

Spring 2019

# BLUEBIRD NOTES



## The Bluebirds of North Carolina Welcome You To Spring 2019



This awesome “Bluebird in Flight” picture was submitted by Marsha Smith of Charlotte. We posted it on our Facebook and received very much interest, based on the number of “likes” and positive comments. What a perfect photo to grace the cover of the spring newsletter and the website home page. Thanks again, Marsha, for sharing this wonderful snapshot.

As symbolized by the image above, we are free from cold weather and ready to start the season of renewal again. Mother Nature is bringing everything back to life as the bitterness of winter subsides.

The season of renewal is finally back in full force. Colorful flowers of spring in bloom are brightening our sights. Our feathered friends are filling the airways with song. For Bluebirders, the anticipation of new babies adds to the excitement of the months of April, May, and June. See page 3 for some great photos of some Baby Blues, as well as resources for how you can help the bluebird parents in spring. Page 10 lists some common nest box concerns and solutions from Ray Welch.

Our upcoming conference is another source of joy on the horizon. We are very proud with the guest speakers we have lined up this year. Bernie Daniel, NABS President, will be our first speaker this year. We look forward to hearing everything someone with so much knowledge regarding our feathered friends has to share. Our own Russ Bauman is back by popular demand. He will be presenting a photo show again. More details can be found on pages 11 & 12 about the presentations. Registration & Agenda for this fabulous event can be found on page 9. Hope to see you there in May.



**North Carolina Bluebird Society  
(NCBS)  
Mission Statement**

Our goal is to support activities that foster the resurgence of bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in our home areas. NCBS is an affiliate member of the North American Bluebird Society. [www.ncbluebird.org](http://www.ncbluebird.org)

**Report from NCBS President (Ken Kernodle)**

How exciting that the season of new baby blues is here! The first nesting is currently underway and soon we'll be seeing spring blue babies of 2019 take flight. Just awesome!

We have two outstanding speakers highlighting our 2109 Annual Meeting on May 11 at Haw River State Park.

1. Bernie Daniel, President of the North American Bluebird Society, will share about NABS's new direction and dimensions in research on our cavity nesting species and more!
2. Our own Russ Bauman will be showcasing the beauty of our Eastern Bluebirds in photography and expression!



Sign up now!  
Registration form on page 9.  
See you at Haw River!  
Ken



**Bluebird Notes**

**Vol. 34 Issue I**

North Carolina Bluebird Society, Inc. publishes *Bluebird Notes* quarterly:  
Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter

Your bluebird stories and photos are welcome for newsletter/online content.

Please submit to: Glenda Ryan, Editor/Webmaster/Marketing

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Printed by **Keiser Brothers Printing**, Glen Rock, PA 17327

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# WONDERFUL SIGHTS OF BABIES



*Photo of twins by Donald Ryan of Houston, Indiana*



*Photo by Judy Brown of Crumpler*

Do you have questions about nestboxes, nesting schedule, bluebird eggs, or fledglings? If you have a County Coordinator in your county, they will welcome the chance to assist you. If your county does not have a NCBS representative, feel free to reach out to anyone with the NCBS. Contact information can be found on page 2 of this newsletter or at our website, [nbluebird.org](http://nbluebird.org).

Some other online resources that offer a wealth of information are listed below:

- [sialis.org](http://sialis.org) (fantastic website with wealth of bluebird information)
- [nbluebirdsociety.org](http://nbluebirdsociety.org) (website for NABS, North American Bluebird Society)

Photos below were taken by Jim Kunkle, Cleveland County Coordinator. Jim has provided us with many beautiful pictures over the years. These babies from our photo archives demonstrate a sight worth the wait in spring time.



# MEMORIES FROM BROWNS SUMMIT, NC

We have held our annual conference at Haw River State Park several times. The central location offers opportunity for an easy drive from many North Carolina spots. The scenic beauty of this place is perfect for nature lovers. The staff, accommodations, and rustic environment are simply wonderful. It is great to see other bluebird enthusiasts and exchange stories relevant to helping our feathered friends.

Every year is different, but the same fun and educational day in a charming setting. Our conferences include a chance to socialize with like-minded people who care about birds, wildlife, and of course, our precious bluebirds. We are including some photos to remember the joy of past conferences at Haw River State Park. We would love to see you as a first time or returning attendee at the 2019 event.



We have been fortunate to have many knowledgeable guest speakers willing to share information on helpful topics. The speakers we have lined up for this year are outstanding. See pages 11 & 12 for more details featuring a guest from NABS, Bernie Daniel, and one of our own, Russ Bauman, Buncombe County Coordinator. Agenda & Registration for this event can be found on page 9.

## **We welcome you for the chance to make some fabulous memories with us this year.**

Photo below at left was taken by the lake near the conference center in 2016. A chance to stroll around the trail of bluebird boxes will be offered as an option at the end of the day. Angelia Allcox is shown leading the walk and will be doing so again this year. Photo below right shows another type “bluebird” that will be at this year's meeting. Eastern bluebirds have always been special to our president since his youth. View another type of special “bluebird” to Ken ... his 1957 “blue” Ford Thunderbird! Come see!

See more photos and information regarding past conferences at [ncbluebirdannualconference.org](http://ncbluebirdannualconference.org). This website devoted to our annual event is available year round.



# COUNTY COORDINATOR CORNER

## Wake County Bluebirders Treated to Magnificent Bird Photo Show



*Alexia Maneschi, Bill Satterwhite, Joye Stephenson*



*Audience at 2/10/19 Bluebirder Meeting*

Wake County Bluebirder Club had fantastic turnout of 15 people for the first meeting of the year on Sunday, February 10. Guest speaker, Alexia Maneschi, provided a wonderful presentation for “Birds of Mountainous Ecuador”. Alexia traveled with a Wake Audubon sponsored trip to Ecuador this past November. She enjoyed a week visiting mountainous regions and saw a total of 250 species of birds! She generously shared her adventure with Bluebirders of Wake by showing some awesome snapshots that captured the unique essence of Ecuador. Those attending were treated to a wide range of colorful birds and landscape photos.

Alexia is a clinical psychologist who works for the non-profit organization Easter Seals UCP. She serves on the board of Wake Audubon Society and is a member of Bluebirders of Wake County and the North Carolina Bluebird Society. She enjoys volunteering, backyard birding, and gardening. She combines all of these interests in Audubon’s bird-friendly native gardening initiative and encourages others to grow more native plants.

Bill Satterwhite, founder of our club, was an enthusiastic member of the audience. Mr. Bill has been an integral part of NCBS and Wake County bluebird conservation for years. Bill celebrated his 99th birthday in early March. Several Bluebirders were in attendance at his party. See more details about this milestone event in the summer newsletter. We love this dear man who is devoted to bluebirds.

The Bluebirders of Wake Club meets quarterly at Mordecai Historic Park in downtown Raleigh. Check out their website, [bluebirdersofwake.org](http://bluebirdersofwake.org), for more details. Happy Bluebirding!

Joye Stephenson, Wake County Coordinator

# BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION COUPLES (1 of 3)

The NCBS is fortunate to have the volunteer efforts of so many. We currently have three husband and wife teams that have shown outstanding devotion in their work for our organization and bluebird conservation for great lengths of time. Please join us in a round of applause to recognize our "NCBS Bluebird Couples". We will start with a wonderful story shared by Ray Welch of how the bluebird involvement for he and wife Betsy began, with highlights of the path it has taken them over the years.

## Betsy & Ray Welch (Davidson County)

Betsy and I became interested in bluebirds shortly after being relocated to Winston-Salem by Piedmont Airlines in 1970. At that time we lived in Forsyth County. We began seeing a few bluebirds, which we knew little about. In September 1976 we moved to Davidson County, where we had more bluebirds. We decided to learn more about the beautiful bluebirds by reading any material that we could find. Well, it was not long before the old English sparrow came calling. The destruction that they cause was devastating to us! So what to do!

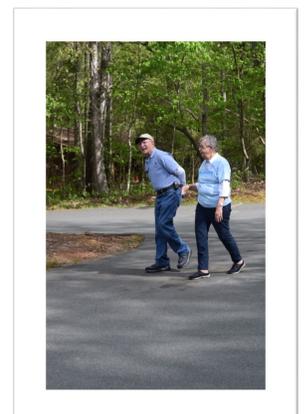
I was able to find the name of the individual whom was listed as the NCBS Davidson County Coordinator. He let me know quickly he was the coordinator strictly by default and his wife had enrolled him in that position. So he informed me that I should telephone Chuck Bliss for help with the problem. Well, I telephoned and found out that he was in charge of the County Coordinator program. It wasn't long into the conversation before I was the Davidson County Coordinator through Chuck's theory of "try it, you will like it". Chuck suggested that I contact Bill Abbey, the Forsyth County Coordinator, for help.

When I telephoned Bill, he almost instantly became a great mentor to me. One of Bill's first suggestions was to join the North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS), which we did in March of 1990. Over the years Bill has not only been a great mentor to me, but Bill and his wife Nancy have become good friends to Betsy and me. Bill invited me to go with him to a Board of Directors meeting in High Point during early 1993.

Well you guessed it! I came away from that meeting as a member of the Board of Directors, as well as continuing the role of Davidson County Coordinator. In 2009 and 2010, I was elected to serve as the Recording Secretary on the Board. At the Board meeting in July 2009 I was chosen to become the Interim President until the Annual Meeting in April 2010 due to a resignation that occurred. At that Annual Meeting I was elected to serve the NCBS as President until I chose to not to run for President in April 2016. I am currently Immediate Past President. I look forward to giving that position to Ken Kernodle at the 2019 Annual Conference.

I will tell you that I have had the best "right hand" that any Board Member of the NCBS could have had. Betsy has been the "Assistant President" throughout my tenure and has helped me through a number of bumps in the road. We are grateful the Blues got our attention back in the 70's and we have been happy to help the NCBS.

Ray Welch, Davidson County



# BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION COUPLES (2 of 3)



## Kay & David Hindlsey (Edgecombe County)

Kay and David have been members of the NCBS for a great many years. An interesting story about how they became Bluebirders was published in the Daily Southerner (February 6, 2008) by Staff Writer Sherry Benson. It was reprinted in our May 2008 newsletter, which can be viewed from our online archives at the following link:

<http://www.ncbluebird.org/pdf/NCBSMay2008.pdf>

A summary of this article demonstrates how quickly Dave & Kay fell into bluebird conservation 30 plus years ago. Kay purchased a bluebird house when offered from a salesperson at her door. At that time she knew nothing about bluebirds. However, she soon found out the beauty of the Blues and realized the value of helping these precious birds. David placed her nestbox in the backyard at a spot where Kay could easily see from a window. A pair of bluebirds had moved in within a couple of hours! It was love at first sight, as Bluebirders can certainly understand. Kay & David's effort to help the bluebirds and educate others about how to help has been extensive.

Kay has been serving as the NCBS Corresponding Secretary for a number of years.

- She has kicked off many of the annual meetings with her spring bluebird melody. Her singing about the precious bluebirds is such a sweet sound that brings happy tears to people's eyes.
- Kay has also generously shared a show and tell of bluebird items from some of her personal treasures, including photos, books, and figurines.

David has been the Membership/Records Chair for our organization for a very long time.

- He has been the County Coordinator for Edgecombe County since the summer of 2008.
- He manages the data for memberships and ensures everyone gets their copy of the newsletter.

Kay & David are the ones to thank for sending the new member welcome packages. Residents of Tarboro, this duo faithfully travel long distances to meetings and conferences held in the central part of North Carolina. Thanks so much, Kay & David, for more than 30 years of dedicated service to NCBS and bluebirds.



# BLUEBIRD CONSERVATION COUPLES (3 of 3)

## Carrie & Dave Helston (Wake County)



Carrie & Dave relocated to North Carolina from Minnesota and Canada in 2001. They became involved with bluebird conservation when they joined NCBS out of curiosity and attended the Annual Conference held in Garner. Soon after, they put up a nestbox in their yard and were delighted to host their very own bluebird family for the first time.

Residents of Willow Spring, they don't miss many meetings of NCBS or their local Wake County Bluebirders.

Dave has been the head of the nominating committee for a number of years. He greatly enjoys the chance to work with people for the common good of bluebirds. He especially likes helping connect NCBS with those who are enthusiastic about volunteering with our organization to help others learn how to help bluebirds. His outgoing personality and sense of humor are qualities that make him perfect for his help on our team.

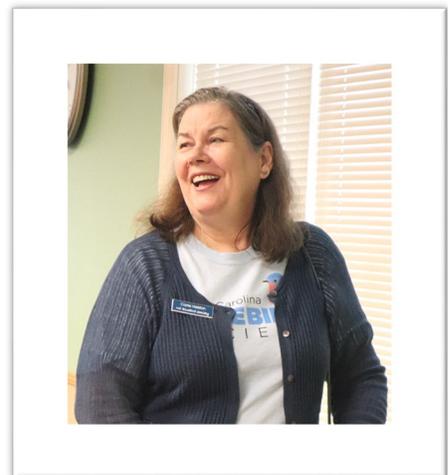
Carrie has served as NCBS treasurer for almost 10 years. Learning simple accounting skills to help such a great cause has kept Carrie motivated to continue her volunteer work with NCBS. She had no experience when she started, but enjoyed the process of "learning on the job." Traveling to different places for the meetings and conferences was one aspect of serving on the Board that really appealed to Carrie. She has had the opportunity to visit many towns during her role as Treasurer. Board meetings have taken her to Durham, Orange, and Moore counties. She has attended annual meetings in Wake, Cumberland, and Guilford counties.

Her favorite aspect of serving, however, is the camaraderie of all the good people on the Board and at conferences. Her favorite part of bluebirding is watching the babies grow and fledge. She and Dave have been privileged to witness many first flights from the nest, and it is always a thrill to see a baby bird take that huge leap of faith!

This couple has announced another move in their future that will take them out of North Carolina. They will be part of NCBS until the end of 2019. We will miss their smiling faces and helpful hands, but wish them well in their travels.



If you would like to consider volunteering to cover some of the duties that have been handled by Dave & Carrie, contact Ken at **919-724-9470**.



# HAW RIVER STATE PARK — MAY 11, 2019

## 2019 CONFERENCE AGENDA / REGISTRATION

The Summit Center at Haw River State Park, 339 Conference Center Drive, Browns Summit, NC 27214

**Saturday, May 11, 2019 (8:00 am to 4:00 pm)**

You are welcome to spend Friday night May 10 at Haw River State Park (See form below.)

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration (Coffee and Danish/Meet and Greet)
- 9:00 – 9:15 Opening Ceremony Presented by Boy Scouts
- 9:15 – 9:30 Welcome: Ken Kernodle, President of North Carolina Bluebird Society
- 9:30 – 10:00 Annual Business Meeting
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break: Visit Vendors, Bid on Silent Auction Items, Door Prizes, View Displays
- 10:30 – 12:00 Speaker – Bernie Daniel, President of North American Bluebird Society (NABS)
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 – 2:30 Speaker – Russ Bauman, Nature Photographer and Buncombe County Coordinator
- 2:30 – 3:15 Sharing Time Facilitated by NCBS Directors
- 3:15 – 3:30 Results of Silent Auction / Door Prizes / Evaluation Forms
- 3:30 – 4:00 Bluebird Nesting Box Trail Walk

## REGISTRATION FORM

Return this form and check payable to NCBS by May 2, 2019 to:

**Mrs. Carrie Helston, 7060 Landingham Drive, Willow Spring, NC 27592**

Attendee #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee #2 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee #3 \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Single: Friday night lodging, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch \_\_\_\_\_ \$120

\_\_\_\_\_ Double: Friday night lodging, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch \_\_\_\_\_ \$190

\_\_\_\_\_ Day Registration Only (Saturday lunch included) \_\_\_\_\_ \$25

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# HELP FOR BLUEBIRD NESTS AND BOXES

## Bluebird Helper at Lake Hickory



- What an adorable photo of the grand-daughter of one of our volunteers (Terrie Nelson) at Lake Hickory Golf Course, taken late last summer. The six year old helper is Stella Brown from Wilmington.
- The monitoring "team" found the abandoned nest, with eggs unbroken, and Stella learned all about the bluebird project at Lake Hickory, as well as how sometimes the eggs are abandoned. Better lesson than in a science book!
- We are thrilled that Stella was eager to learn about bluebirds and start helping bluebirds. Well done, Stella! Thank you for your service to our sweet bluebirds.
- Thanks to Beth Warmuth for sharing this heartwarming news & picture.

## Common Nestbox Concerns and Solutions from Ray Welch

1. **Ants invaded nest box:** Bluebirds will not nest in an ant-infested nestbox. Apply some ant killer near the bottom of the pole to prevent them from climbing.
2. **Evidence of predation:** If the nestbox has been damaged or otherwise disturbed and there are broken egg shells on the ground, and possibly muddy tracks or marks on the pole, it's very possible raccoons or squirrels have gotten into the house. You will need to put a predator guard on the pole or possibly apply wax or grease to prevent this problem from re-occurring.
3. **Wasps in nest box:** Always be careful when doing nesting box checks. Watch the box for several minutes to see if any wasps fly in or out. Then, open it carefully and stand back if you're suspicious of wasps being inside. Wasps usually build their nests on the underside of the roof, but sometimes will build it on the box floor underside. Remove the nest when it's cold outside and the wasps are less active or spray it with wasp killer. If you do the latter, you'll need to thoroughly clean out the box with bleach solution and let dry before putting it back up. A trick to prevent this is to smear ivory soap on the roof underside in the spring so the wasps can't attach their nests to it.
4. **Nest box damage:** Wood that becomes rotted or warped, or has holes from woodpeckers or knots falling out can make a house draftier and wetter. This is bad for the birds nesting in it obviously. If there is no bird nest in it, take the box down and repair it. Otherwise, gaps can sometimes be plugged temporarily with small strips of cloth.
5. **Un-hatched eggs in nest box:** If it's been at least 72 hours since the last of the eggs hatched and there are still any eggs left un-hatched, they are probably infertile. This is normal, but it presents a risk to the safety of the nest. If the egg becomes rotten and accidently breaks, it may attract insects or predators. Remove infertile eggs and dispose of them far from the box.

# GUEST SPEAKERS AT CONFERENCE (1 of 2)

## **Bluebird Expert from NABS (North American Bluebird Society)**

Bernie Daniel is a retired environmental research scientist originally from northwestern North Dakota. He relocated to Ohio in the late 1960s, collecting a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Ohio State University in 1974. He spent 36 years as a research scientist/manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency. He has published some 140 research peer-reviewed papers in a variety of topics in environmental science. He has participated as a surveyor for the North American Breeding Bird Survey since 1998. He enjoys the study of bird song and “birding by ear”. Bernie is a veteran of the US Army, serving active duty in 1970 – 1972.

Bernie is still a resident of the Buckeye state, where he presently resides with his wife Marie. He is a life member of NABS and has worked on numerous committees with this organization. He has also served NABS in various roles, including Board Member, Editor of Bluebird, and President in 2014. Bernie is also a life member, and past president of the Ohio Bluebird Society. He has been bluebirding (whenever someone loans him some habitat) since 1953! He currently maintains his own trail of 40 nest boxes near the Village of Indian Hill, Ohio. Today his most important title is granddad.

### ***Talking about Bluebirds and Bluebirding: Where are we and where are we going?***

The presentation will start with a discussion of new directions and developments at the NABS, including collaboration with affiliates like NCBS to more effectively and comprehensively meet our mission for bluebirds and other native cavity nesting species. The talk will focus on new directions and dimensions in research on cavity nesting species.

In addition, ideas on how collaboration with “Citizen Science” groups such as the NestWatch program at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology (CLO) might allow us to greatly expand the collection of nestbox data thereby permitting us to examine issues in finer detail and also over broader geographic scales. These approaches will hopefully allow us to address some long standing questions, such as the effectiveness of pairing nestboxes or the most efficient way to defeat snake predation using scientific analysis and statistics.

Grants and their role in meeting our research, education, and conservation needs will be discussed. The talk will include consideration of NABS and affiliates pooling their resources and coordinating grant efforts to minimize duplication and maximize the effective inclusion of the most important conservation needs.

The second phase of the talk will consider the current status and distribution of all three species of bluebirds across North America using information gleaned from the continental scale monitoring tools now available, including the USGS North American Breeding Bird Survey, National Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and CLO eBird program. Each of these data bases offers a unique and independent perspective on deducing the actual status of the three bluebird species across the continent. We will consider how these different sources of information compliment or differ in the signals they provide regarding the status of bluebirds.

Given the geographical location, North Carolina, a particular emphasis will be placed consideration of the Eastern Bluebird. Time permitting, the presentation will also consider what we know about the current status of the House Sparrow in North America and how the fortunes of that “pest species” seem to be changing over time.

## GUEST SPEAKERS AT CONFERENCE (2 of 2)

### Presentation to Show Beauty of the Eastern Bluebirds in the North Carolina Mountains

Our own Russ Bauman, NCBS County Coordinator for Buncombe County, and outstanding nature photographer, will be a guest presenter at our annual conference. The presentation Russ has given in the past has brought tears of joy to the audience. We know the visual display by Russ will be magic again this year.

Although born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Russ landed his first job in Texas. He met and married his wife, Susie, in the Lone Star state. After a 35-year career as a broadcast photojournalist down in Texas, the couple and their three golden retrievers retired to Western North Carolina. This beautiful area of the Tarheel state was a perfect place for Russ to pursue his interests in birding and still photography.

Russ was fortunate to have opportunities to photograph a wide variety of bird species from his deck. When he spotted the “most beautiful” bird on the back fence, an Eastern Bluebird, he was intrigued. Online research led him to the NCBS local coordinator, who gave him a wealth of information on bluebird behaviors.

Buying a bluebird house and then throwing out some mealworms paid off, as his first brood was born that summer. Russ was hooked on bluebirds and became a member of NCBS in May 2012. He has been serving as the Buncombe County Coordinator since May 2015.

The images shown below were photographed by Russ. The “Valentine's Day Bluebirds” on the left inspired us to write a “Bluebird Couples” story. See pages 6 - 8 regarding more about three married couples devoted to bluebird conservation. The picture on the right seems to indicate bluebirds triumph over life’s challenges. These feathered friends will likely always need our assistance to deal with survival obstacles. Ways you can help the sweet bluebirds can be found on our website, [ncbluebird.org](http://ncbluebird.org).



Russ has been providing breathtaking pictures to NCBS for many years. A large percentage of the beautiful photo content for our website, Facebook, and newsletters is thanks to Russ. Additionally, we have created a line of bluebird products, such as notecards, jewelry, and puzzles, with many of the photos Russ has provided. Check out our online store at <https://www.cafepress.com/northcarolinabluebirdsociety>.

## FLORAL DELIGHTS

## NCBS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Raleigh Bluebirder Lyn Cochrane brightened my mood mid-February with her "First Daffodils of the Season". Some ribbon added a nice touch to make a Blue Accented Bouquet.



Some more beautiful blooms from Lyn are shown photographed with a Carolina Blue Sky in the background. Kudos to Lyn for her long time interest in nature, gardening, and bluebirds.

Glenda Ryan, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor

**Have a Wonderful Spring, Everyone!**



More of my photos can be seen at [glendaryan.com](http://glendaryan.com)

NCBS memberships options are one or three years.

**Dues: \$10.00 per year or \$25 for three years**

Gift membership from \_\_\_\_\_ to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

A member's email address will be used only for NCBS official business and considered private and confidential.

[  ] Check box if you prefer to access the *Bluebird Notes* via the Internet instead of a printed copy by postal mail.

Please complete this form and send it with your check payable to "NCBS" to:

**North Carolina Bluebird Society  
135 Lakeview Drive  
Tarboro, NC 27886**

Additional tax deductible donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Membership [  ]

Renewal [  ]

Check Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you also have an interest in:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Assisting with the annual meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Serving as a NCBS Board Member
- \_\_\_\_\_ Helping with the newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conducting a bluebird workshop
- \_\_\_\_\_ Contacting my local paper with news
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteering to be a NCBS County Coordinator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain)

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# INSPIRATIONAL NEWS

## Help a Scout

Many years ago, a young man became interested in the scouting program of the Boy Scout of America (BSA). In 2017 the BSA made a decision to allow females to join the BSA, but the name program continues to be BSA. The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

That young man became very active, with the help from parents and many adults, just like you. With all of the adult assistance he was receiving, he set a goal of achieving the Eagle Scout award. He proceeded to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and finally the Eagle Award.

One of the requirements of earning the Eagle award is to complete 21 merit badges. Of these 21 merit badges, 11 are required. The remaining 10 are optional, depending upon the scouts' individual areas of interest. Birding is one of those of those merit badges.

Every Scouting activity moves boys and girls toward three basic aims: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness. Advancement is one of the eight methods used by Scout leaders to help our youth to fulfill the aims of the BSA.

Once that scout mentioned earlier earns the Eagle award, he can claim that status for life. I am an Eagle Scout and proud of it! Please contact a local Scout Master and offer your assistance to help advance our youth.

Ray Welch, Immediate Past President

## Haw River State Park Bluebird Trails

This year we are fortunate to have park volunteer & high school student Ethan Rehder assisting with nest box maintenance & monitoring. Ethan has already been out several times in February at The Summit and Iron Ore Belt properties learning the ropes.

He's a very enthusiastic young man that is a member of the local Audubon Chapter. Ethan's interest in wildlife & the outdoors is refreshing. He is also well on his way to becoming a citizen scientist. We are encouraging him to keep up the good work.

Angelia Allcox, Park Ranger, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources



**BLUEBIRD NOTES PUBLISHED BY  
NORTH CAROLINA BLUEBIRD SOCIETY  
135 Lakeview Drive  
Tarboro, NC 27886**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. Postage  
P.A.I.D.  
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Permit # 15**

**LIKE US, THE BLUES ARE SO READY FOR SPRING!!!**



Photos courtesy of Buncombe County Coordinator, Russ Bauman, Biltmore Lake, North Carolina