SPRING 2022

April 2022

The Fledgling

The official Newsletter of the Missouri Bluebird Society

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

Inside This Issue:

Letter from the President.....Pg 1

The Missouri Prairie Foundation!.....Pg 2

Member Submission! .....Pg 3

About the MOBS Board of Directors .....Pg 4

An FYI about Avian Flu.....pg 5

Upcoming Events.....Pg 5

Acknowledgments & Reminders.....Pg 6 & 7

2022 Bluebird Conference BROCHURE & Registration Form.....INSERT

2021 Nesting Data Report....INSERT

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" In the subject line.

Like us on Facebook!

Letter from the President:

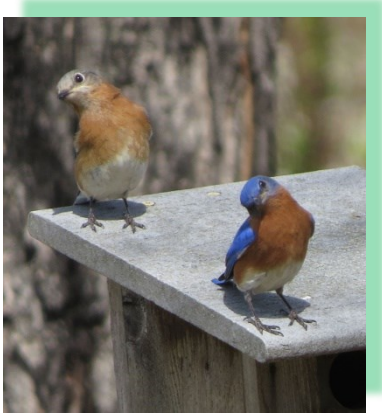

Photo by Steve Garr

Dear MOBS Members,

It has been so refreshing to hear the reports of nesting Bluebirds coming in this Spring! I want to thank those of you who have taken time to drop me a note or shared with me in person the excitement and details of "your" nesting birds. Who knows what the season will hold– however, for now, it has been great to see and hear the stories of Bluebirds back in the business of filling our nest boxes after a rather difficult season (for most bluebirders) last year.

Please take a look at the 2021 Nesting Data Report (Insert in this newsletter issue) prepared by MOBS' terrific nesting Data Chair, Greg Samuel. Greg has made a bit of a new format and I really like it. Thanks Greg– and thanks to all of you who reported! Truly everyone's data is important so thank you.

And of course, I am excited to announce that the **2022 Missouri Bluebird Conference Brochure and Registration form** is included in this Edition of ***The Fledgling***. You may register NOW! Greg and Laura Samuel did a great job finding this beautiful and fitting venue for our event. Some "breaking news" that just came in: Our presenter at the Friday evening Bluebird Banquet will be Heather Parker, Executive Director of Friends of the Garden. She'll be giving us a virtual tour of the many attractions and special gardens at the Springfield Botanical Gardens. What a great way to kick off the Conference. Check out the When and Where on the Conference Brochure (inserted here) and join us for a fabulous time of learning and fun.

Nearly all attractions at the Springfield Botanical Gardens are at no charge. There is a small fee to enter the Japanese Stroll Garden, HOWEVER...the First 30 paid registrations receive FREE tickets to the Japanese stroll Garden. (if you don't make that cut, there is a special rate of only $3.00 per person for entry to the stroll garden). I will plan to see you there!

Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,

Steve Garr, MOBS President

Missouri Bluebird Society Officers & Board of Directors

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

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

Vice- President and Nesting Data Chair ... Greg Samuel finleycreekfarm@gmail.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

Missouri Prairie Foundation

Participating in the 2022 Bluebird Conference

The Missouri Bluebird Society is honored to have **Carol Davit, Executive Director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation** (MPF), presenting at our 2022 Bluebird Conference July 9th in Springfield. This will be MPF's first time to participate in one of our conferences, so we can all look forward to learning many new things!

For folks unfamiliar with MTF and who they are please take time to checkout their wonderful website: **www.moprairie.org**

According to the MPF website: ***"Ecologists rank temperate grasslands—which include Missouri's tallgrass prairies—as the least conserved, most threatened major terrestrial habitat type on earth. Prairie protection efforts in Missouri, therefore, are not only essential to preserving our state's natural heritage, but also are significant to national and even global conservation work."***

But don't think for a minute this organization is only about what happens on large tracts of land!

Grow Native! is the native plant marketing and education program of the Missouri Prairie Foundation. On that website you will find such educational material as :

- ***Natives for Wildlife***
- ***Native Landscape Plans***
- ***Grow Native! Fact Sheets***
- ***Natives for Gardening***
- ***Native Tree Resources***

....and Much More!

Learn how native plants help fruits and vegetables and why songbirds need native plants.

Our Missouri Bluebird Society members represent a very diverse range of habitats....the Missouri Prairie Foundation has materials, resources, and history that can benefit EVERYONE!

The Grow Native! Top Ten list of Outstanding native shrubs for wildlife:

1. American beautyberry
(Callicarpa americana) mound purple berries autumn

2. Pagoda dogwood
(Cornus alternifolia) upright blue berries summer, shade

3.Flowering dogwood
(Cornus florida) upright red berries winter, shade

4. Winterberry
(Ilex verticillata) bush red berries winter, wet soil

5. Possum haw
(Ilex decidua) upright red berries winter, clay soil

6. Scarlet elder
(Sambucus racemosa) bush burgundy berries summer

7.Black haw
(Viburnum prunifolium) upright blue berries fall

8.Rusty black haw
(Viburnum rufidulum) upright blue berries fall, shade

9. Nannyberry
(Viburnum lentago) upright blue berries fall

10 Arrow wood
(Viburnum dentatum) bush blue berries fall

Photo by Steve Garr
Summer Tanager on
American beautyberry

Nest Box Camera Observations

by Bob Peak

I thought you might be interested in the attached photo and an experience related to it. As you may recall, we have a bluebird nest box (Peterson design) beside our patio, and it has a camera inside it. On Jan. 20, 2022, four EABLs roosted in the box overnight...first time it has happened this winter...the low temp that night was 15 degrees. (As David Pitts has taught us, bluebirds usually don't roost in the nest boxes overnight, unless the temp. is below 25° and outdoor conditions are pretty harsh.**)** The next morning, three birds exited the box, but the fourth bird's tail was stuck to fecal matter that the birds had expelled during the night. Fortunately, we could see the bird struggling (via the TV monitor), so I went outside and opened the front of the box. Of course, it panicked, and when it flew out, it left most (or all) of its tail feathers stuck to the frozen material on the floor of the box. (There were 10 feathers!) It certainly explains how some birds end up becoming winterkills when the temp. stays below freezing for many consecutive days...especially if they are "stuck" inside the box!

Even though the temp was colder the next night, unsurprisingly, no birds roosted in the box that night. Hopefully, they've picked another box on the property to make it through the cold nights we've been having.

P.S. While watching the roosting birds, we observed an interesting behavior that I had previously observed, but had forgotten. During the night, to get in a sleeping position, the birds twist their necks into a U-shape and tuck their beaks/heads under the folded, front edge of a wing to insulate them against the cold. In that position, at a glance, they look headless. It looks really contorted and uncomfortable to me, but it seems to work really well for them. It's one of the things we rarely get a chance to observe...thought you might be interested.

Note from the Editor:

My sincere THANKS to MOBS member, and long-time bluebirder Bob Peak for his submission to this issue of ***The Fledgling***! Bob's insights and information are always beneficial — Thanks Bob! This newsletter is about the Missouri Bluebird Society ...that's YOU! Please take a look at the following dates for upcoming issues and let me know for which you will be sending a submission (ready to copy and paste into the newsletter). **I will be looking forward to hearing from you!** *Regina Garr, Editor* ***The Fledgling***
(regina@birds-i-view.biz 573-638-2473)
Future issue deadline dates: August 1st, and November 1st.

"Ask NOT what your Bluebird Society can do for You" .....

Ok, I borrowed that line from a former MOBS officer...but I think he may have borrowed a version of it as well (smile). It is indeed a great reminder that we should all be asking "What can we do for OUR Bluebird Society?".

Your Missouri Bluebird Society has some current SIGNIFICANT needs and doing the good work of native Cavity-nester Conservation and Education is going to require member participation. But that is Fun! So please consider the following needs and let us know where you can commit to being the solution.

Front row (L-R) Laura Samuel, Co-chair for the 2022 Conference and Auction/Raffle Committees, **Steve Garr,** President.
Back row (L-R) Greg Samuel, Vice-President, Co-chair for the 2022 Conference and Auction/ Raffle committees, and Nesting Data Chair, **Jim Rathert,** Founding Board Member, **Regina Garr,** Secretary and newsletter Editor, **Ann Earley,** Board Member, **Bob Siemer,** Board Member.

MOBS Officers and Board Members

Recently the MOBS officers and board members met at "A Slice of Pie" in Rolla to nail down Conference details, take care of routine MOBS business, and just enjoy each other's company (and enjoy a nice lunch and delicious PIE!). We had a great time and accomplished a lot....however we truly missed our good friend and loyal MOBS Treasurer Mary List at the meeting. Mary has, in her words, recently made the very difficult decision to retire from her job and move back to Indiana to care for her aging mother. We will miss her! Mary has been a devoted and ACTIVE member since MOBS' inception and has been our Treasurer for the past five years. Truly, this was not a job that was her first choice of things she wanted to do to serve MOBS....but because she knew there was a need, she agreed to do something out of her comfort zone and did a terrific job! **So, Membership: We are in need of a new Treasurer. Could that be you?**

Indeed, the Society checking account and CD is in Jefferson City—but at a regional bank with many branches and we have VERY successfully had the treasurer position filled by a member located elsewhere in the state in the past. Please—- if you think you may be able to support the Missouri Bluebird Society in the Treasurer position (and join us a couple of times per year for a board meeting and food!)...contact any MOBS officer or Board Member (contact info always printed on the front of each edition of he MOBS newsletter). **Call or email Steve or Regina at: 573-638-2473 or steve@birds-i-view.biz.**

Calling Bluebird Ambassadors!

Did you know MOBS has awarded nest boxes/poles/baffles to fourteen trails since the Missouri Bluebird Society Grant Program's inception? That is ***directly*** helping cavity nesting species in our state AND since these trails are on public property it is also fulfilling our mission of helping Educate people about Bluebirds and native cavity-nesters. However, it is easy for these folks to fall through the cracks and miss out on all the good things MOBS has to offer. **Do you enjoy talking to folks about their trails and their bluebirds?** Well MOBS is in need of a **Grant Program Liaison** (or two!) to keep track of and communicate with these Grant Recipients. What could be more fun than "talking bluebird" and encouraging trail monitors?! **Please contact us if you would like to fill this need.** Steve and Regina Garr 573-638-2473 steve@birds-i-view.biz

Upcoming Events

Butterfly Festival!

June 18th 9am—3 pm
The Roston Native Butterfly House
Springfield Botanical Gardens, Springfield, MO
417-874-2952 https://friendsofthegarden.org

MOBS has been invited to have a booth at this event to pass out our educational materials and promote our organization. Would you like to attend and represent MOBS? This is a gorgeous location and a fun event (MOBS attended a few years ago). Members wishing to attend this year would be provided plenty of MOBS handouts, the Society blue canopy, the gratitude of your bluebird friends ….AND quite likely a featured article in a subsequent issue of ***The Fledgling*** (taking some pics would be a good thing!). Please call or email Regina Garr.

September 24, 2022: MOBS member Ron Darling and friends will be representing the Missouri Bluebird Society at a special event hosted by the **Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners** in Versailles, MO. This is an annual event and filled with things to learn and do. THANK YOU Ron and crew for representing MOBS at this event! Learn more about this event at the Ozark Prairie Master Gardeners facebook page for more info.

Have you been curious about all the media coverage on Avian Flu and what it means to Backyard Bird Feeding? So were we! So we sought out info from several sources and most concurred with the statement below from the Wild Bird Feeding Institute:

WBFI has been closely monitoring the situation since January 2022 taking recommendations from the United States and Canadian governments, our partnered organizations, and conservation/wildlife agencies. Some are recommending the temporary removal of feeders, but does this apply to you? **Here is what we advise based on the information we have so far,** please note that this may change as the situation evolves, we will update as soon as possible and let you know when it is ok to put them back up **if the following conditions below apply to you.**

You should consider temporarily take down your feeder temporarily if:

- You are taking care of backyard/domestic poultry or live near a commercial poultry site.
- The United States Department of Agriculture reports that "Removing backyard feeders is **not something** the USDA specifically recommends preventing avian influenza unless you also take care of poultry."

To date, WBFI has not heard from any state wildlife agencies that are recommending this*(...taking down feeders*) at this time unless you are working with poultry. See national trackers below for the most recent stats on outbreaks:

UNITED STATES - APHIS' wild bird surveillance program

Acknowledgements

The Missouri Bluebird Society deeply appreciates ALL our members.

Thank you so much for your important support!

The following individuals have either placed membership or Renewed their membership since the last issue of ***The Fledgling:***

Donald Dick, Jeannette Fischer, Joy and Cindy Haeffner (Life membership), Carole Hopkins, Patty Hyde, David and Linda Karns (Life membership), Tricia Kephart, Betty Lusby, Terry Marmet, Lynn and Mary McClamroch, Ivan Ray Miller, Alan Monshausen, Paula Peters, Susan Reinagel (Life membership), Della Rhoades, Steve and Ann Smith, Norm and Beth Stucky (Life membership), Delores Vlach (Life membership), Carol Ware (Life membership)

News from the trail.....

An adorable pair of White-breasted Nuthatch found a natural cavity just a few feet away from one of our nest boxes on our Greenway trail. As the Chickadees made their home in the man-made box just below, the Nuthatches got busy setting up house-keeping in the natural cavity. We have never been blessed with Nuthatches in any of our boxes....but maybe we are getting closer!

Steve and Regina Garr, Jefferson City, MO

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

Reminders

We know MANY of our members regularly engage in "Bluebird Conservation Outreach".... Please take time to drop us a line and let us know what you are up to.
Email Regina at regina@birds-i-view.biz
Or mail to PO Box 105830, Jefferson City, MO 65110
FYI...submissions that are written ready to "copy and paste" into the newsletter make you my very best friend!

Need to contact one of MOBS' Officers or Board Members? Their preferred contact info always appears on the FRONT PAGE of each issue of *The Fledgling!*

REMINDER! **MOBS Educational materials! Take advantage of the materials**

MOBS has to offer to help you share and encourage others in Bluebird and Cavity-nester Conservation. Contact Steve and Regina Garr (contact info on the front of this newsletter) for color handouts, and download the MOBS PowerPoint program from the MOBS website. *Our sincere thanks to Bluebird Network Telecommunications company for generously providing the funding for the MOBS Educational Brochures and Quick Reference Guides.*

Another Reminder:

Applications for both the **MOBS Nest Box Grant Program** and the "Save the Clutch" Baffle program can be found on MOBS website. Please note that both of these grant programs stipulate the items are to be available for use on public property and, if the grant is awarded, the nest boxes and/or baffles will need to be picked up in Jefferson City at MOBS' storage unit. Grant recipients are also required to report their nesting data annually to MOBS.

www.missouribluebird.org

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

2022 Bluebird Conference Brochure and Registration Form ENCLOSED!

The Official Newsletter of

The Fledgling

The Fledgling Spring 2022 Issue

- **2022 Missouri Bluebird Conference Brochure! (Register to attend NOW)**

- What do you know about **the Missouri Prairie foundation**?
- The 2021 Nesting Data Results are in!
  (Thank You to all who submitted data!)
- Member submission: Did YOU know this?
- An FYI about Avian Flu
- **Upcoming Events!**