

Winter 2020
March

The Fledgling

The official Newsletter of the Missouri Bluebird Society



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

Letter from the President....

Dear MOBS Members,

Is it winter or is it spring? Although the calendar says we still have a few more days of winter our Bluebirds are telling us it is spring and time to start nesting. I would like to thank MOBS member Kathy Marquart for sharing a photo last week of one of her bluebird nests with 3 eggs. I am sure that the nest now has 5-6 eggs which is common for the first nest of the season. Our own boxes on the trail are a few days behind with one of the nest boxes having 2 eggs and two other boxes with nest start. Usually we have multiple Chickadee nest with eggs by now but this year the Bluebirds are ahead of our Chickadees.

Regina and I head to the North American Bluebird Society conference this week and I know I will see some of you there. I look forward to seeing old bluebird friends and sharing stories with loyal bluebird trail monitors who have been monitoring trails for 5, 10, 20 and even 50 years. NABS is the main reason Bluebirds have shown such good population increases in North America. Our friends at BAN do a fantastic job of hosting the conference and I want to **thank them in advance** for all they have done and will do before the end of the conference. And of course: **Check out the info and registration form for MOBS 2020 Bluebird Conference!** A more detailed Conference Brochure will follow in the spring.

You will also find in this issue MOBS' annual nesting report. Please consider turning in your report *each year* to help MOBS present an accurate picture of how well our cavity-nesters are doing. It truly helps other bluebirders and conservation organizations. Thanks Greg Samuel, for another great report.



March 7, 2020!

Photo provided by
Kathy Marquart

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Fledgling* "Email Only" ?

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regina@birds-i-view.biz

Specify your name and

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In the subject line.



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on Facebook!

MOBS

PO BOX 105830

Jefferson City, MO 65110

www.missouribird.org

Do what you can to help the
Bluebirds,

Steve Garr

MOBS, president

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The 2020 Missouri Bluebird Conference!

July 10th—12th Jefferson City, MO



The Friday Banquet and Saturday Programs will be held at the spacious and accommodating **Lincoln University George Washington Carver Farm**

(3804 Bald Hill Road, Jefferson City, MO)

The Saturday evening Social and Sunday Field Trip will be held at the beautiful
“Mockingbird Hill” in Jefferson City

Friday Evening Banquet: featuring a buffet dinner and social, the annual “Bluebirds and Friends” slide show, and a SPECIAL program by Mike Doyen and Louise Wilkinson from the Great Missouri Birding Trail! The Trail went through some big changes this past year—Come find out what’s new and what it means to you!

Saturday Programs:

Photo by Keith Kridler



What do you know about **Brown-headed Nuthatches**? Long extirpated from Missouri these very special little cavity nesters once made parts of Missouri their home. Years of strategic planning and hard work are about to pay off as MDC re-introduces these little birds to our state in 2020! State Ornithologist, **Sarah Kendrick** will be here to tell us all about it AND to share what we should know about the recently- released **“Missouri Bird Conservation Plan”**.

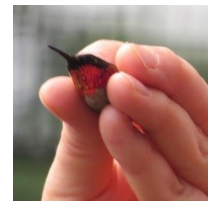
Our Annual **“Bluebird Basics”** program will have a special twist this year! Because successful Bluebirding happens in a variety of habitats, presenters will contribute information from their individual trails. MOBS member **Ron Darling** will show us **“How to get a Birdie on the Golf Course”** while other members share **Bluebirding at Home, Down on the Farm** and **Bluebirds in the Park**.

MOBS welcomes **Austin Lambert** as a presenter at the 2020 Bluebird Conference. Austin is a Naturalist at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City and plans and executes dozens of programs annually for adults and children alike. As we all endeavor to involve the next generation of conservationists in Bluebirding activities, Austin will share methods and principles for successfully **Engaging Today’s Youth in Nature and Birding!**

Conference Registration fee **includes** Lunch on Saturday, an Educational Packet, plus the Saturday evening Social/Picnic AND the Sunday morning Field Trip.



Saturday Evening Social: A fabulous gathering of friends—new and old— at one of the most beautiful and relaxing places in Mid-Missouri! Join us at Mockingbird Hill for good food, camaraderie, and good birding.



Sunday, July 12th Mockingbird Hill, Jefferson City, MO
Hummingbird Banding Demo 7:30 am

8:30– 11:00 am ...Tour this spectacular Wildlife habitat on the property of Norm and Beth Stucky. It is a special example of what can be accomplished by conservation-minded property owners.

Our Host Hotel for the conference is the Best Western Plus Capitol Inn/ 1937 Christy Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65101 **573-635-4175**
A number of rooms will be blocked for the Missouri Bluebird Society; booking early is recommended

The Missouri Bluebird Society invites you attend the
2020 Missouri Bluebird Conference

July 10th– 12th Jefferson City, Missouri

Lincoln University's George Washington Carver Farm, 3804 Bald Hill Road, Jefferson City, MO 65101

Directions: go to: <http://www.lincolnu.edu/web/cooperative-research/carver-farm-directions>

Contact Steve & Regina Garr at 573-638-2473 or steve@birds-i-view.biz for conference information

Registration for the 2020 Missouri Bluebird Society Conference

Please make Checks payable to: The Missouri Bluebird Society

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

Name(s) _____

Street Address : _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone Number _____ Email : _____

Included in your Conference Registration Fee: Lunch on Saturday, July 11th, a "Bluebird Information Packet", all Saturday Presentations, as well as the Saturday evening Social and the Sunday morning Field trip to "Mockingbird Hill" in Jefferson City, MO.

(Saturday's Lunch will include drink, dessert, a variety of main courses, including vegetarian options.

PLEASE check HERE _____ **if you would prefer a vegetarian meal for lunch.** No other advance reservations are required for Lunch aside from your paid Conference Registration)

Conference Registration Fees:

Number of Missouri Bluebird Society **Members** attending _____ X \$20.00/person = \$ _____

Number of Non-members attending: X \$25.00/person = \$ _____

Number of Children **under 12 years** of age attending **with a paid adult** X \$13.00/per child = \$ _____

An OPTIONAL Friday Evening Dinner & Social is scheduled for July 10, 2020

Number of Members attending the Friday Dinner and Social: _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Number of Non-members attending the Friday Dinner and Social: _____ X \$30.00 = \$ _____

Friday's Dinner will feature a special presentation from the Great Missouri Birding Trail!

Saturday Evening Social and Picnic: No Additional Charge (with your paid conference registration) however it is **very important** to register to attend.Number attending: _____

TOTAL amount enclosed for Conference Fees and Optional Friday Dinner \$ _____

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

Not yet a Missouri Bluebird Society Member??? Join now and save on your

Bluebird Conference Registration Fee! (Please enclose check for dues with this membership application)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email: _____

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

Membership Levels:

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

_____ Individual one year membership \$9.00

_____ Individual two year membership \$16.00

_____ Family one year membership \$15.00

_____ Family two year membership \$28.00

_____ DONOR (Annual) \$50.00

_____ SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00

_____ **Life Membership (family) \$175.00**

_____ **Senior (65+) Life Membership (family) \$100.00**

County _____

The 2020 Nesting Season is Underway!

Our thanks to long-time MOBS member Kathy Marquart for taking time to send this pic and to send this report of Bluebird eggs —the first report we have received for the 2020 nesting season!

Actually, Kathy's birds had an early start *last* season as well. The first clutch of 5 Bluebird eggs were all laid by March 19th and there was a total of four clutches from that nest box totaling 19 eggs and 18 Bluebird fledglings! Looks like her blues are off to a great start again this year. Congratulations Kathy and good work caring for "your" Bluebirds!

We have had dozens of reports of Bluebirds courting over boxes and investigating houses and cavities and even bringing in nesting materialall of which, of course, is part of what makes bluebirding SO enjoyable!



Photo provided by Kathy Marquart

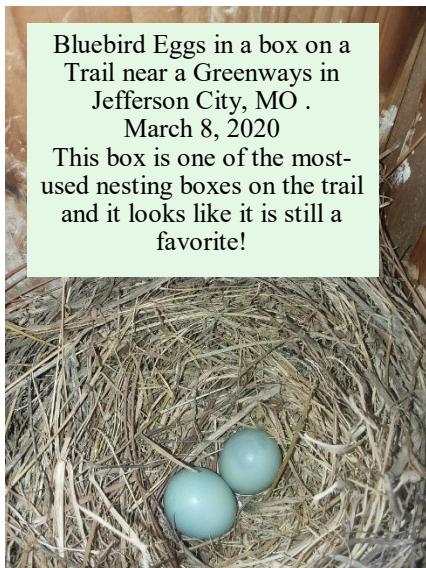
Bluebird Eggs March 7, 2020!

Belonging to MOBS
Member and Bluebird
Landlord,
Kathy Marquart
in Holts Summit

March 8, 2020 Jefferson City

Bluebird Eggs in a box on a
Trail near a Greenways in
Jefferson City, MO .
March 8, 2020

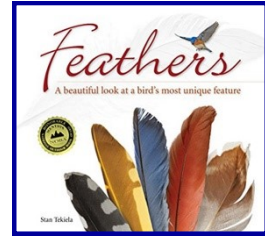
This box is one of the most-
used nesting boxes on the trail
and it looks like it is still a
favorite!



"Paired" nest boxes on Steve Garr's
nest box trail along Hyde Park Drive
in Jefferson City, MO. One box has
an active Bluebird nest with eggs.



Take the Feather Quiz (Answers on Page 13 of this newsletter)



*Most Bluebirders are familiar with the fact that the blue feathers on our beloved Bluebirds are not truly “blue” (anyway not in a blue-pigment kind of way). The shade of blue we see on bluebirds is actually quite dependent on light refraction due to the shape of Bluebird feathers. There are many more interesting facts about bird feathers! I have developed this short quiz from information gleaned from one of my all-time favorite books: **Feathers: A Beautiful Look at a Bird’s most Unique Feature** by Stan Tekiela. Check out his website, www.naturesmart.com, to purchase this spectacular book and others.*

*Regina Garr, Editor, **The Fledgling***

1. The average small bird, such as a House Finch, has 1200 feathers. Larger birds can have ten thousand feathers or more. How many different TYPES of feathers does every bird have?

A. six B. eleven C. eighteen

2. It is easy to distinguish between a male and female Northern Cardinal based on their plumage, but both sexes in other birds (like Chickadees, Doves, and Blue Jays) appear to look identical. Birds also distinguish between the sexes based on plumage, so How do birds that look exactly alike distinguish between male and female?



3. Which color of feather is strongest? A. Black B. Red C. White

4. Backyard birds will fluff up their feathers to keep warm. How much is heat loss reduced when birds fluff their feathers for warmth?

A. 10% B. 20% C. 30%



5. What special feature do Hummingbird feathers and Wild Turkey feathers share?

(Answers on Page 13 of this newsletter)

Missouri Bluebird Society



2019 Nesting Report

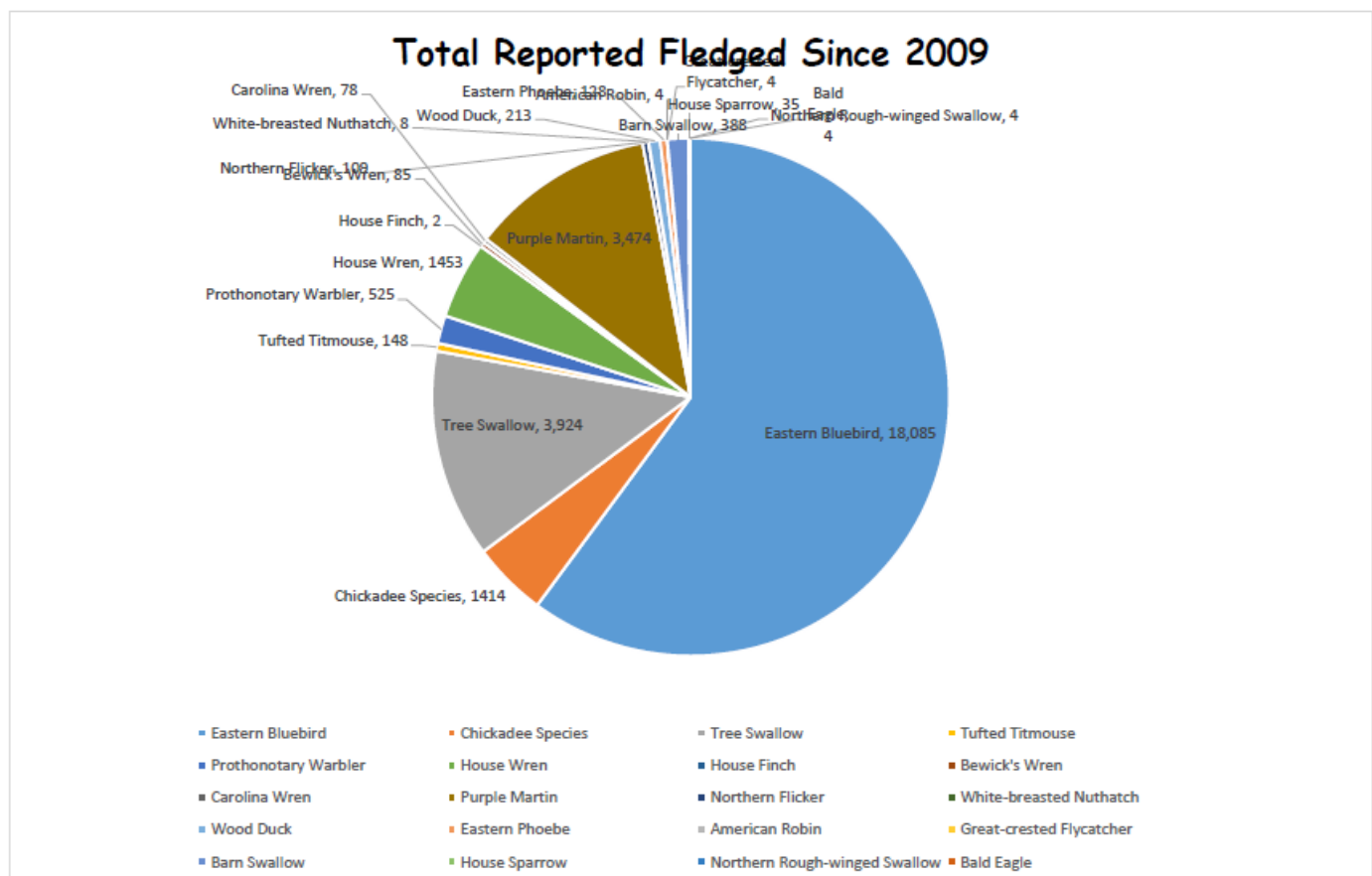
Many thanks to MOBS' Nesting Data chair, Greg Samuel, for once again putting together a detailed and informative Nesting Report. AND my thanks as well to the MOBS members who took time to complete the short one page Nesting Summary Report to send in to Greg to be included in this Annual Report.

Please take time to look over this data - it really is useful information that can benefit the native cavity-nesters in our state. Be sure to check out Greg's latest addition to the report: **"county representation"**.

Steve Garr.

Missouri Bluebird Society, President

Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report





Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report

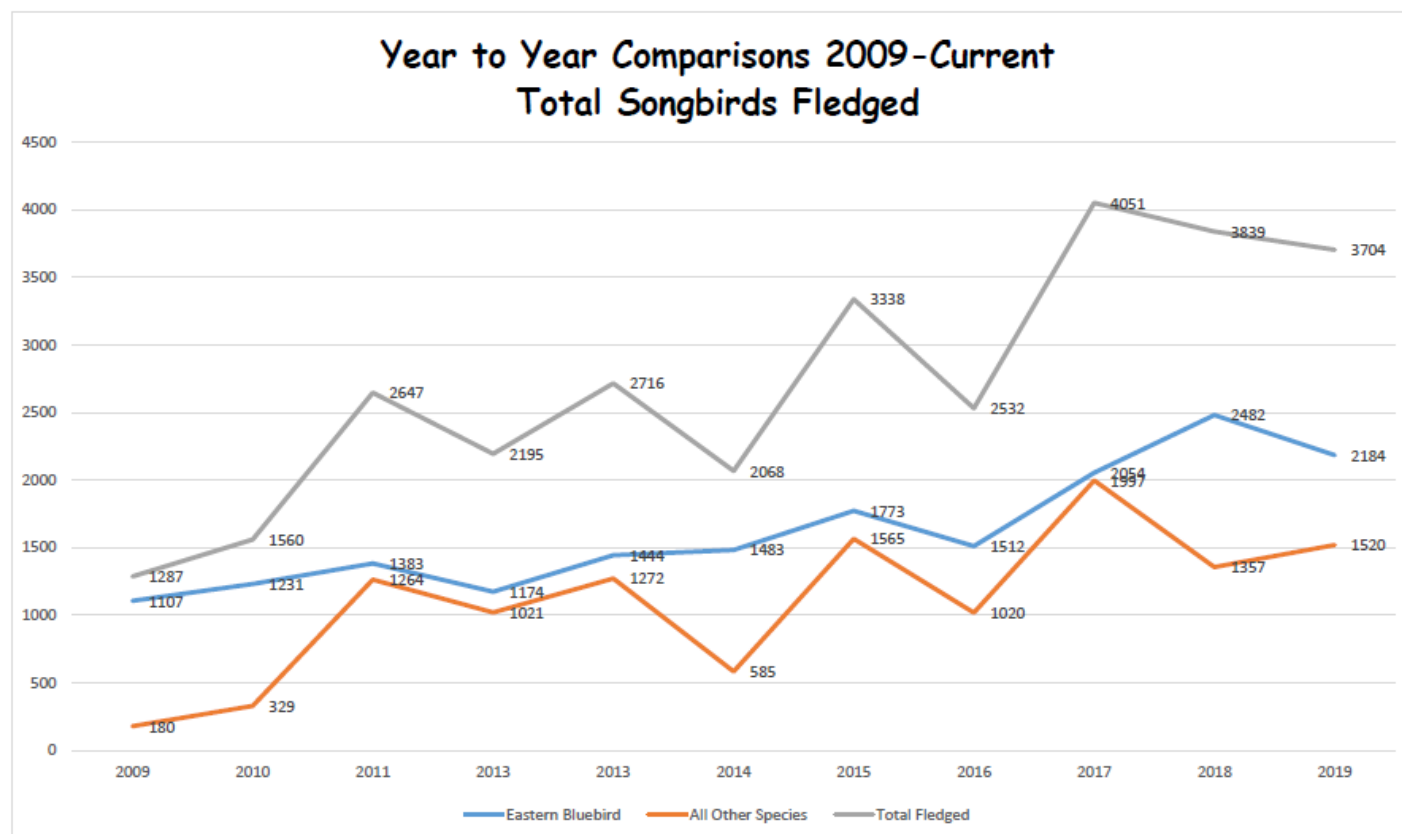
Total Number of Nesting Reports	36	10 less than 2018	41 Unused Boxes	.05% Unused			
Total Number of Nesting Boxes	760	4 less than 2018	114	17 1/2 %			
Total Number of Counties Represented	20	Number Possible					
Eastern Bluebird Data							
Nesting Attempts	659						
Successful Nests	579	88% Success rate	82% in 2018				
Eggs Laid	2,719						
Chicks Hatched	2,325	86% Hatch rate	85% in 2018				
Chicks Fledged	2,184	94% Fledged rate	95% in 2018				
Average number of eggs per nest							
Number of white eggs reported	56						
Number of white eggs hatched	N/A						
Number of white eggs fledged	N/A						
Species	Nesting Attempts	Successful Nests	Percentage	Eggs	Chicks	Percentage	Percentage
Chickadee	51	41	80%	236	212	90%	99%
Tree Swallow	132	115	87%	559	476	85%	91%
Tufted Titmouse	4	4	100%	16	14	88%	100%
Bewick's Wren	4	4	100%	25	25	100%	100%
Carolina Wren	9	8	89%	33	28	85%	100%
House Wren	45	27	60%	168	146	87%	79%
Purple Martin	133	110	83%	614	497	81%	89%
Prothonotary Warbler	20	15	75%	86	54	63%	100%
Northern Flicker	3	3	100%	18	16	89%	100%
House Sparrow	39	2	.05%	67	12	18%	25%
Bald Eagle	1	1	100%	2	2	100%	100%
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	100%	4	4	100%	100%
Wood Duck	4	3	75%	44	34	77%	100%
Species Reported O/S of Missouri							
Eastern Bluebird	577	496	86%	2,562	2,054	80%	99%
Wood Duck	14	9	64%	271	112	41%	100%
American Kestrel	15	15	100%	73	69	95%	100%
Turkey Vulture	5	3	50%	7	5	71%	100%
Bald Eagle	1	1	100%	1	1	100%	100%

Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report

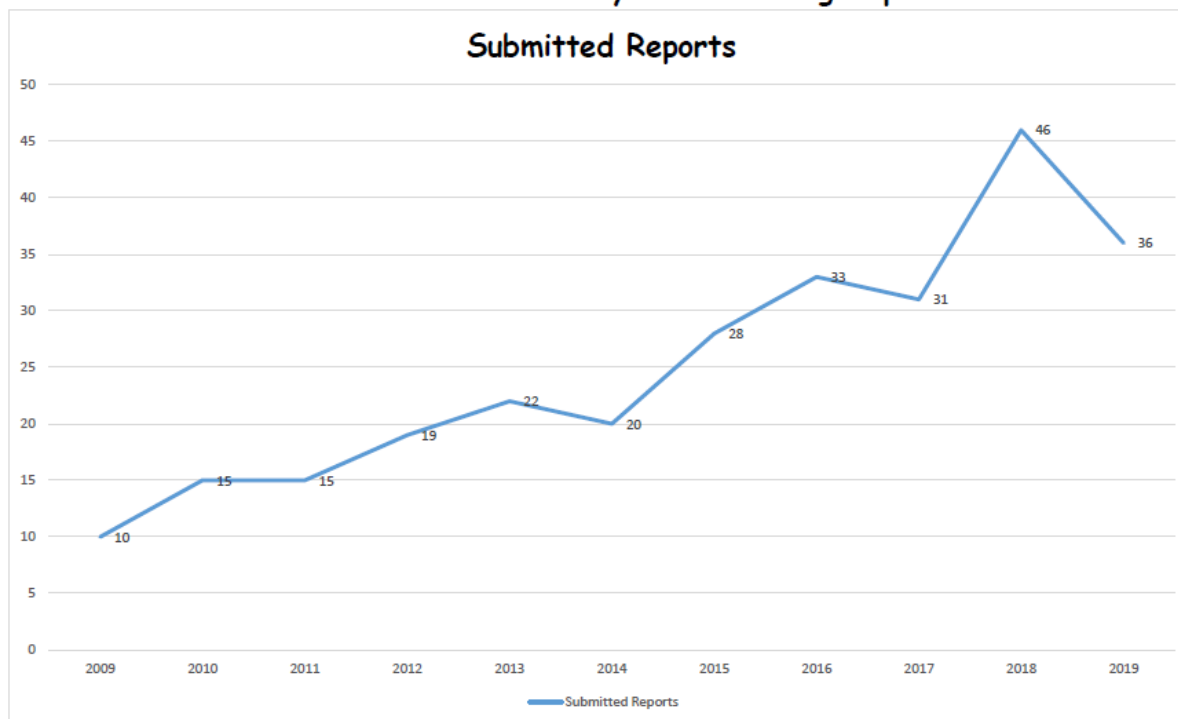
Comparison Year to Year	Eastern Bluebird Fledged	All Other Species Fledged	Combined Total Fledged	Submitted Reports			
2009	1,107	180	1,287	10			
2010	1,231	329	1,560	15			
2011	1,383	1,264	2,647	15			
2012	1,174	1,021	2,195	19			
2013	1,444	1,272	2,716	22			
2014	1,483	585	2,068	20			
2015	1,773	1,565	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			
2019	2,184	1,520	3,704	36			
Total Numbers Fledged Since 2009							
Eastern Bluebird	18,085						
Chickadee Species	1,414						
Tree Swallow	3,924						
Tufted Titmouse	148						
Prothonotary Warbler	525						
House Wren	1,453						
House Finch	2						
Bewick's Wren	85						
Carolina Wren	78						
Purple Martin	3,474						
Norther Flicker	109						
White-breasted Nuthatch	8						
Wood Duck	213						
Eastern Phoebe	128						
American Robin	4						
Great-crested Flycatcher	4						
Barn Swallow	388						
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	4						
House Sparrow	35						
Bald Eagle	4						
Totals	2,9957						



Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report



Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report



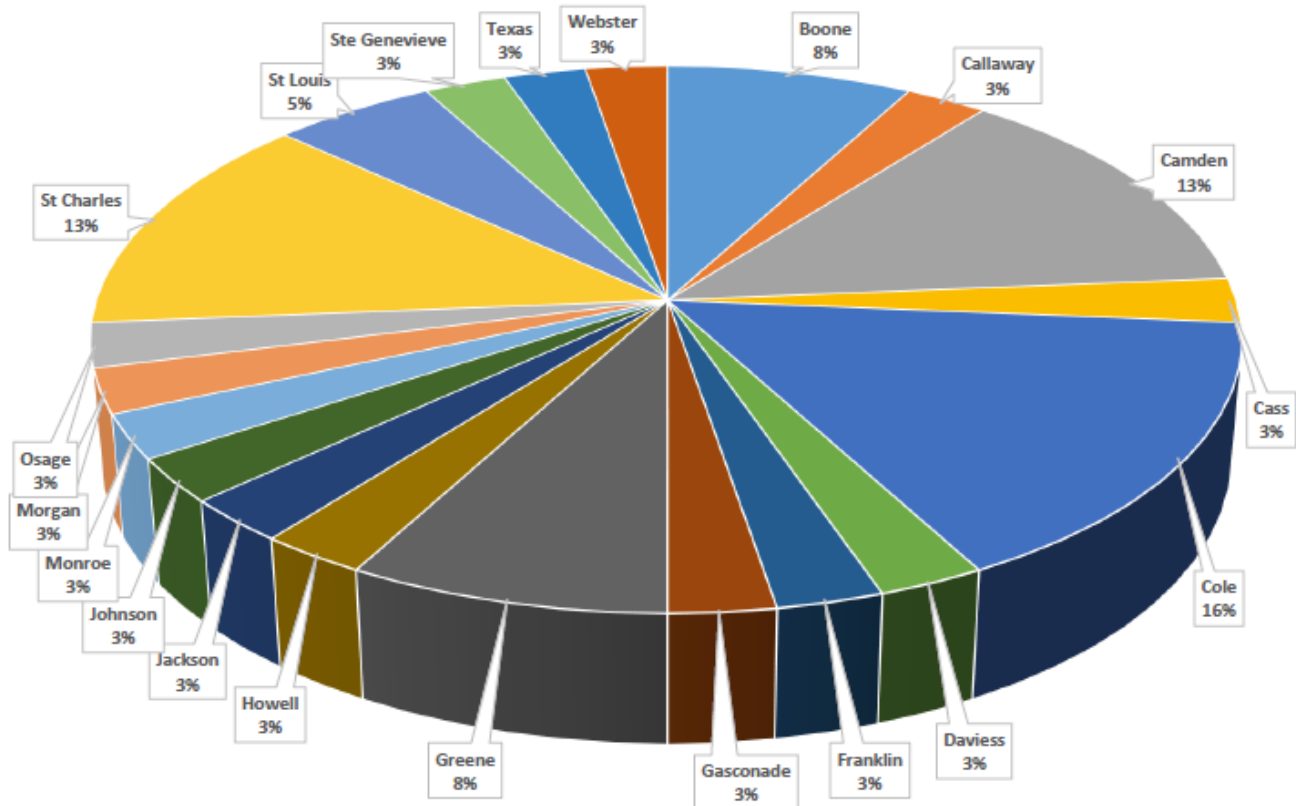
Missouri Bluebird Society 2019 Nesting Report

County Representation			
Boone			
Calloway			
Camden			
Cass			
Cole			
Daviess			
Franklin			
Gasconade			
Greene			
Howell			
Jackson			
Johnson			
Monroe			
Morgan			
Osage			
St Charles			
St Louis			
Ste Genevieve			
Texas			
Webster			



Don't see your county listed here?
Please send in your data just another reason all data is important

County Representation by Number of Reports Submitted



MOBS Membership is our most Valuable Resource.
We thank ALL of our members for their support!

New or Renewing Memberships since our last issue of *The Fledgling*:

Bernie Bahr (Supporter), Tom Beckman, David and Nancy Bedan, Leonard and Ellen Conrad (Life members), Colleen Crank, Mike Doyen and Louis Wilkerson /Great Missouri Birding Trail (Life members), Bob and Pam Jones, Tricia Kephart, Paula Peters, Harold Nagel, Richard Scott, Norm and Beth Stucky, Delores Vlach.



Birds and Bees Festival
May 9, 2020
Arrow Rock, Missouri



Don't miss this terrific event sponsored by our good friends and MOBS supporters:

The Missouri River Bird Observatory. Check out the details at:
www.mrbo.org and at arrowrock.org/events.



Photo by S. Garr

MOBS Membership Application/Renewal Form

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 DONOR (Annual) \$50.00
 Individual two year membership \$16.00 SUPPORTER (Annual) \$100.00
 *Family one year membership \$15.00
 *Family two year membership \$28.00 *Family LIFE Membership \$175.00
 *Senior Family Life Membership (available to individuals 65 years or age or older)....\$100.00.

How many nest boxes do you monitor? _____

How long have you been a Bluebirder? _____

*For individuals residing at the same address

MOBS Members doing Outreach!

Photos provided by Ron Darling



Above: Feb 12th, The Lake Bloomers Garden Club presented an appreciation certificate and bluebird floor mat to **Chris Jackson, Golf Superintendent at Indian Rock Golf Club** for a new bluebird trail in 2019. Pictured left (with mat) is MOBS member Ron Darling and pictured right (holding Certificate with Chris) is MOBS member Tricia Kephart. Lake Bloomers Garden Club is a MOBS' Grant Box and Baffle recipient. Ron Darling has done a terrific job encouraging and assisting with the development of new nest box trails. Congrats to Chris Jackson and great job everyone for doing your part for cavity-nester conservation!

MOBS Board members also speak Wildflower!

Dedicated MOBS Board members **Bob Siemer and Ann Earley**, presented a fabulous program on Wildflowers to the River Bluffs Audubon Society chapter in Jefferson City, February 13th at the Runge Conservation Nature Center. Active in many aspects of conservation, you may recall that Ann and Bob are MOBS 2019 recipients of the True Blue Service Award for their faithful service and hard work for the Missouri Bluebird Society. Thanks Bob and Ann for all you do!



Reminder: Please remember that, thanks to a generous donation from **Bluebird Network telecommunications company**, MOBS has wonderful full color handouts for you to use for your next educational program! Just call Steve and Regina at 573-638-2473 or email : steve@birds-i-view.biz



Joe and Linda Pridgeon report a successful Bluebird presentation at the New Life Christian Church in Eolia on Thursday, February 27th. Joe and Linda are devoted MOBS members and tireless workers when it comes to spreading the word and encouraging proper care and predator control when it comes to nest boxes and our native cavity nesters. They have attended nearly every MOBS conference and can always be found in the thick of helping out with conference tasks. MOBS appreciates you Joe and Linda.

MOBS has many "Bluebird Ambassadors"! We'd love to hear what you are up to. Send info to: regina@birds-i-view.biz

Answers to the Feather Quiz!

Answers taken from the book **Feathers** by Stan Tekiela

1. A...Birds have **Six different types of feathers**. AND, you may be surprised how few of those feather types actually have to do with flight. They are listed and described on pages 23-35 of Mr. Tekiela's book on feathers, with a **very helpful photo and diagram on page 34: Contour feathers, Down feathers, Flight feathers, Semiplume and Filoplume feathers, and Bristle feathers**.

2. Well the answer to this one lies in WHO is doing the looking! While adult birds of both sexes of some species may look to US to have identical plumage, we don't have "bird eyes". Most backyard birds have an extra cone in their retinas which captures ultra violet light. While birds feathers reflect the light spectrum we do see, they also reflect UV light which we humans cannot see. Birds therefore have no trouble telling the boys from the girls based on plumage! An example given by author Stan Tekiela on page 63 of his book *Feathers* is that of Blue Jays. The large white patch on the wings of male Blue Jays reflect UV light—the females wings do not. Visible to the birds, invisible to us!



Here's a BONUS story indicating the importance of feather coloring and plumage markings. On page 74 of his book *Feathers*, Stan Tekiela relates a study in which a female Northern Flicker was captured during breeding season and black marks were glued to her face (mimicking the malar marks on male Flickers). When she was returned to her mate he chased her away aggressively! When the black facial marks were removed from the female, the male's behavior returned to normal. Subtle differences in plumage appear to be very important!

3. **A. Black feathers are stronger.** Melanin, which gives black /dark feathers their color, also gives them strength. Nearly all woodpecker species have black tails— which comes in handy since very strong tail feathers are needed for support as woodpeckers balance on trees and excavate cavities in the wood! (page 85)

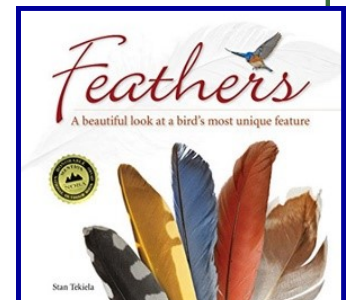


4. **C. 30%** When birds fluff their feathers to keep warm they are reducing heat loss by approximately 30%! (page 81, *Feathers*, by Stan Tekiela)

5. Hummingbirds and Wild Turkeys (among other birds) possess some feathers which appear one color in one light and another color in a different light. ...Iridescence. Or as author Stan Tekiela refers to it on page 60 of his book on feathers: "**Shimmering Iridescence**"! While the light refraction in the feathers of these two species may not be derived in exactly the same way, the iridescent results are equally gorgeous!

FYI: Please Note that special federal and state-issued permits are required to possess or collect feathers of any native wild birds.

Answers to the "Feather Quiz" taken from the wonderful information in Stan Tekiela's book **Feathers: A Beautiful Look at a Bird's Most Unique Feature** ! We have only scratched the surface here —there are hundreds of more fascinating "feather facts" to explore in his book.



Mark your calendar!
MOBS 2020 conference:
July 10-12, 2020
Lincoln University's Carver Farm
Jefferson City, MO



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

2020 Winter Fledgling

Inside:

- **2020 Missouri Bluebird Conference**
(Registration form and info enclosed!)
- **The Official 2019 MOBS Nesting Data Report** from our nesting data chair Greg Samuel.
 - Let's talk Bird Feathers....we have a quiz!
 - What have MOBS members been up to lately?
- **Early Bluebird Egg pics for 2020...yep, nesting season has begun!**



Photo by S. Gurr