Fall 2020

November 2020

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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Would you prefer to receive your copy of *The Fledgling* "Email Only" ?

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

Specify your name and "Email Only Fledgling"

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MOBS
PO BOX 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110
www.missouribluebird.org

Letter from the President:

Photo by Steve Garr

It is the end of another year and I am hoping you will look through this issue of ***The Fledgling*** and see what some of the MOBS members have been up to this year. Your Bluebird friends have been busy. Our Bluebirds have not been forgotten—in fact they have been a source of calm for many of us.

Please take time to fill out your trail summary report and mail it to Greg Samuel before December 31st. Check out page 6 of this newsletter to read about a special incentive for reporting by the deadline! As always, we thank Greg for doing such a great job with this project.

This year is the 10th Anniversary for the Missouri River Bird Observatory. Congratulations to Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke for being such a conservation force in Missouri. All of Missouri has benefitted from their work.

Looking at the pictures of the NABS conference in March (pages 7 and 8) I realize how blessed we all were to get together—not knowing now when we will be able to do that again. My congratulations to Bluebirds Across Nebraska for a job WELL done hosting the conference.

Since we were unable to have our 2020 MOBS conference due to Covid concerns, this meant we were also unable to have our annual fundraiser—the silent auction and raffle. SO...thanks to the generosity of some very kind donors, we have put together a fun "Mail–in Raffle" opportunity for you! See pages 10 and 11 and mail in your Raffle Form soon.

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr
MOBS president

Missouri Bluebird Society Officers & Board of Directors

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The 2020 Nesting Season in Review

By MOBS member Carol Ware

The Village of Loch Lloyd Nesting Box

Review of the 2020 Season

The year 2020 will go down in history as a very difficult and challenging year in many ways. With STAY AT HOME and SELF QUARENTNE no one knew what to do. The Bluebird committee at the Village of Loch Lloyd was no different from the rest of the United States. What should we do? We knew that the birds didn't know about Covid 19 and continued on with their lives. The Committee came up with a plan, since most of our boxes were on the golf course, if any of our team had a golf cart they could drive and check the boxes by themselves. Actually, if a family member wanted to ride with them, it could be done. There were 9 members of the team who were anxious to help every week.

On Monday mornings at 7:30 the excitement was brimming throughout Loch Lloyd. A schedule of boxes to check was given to each member and Out they went. With March 30th our start date, there were already a few boxes with activity, nests, eggs and one nest with 3 babies. The season progressed and more and more activity being found.

The end of our season came on August 24th. We had many successes and a few sad finding with missing eggs and dead babies, but all in all the Loch Lloyd Conservation/Bluebird Committee had many fun and exciting Monday's. A recap of our totals, Bluebirds fledged, 365, Tree Swallows fledged, 164 and Carolina Wrens, House Finch, House wrens. Plus there were 15 house sparrow nests destroyed. The rest of the Committee members who couldn't participate will be happy to go out in 2021.

The last photo, is our Covid 19 nest, it has a mask around the eggs.

Photos taken by, Janet and Jim Malarkey, Sue Tanner, Deanna Jackaway, Tony Racela, Meredith Lutz, all part of our team this year and for several years.

Submitted by, Carol Ware, co-chair with Betty Lusby of the trail.

Missouri BLUEBIRD Society

A note from *The Fledgling* Editor:

I would like to say a special thank you to Carol Ware for taking the time to put together an interesting submission about how the nest box monitors on their trail managed the season in the face of a global pandemic. I thank Carol for stepping up to contribute to this issue by submitting a positive and encouraging piece that was ***a "finished" and ready-to-print submission.*** *I also say a special thank you to Tom and Mary Lou Nicholls for permitting me to use their wonderful article on " the Miracle of Leaves" in this issue. And I thank my good bluebirder friend Ann Wick for sharing the Nicholls' publications with me!*

I now invite YOU to please consider emailing a submission to me for future newsletters. I know so many MOBS members have interesting stories, insights, and observations other members would like to read about. Submissions may be emailed to regina@birds-i-view.biz (please write "For MOBS Fledgling" in the subject line). I can accept submissions in the form of an attachment in Microsoft Word or Publisher file (favored but not necessary) or in a pdf. Images should be JPG, compressed to be easily opened via email. I know your contribution would make a wonderful addition to the MOBS newsletter– so I look forward to hearing from you soon! Regina Garr, Editor, ***The Fledgling***

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 _____DONOR (Annual) $50.00 _____***Family LIFE Membership $175.00**

_____Individual two year membership $16.00 _____SUPPORTER (Annual) $100.00 _____**+Senior Family LIFE** mbshp **$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 +for individuals 65 + years of age

A word about your 2020Trail 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 form on page 5).*** *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)

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

Missouri BLUEBIRD Society

MOBS Nest Box Trail Summary

Trail Name:	Year:
Trail Monitor:	
Address / City:	
County:	
Number of Nest Boxes:	Number of "Unused Boxes:

Species	Total Nesting Attempts	Total Successful Nests	Total eggs laid	Total of White EABL Eggs	Total Chicks	Total Fledged

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

How often was the trail monitored:

First date monitored for the season:	Last date monitored for the season:
Signature of Trail Monitor:	Date:

Please send this completed form to: Greg Samuel 4749 State Highway Z, Fordland, MO 65652

Please mail form to arrive by December 31st

Everyone's data is important! Please report your data to MOBS
www.missouribluebird.org

Remember to send in your "Trail Summary Report" (page 5) 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! 2020 Trail results will be printed in an upcoming issue of ***The Fledgling!***

Bluebird Pic by Greg Samuel

YOU could win this fabulous metal Bird Feeder (shown left and right filled with sunflower hearts) by simply turning in your MOBS Nesting Report by **December 31st!** Everyone who turns in a report by the deadline will be entered to win the feeder plus a 5# bag of sunflower hearts **(Total value over $38.00!)**

Complete the form on Page 5 of this newsletter and Mail it to the address listed on the form to be entered to win!

Hope is The Thing With Feathers 2020

The Missouri River Bird Observatory's Fifth Annual Photography Contest

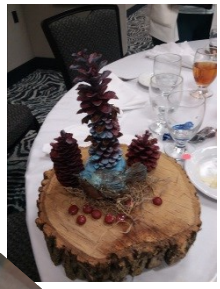
HURRY! Deadline to enter photo contest is December 31, 2020

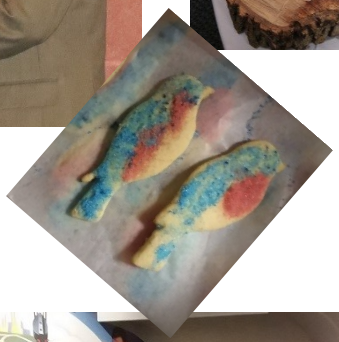
Don't pass up this chance to enter this very special **photo contest!** It benefits the Missouri River bird Observatory and their conservation efforts. **More details at: www.mrbo.org**

NABS 2020 *Spectacularly* hosted by Bluebirds Across Nebraska!

So very much has happened to our world since bluebirders from around North America gathered in Kearney, Nebraska this past March for the 2020 North American Bluebird Society Conference. Somehow it has served to make that time we all spent together even more special. Engaging and educational presenters, wonderful food, fun field trips, time to honor deserving conservationists, and ESPECIALLY the opportunity to reconnect with dear friends and make new ones... it all combined to make for an outstanding event. This we are sure of...NO group anywhere could have pulled off such a SPECIAL conference in the year of 2020 better than those amazing folks from Bluebirds Across Nebraska!
THANK YOU BAN! THANK YOU!

More NABS 2020....





The Miracle of Leaves

By Thomas H. Nicholls,
Nature Education Center, Fifield, WI

Reprinted from the Nature Education Center's eNature Report No. 179, October 24, 2020
(This article was published in part in the Price County Review & The Country Today)

Photos by Thomas H. Nicholls

Did you know that an average tree holds about 225,000 leaves? I am not sure who counted them, but that sure is a lot of leaves, so they must be useful for something. Autumn draws our attention to leaves like no other time of year because of their colors and because many of us must rake them! Let's take a closer look at leaves to find out why they are important. Leaves come in a variety of sizes and shapes. No matter their design, all leaves share a common function. They all manufacture food for their host plant by an amazing process called photosynthesis. They do this by using the sun's energy to make sugars and starches that plants need to grow and reproduce.

What makes leaves so essential is that they form the basis of our food chain and ALL animal life ultimately depends on the ability of plants to produce food and oxygen by photosynthesis. Note the formation of a small bud (see red arrow) on the stem in the left of the photo which protects new leaves overwinter until it bursts open the following spring when the weather warms.

For photosynthesis to occur, plants need water, carbon dioxide, sunlight, and a green pigment called chlorophyll found in their leaves. Plants obtain water through their roots. The water then rises to the leaves where, in the presence of chlorophyll, water is split into hydrogen and oxygen using the energy from the sun. Carbon dioxide in the air enters the leaves through leaf pores called stomata. The hydrogen gas available from the splitting of water combines with the carbon dioxide to form sugar, a compound containing carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. The leftover oxygen is released to the air, replenishing what we and all other animals need for breathing. That is what I call a miracle. If it weren't for leaves, and phytoplankton in the ocean that produces about fifty percent of the world's oxygen, none of us would be able to breathe.

The primary trigger for leaves changing color in autumn is decreasing day length although temperature and moisture play a role too. This causes chlorophyll production to stop and its green pigment starts to degrade and be reabsorbed by the plant. This allows the colors of other pigments like showy reds and yellows to show though that were previously masked by the green chlorophyll. This process is what gives us our spectacular autumn colors we enjoy. Besides giving us life-giving oxygen and food, leaves provide us with shade and cooling temperatures during hot summers all the while producing buds containing new leaves and flower parts that will burst forth with new life the following spring, all protected overwinter by their buds. The opening of buds and the development of new leaves and flowers in spring is another miracle of Nature. So, let's not take leaves for granted. Take a new look at leaves for all they do for us as our very lives depend upon them.

Tom & Mary Lou Nicholls,
nicho002@umn.edu

Nature Education Center (NEC), Fifield, WI

Enjoying & Sharing the Beauty & Mysteries of Nature with outstanding photographs & easily understood information - to help people enjoy the wonders of our natural world while promoting its preservation. **eNature Report No. 179, Oct. 24, 2020**

Raffle Tickets for Sale NOW to Benefit MOBS!

Enter by Mail using the form on Pg 11

Drawing to be held January 15, 2021

(Late entries, as well as non-winners from the drawings, will be entered into a Second Chance Drawing on January 22nd for a special $50.00 value Bird Feeder!)

Framed Audubon Print
Baltimore Oriole
No. 3 Plate XII

29.25 inches wide
X 34 inches high.

Framed Audubon Print
House Wren
No. 171 Plate 83

21.75 inches wide
X 27 inches high.

Framed Audubon Print
Great Blue Heron
No. 43 Plate CCXI

17 inches wide
X 21.5 inches high.

All above framed prints note: "drawn from nature by JJ Audubon" and " Engraved Printed & coloured by R.Havel"
There are 435 watercolors in the John James Audubon "The Birds of America". The New York Historical Society lists the Baltimore Oriole and Great Blue Heron prints above in their "Top 50 Watercolors" from the Birds of America publication. We thank a very kind anonymous donor for these very special prints!

MOBS Bluebird Gift Basket!

A generous assortment of Bluebird Giftware, Bluebird food, books, trail supplies and more... Over $100.00 Value!

See other side to purchase Raffle Tickets

Please note MOBS DOES NOT ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

Please mail your check, made out to the Missouri Bluebird Society,

along with the COMPLETED raffle form, to :

MOBS/ PO Box 105830/ Jefferson City, MO 65110

This Raffle is open to anyone wishing to support the Missouri Bluebird Society! *Please note however, MOBS will only ship items at no charge to addresses within the 48 contiguous United States.*

Raffle Tickets for Sale NOW to Benefit MOBS!

Drawing will be held January 15, 2021.

(Late entries, as well as non-winners from the drawings, will be entered into a Second Chance Drawing on January 22nd for a special $50.00 value Bird Feeder!)

Raffle winners will be mailed their items before 1/31/21 or arrangements may be made to pick them up in Jefferson City. (Contact Steve and Regina Garr at 573-638-2473 for details.)

The Darling Bird Quilt!

*This **gorgeous** bird quilt has been expertly crafted and generously donated by MOBS member **Terry Darling.** It sports nine different bird images on twenty blocks and is an obvious labor of love. Thank you Terry!*

Approx size: 61 in x 71.5 in.

Please complete this form and mail it—along with your check– to:

MOBS, PO Box 105830, Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name_____ Phone Number: (required)_____

Street Address:_____

City:_____ State_____ zip code:_____

Email address:_____

I would like to purchase MOBS Raffle tickets in the following amount:

____ **6 Raffle tickets for $5.00**

_____**12 Raffle Tickets for $10.00**

_____ **25 Raffle Tickets for $20.00**

_____ **"Sets" of 25 pack Raffle Tickets at $20.00 per set = $_____**

Please distribute my Raffle Tickets as follows:

Raffle Item Description	Number of Tickets
The "Darling Bird Quilt"	
The MOBS Bluebird Basket	
Baltimore Oriole Audubon Framed Print	
House Wren Audubon Framed Print	
Great Blue Heron Audubon Framed Print	

Make Check Payable to :
Missouri Bluebird Society
(And mail, along with this COMPLETED form)
To:
MOBS
PO Box 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110
Drawing will be 01/15/2021

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The Fledgling Fall 2020 Issue

- **Nest Box/Trail Summary Report Form enclosed!**
  We can't wait to hear from you about "your" birds!
- The Miracle of LEAVES
- **Monitoring a Community Trail....during a global pandemic**
- pics from the 2020 NABS Conference hosted by Bluebirds Across Nebraska!

Photo by Steve Garr

ENTER our "Mail-in" RAFFLE!!