert).*** *Note in the chart below, over all, submitted reports have increased since 2009 however participation is still sorely out of proportion to our membership. Won't you please take a few moments to share your trail info with MOBS? It would be so helpful, and we are truly interested!* ***Thank you for providing and monitoring nest sites for our native cavity-nesters.....****now we want you tell US about your trail! (Thanks to Nest Box Data chair Greg Samuel for his good work in compiling MOBS nest box data)*

### 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 | | |

# *More from MOBS 2019 Conference*

**Left:** It appears Jim Rathert is attempting to give us dancing lessons at the Saturday evening Social at the Bluebird Conference! ! Eventually we did all manage to get together for a group photo. It was a very fun and relaxing cook out and time together. The hard work and advance planning by MOBS members Susan and Fred Burk really made that possible - so THANK YOU Susan and Fred for a great time (and for your help with the Sunday morning Field trip)

## Ann Earley and Bob Siemer
## 2019 recipients of the
## MOBS True Blue Service Award!

A hearty congratulations and a BIG Thank You to our 2019 "True Blue Service Award" recipients, Ann Earley and Bob Siemer. Not only did they do a spectacular job as the 2019 Conference Chairs, Bob and Ann have been dedicated volunteers serving and promoting MOBS for over a decade They are active and contributing Board Members, and have always promoted and represented MOBS through the many other conservation organizations in which they volunteer. Since 2008 Ann and Bob have volunteered as nest box monitors for the Forest Park Bluebird Trail in St Louis. They were the very first MOBS members to take advantage of the Life Membership level as soon as that option became available!

**Thank You Bob and Ann for your Outstanding Service to MOBS!**

**Left:** Our Friday evening banquet presenter, Margy Terpstra, gave a terrific program on "Full life cycle conservation of native birds" and did a fabulous job of showing how we can accomplish this in our own "space". She detailed how she and her husband Dan had successfully built (and continue to build) a spectacular, bird-attracting habitat of their own. Margy is quite the photographer and viewing images of some of the over 140 different species of birds from her backyard made for a very special evening!

**Above:**
More cook out fun at the Saturday evening Social! We were well-fed and the weather and the company were great.

# Landscaping for Birds

(taken from the **Great Missouri Birding Trail** website)
**www.greatmissouribirdingtrail.com**

## PLANT NATIVES

There is nothing more critical for attracting birds to your yard or back forty then providing native habitat. If you are one of the tens of millions of birders and non-birders that have feeders in your yard and want to see more birds, then do what most birders do, make your yard bird friendly. There is a saying in the birding world that "if the habitat is right the birds will be there". That is as true in your backyard as it is anyplace else. You don't need to have a huge yard to provide good habitat for birds because the quality of habitat is just as important as the quantity. Quality, bird-friendly habitat can be created by replacing invasive, non-native plants with native flowers, shrubs and trees

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## GET RID OF INVASIVES

Invasive species may be easy to care for and look quite nice, but unfortunately they don't provide the food and habitat needed by most birds in Missouri. A good first step is to identify and begin to remove invasive non-native plants. Remove invasive non-native trees and shrubs like Bradford/Callery pear, Bush Honeysuckles, and Multiflora Rose, and invasive grasses like Tall Fescue, Reed Canary, Johnson Grass, and others. Simply put, the more bird-friendly your yard is, the more species of birds you will attract.

## GROWNATIVE.ORG

The Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Prairie Foundation's Grow Native! Program are excellent places to start for a better understanding of how to care for native plants and how to deal with pesky invasives. Remember, even native plants can sometimes be a nuisance in the right context, so it's important to consult with the experts before taking the wrong plants home from the nursery. By helping you with plant identification, and by providing tips on planting and caring for native bird-friendly trees and plants, these programs will help you pick out the best plants for your situation.

**The Great Missouri Birding Trail has been about promoting and protecting habitat for birds since it's inception. AND they are good friends and Supporter level members of MOBS which we appreciate! This information from the GMBT website (Backyard Birding section) is just a sample of the great things to be found on their site. Visit them soon at:**
**www.greatmissouribirdingtrail.com**

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Landscaping for birds is as much about providing vegetation that provides food for birds as it is about providing vegetation that is essential to attracting the insects, spiders, and other food sources that certain birds rely upon. If you broadcast insecticides over your yard, don't expect to see birds that have an insect-heavy diet. Native plants, on the other hand, require little to no irrigation and rarely require fertilizers and pesticides.

Remember that birds don't read maps or check dates and times so it is never a guarantee that your yard will be filled with birds every day of the year. In addition, the results of habitat improvement might take a few seasons to fully manifest. Be patient and continue restoring your habitat, and eventually you will improve your chances of attracting more birds.

**Begin now and make your yard more bird friendly**

# Meet Spicebush! *(Continued from Page 9)*

Just because spicebush is a "bird friendly" native plant doesn't mean it is off limits to humans. Here is a pie recipe that utilizes spicebush as well as Elderberry—which of course the birds love too! Enjoy it with a cup of Spicebush Tea!

## Ila's Harvest Pie

**From :**
**"Mountain Kitchen with Naturalist Ila Hatter" DVD**
available from Great Smoky Mountain Association

***Note from Regina**: I always include the optional Blueberries and use the honey option in place of the sugar. The DVD shows using the spicebush berries in the form of crushed, dried spicebush berries and also suggests using Granny Smith Apples.*

### Ingredients:

1 Cup ripe Elderberries
(1 Cup Blueberries, optional)
3 Cups sliced Apples
1 TBS Lemon juice
¼ Cup corn starch
2/3 Cup sugar or Honey
2 tsp crushed spicebush berries or 2 tsp Cinnamon

### Instructions:

Set Elderberries (and Blueberries) aside. Combine remaining ingredients and pour into your favorite pie shell. Scatter Elderberries (and Blueberries) over mixture. Dot with butter. Cover with top pie shell and crimp edges. Slit vent holes in top crust. Bake at 350 degrees, about 45 minutes until the filling bubbles and the top browns.

### Spicebush tea

**MOST RECIPES ADVISE against boiling the twigs and only boil water then steep the twigs in it….below is one which boils the twigs (supposedly makes the tea bitter to boil twigs in the water).**

8 oz of spicebush twigs ( break into pieces that are 4-6 inches long)
2.5 qts water
2 TBS or more honey

In a 3 qt pan place the twigs- add 2.5 quarts water.
Bring to a rolling boil and boil, uncovered, for 25 – 30 mins until water is a slightly yellow color.
Strain thru a colander
Mix in honey and store in frig up to one week –reheat in microwave by cup to use.

Over the years, Spicebush tea has been credited for relieving colds and fever and thought to be a "blood purifier" and helpful in relieving arthritis symptoms. It was even used as a cure for typhoid fever.

### Spicebush tea recipe by the Pot:

8-10 twigs with or without leaves broken into one inch pieces
Bring 3 cups water to boil and turn off heat
Stuff twigs into water
Cover with Lid
**Steep 30 mins or longer**
Strain and sweeten as desired

# Upcoming Events

**NOW!....**a perfect combination of science and educational outreach, the Missouri River Bird Observatory is once again hosting their Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project open to the public at their headquarters in Arrow Rock. These are way more than just banding demonstrations! The good folks from MRBO take this opportunity to teach us about all of Missouri's Owls, share the history and progress of their Saw-whet Owl research, AND- most nights- give us the opportunity for an up close encounter with what is undoubtedly one of the cutest little cavity-nesters to ever grace planet Earth! The banding project this fall will run **between Oct. 31st through mid November** with the specific dates given on MRBOs facebook page or by calling **660-837-3888** as info becomes available (several factors go into determining which nights to designate for banding).

**Nov 14th ...** And speaking of owls, the Ozark Rivers Audubon Society will host a special program by Brenda Hente at 7 pm in Rolla. This is a **combination of two of Brenda's programs titled "the Owls of Missouri" and "Engineering Marvels: the Science of Owls"**. Find out the details on their Facebook Page or email: info@OzarkRiversAudubon.org.

**December 14th– January 5th... Christmas Bird Count Season!** Find a Christmas Bird Count in your area and join in the fun for a day of counting birds. In Missouri, go to this website to find the Audubon chapter near you and inquire about the date of that chapter's Christmas Bird Count for 2019: www.mo.audubon.org/chapters-centers.

**YEAR-ROUND!.....** There's always something great going on with **Missouri Young Birders Club.** Check out their website and facebook page for upcoming events and information. Or contact the awesome state coordinator, Paige Witek at 660-837-3888.

REMINDER!

**MOBS Regional Bluebird Workshops! Take advantage of the materials—and funding– MOBS has to offer** to help you share and encourage others in Bluebird and Cavity-nester Conservation! Contact a MOBS Board member (contact info on page 1) about hosting a Regional MOBS Bluebird Workshop for a group or organization in your area. *Our sincere thanks to Bluebird Network Telecommunications company for generously providing the funding for the MOBS Educational Brochures and Quick Reference Guides.*

**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 !***

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by Jim Rathert are
dishwasher & microwave safe!

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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).

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## Order your MOBS Nest Box Signs

(Order Form left)

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

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TOTAL_____

**Make Checks to the MO Bluebird Society**
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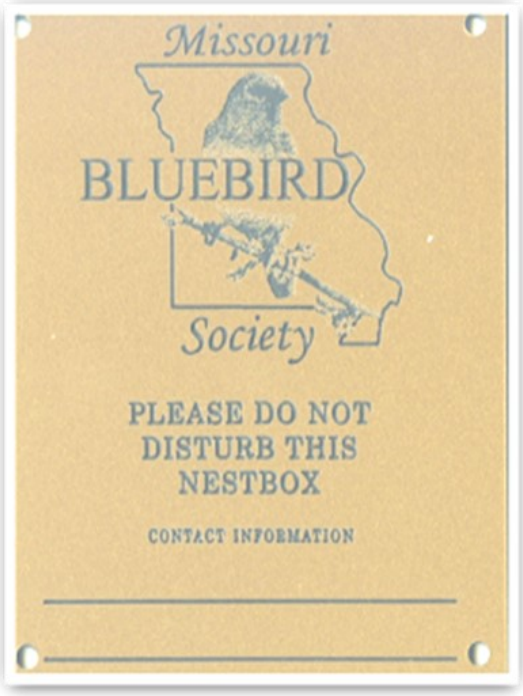

www.missouribluebird.org

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# The Fledgling Fall 2019 Issue

- **Nest Box/Trail Summary Report Form enclosed!**
  *We can't wait to hear from you about "your" birds!*
- NABS 2020 conference Registration Brochure and Info
- **MDC's "Missouri Bird Conservation Plan"…** Where do YOU fit in?
- **Pics** from the MOBS 2019 Conference!
- MOBS Regional Workshop sponsorship program
- **SAVE the DATE:**
  2020 MOBS Bluebird Conference
- **Spicebush:** A great native plant for the birds AND you! (recipes for people food)