



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations"

Bluebird News



Volume 28 Issue 1

WINTER 2018

"BBRP President's Note" by Larry Alderks

The 2018 Bluebird Expo is coming upon us quickly. Well, maybe it's not quickly, but it is time for all longtime members as well as new members to give very serious consideration to attending. In this newsletter you will find the materials for the Expo. The committee has worked to provide a very engaging, educational, and exciting Expo.

In establishing the 2018 program, we incorporated many of the suggestions from the surveys taken at last year's Expo and made many changes accordingly. There are several changes that you will need to consider as you register. The program format is designed to meet the needs of the new Bluebirders as well as those with multiple years of experience. Some sessions/topics will run simultaneously allowing you to attend sessions that you are most interested, therefore, we are asking you to select the sessions

POINTS OF INTEREST

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Events

ahead of time, so we can provide the best meeting room arrangements for the presentations and your educational opportunity. Please take time to review the program of professional speakers as well as experienced members of BBRP.

We have also invited over 18 vendors to provide opportunities for you to find additional items for your garden, trail, or other bird interest. We hope you plan to attend and become more successful on your trails in 2018.

Again, this year we will be providing a survey for your continued input into future Expos. Please provide your feedback to any of the board members at the Expo and/or on the survey forms.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments please send them to me at:

PresidentBBRP@BBRPmn.org

CHICKADEE NEST IN THE PUMP



*Photos by
Cheryl
Jankiewicz*

Cheryl Jankiewicz of Chatfield found this chickadee nest in the pump in her yard in SE Minnesota. In Chatfield, chickadees are increasingly endearing themselves to bluebirders.



BBRP EXPO 2018 Invitation

BBRP EXPO 2018 invites you to join us on Saturday, April 14th, 2018 at Cannon Falls High School to be inspired through education about our friend, the bluebird!

Check out the amazing speakers and program options being offered. Simply sign up to attend at BBRP.org or complete and mail the registration form. Refer any questions to Luann, Expo 2018 Coordinator, email: expo@bbrpmn.org or 507-645-9470.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th.

BBRP EXPO 2018 Committee: Luann Alderks – Coordinator,
Glen Shirley - Publicity, Bruce Smisek - Silent Auction, Wally Swanson - BBRP Information Booth, Fern Vesledahl – Chair

BBRP EXPO – What You Need To Know

Where: Cannon Falls High School
820 East Minnesota Street (Hwy 19)
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

When: Saturday – April 14th, 2018
Registration begins at 8:00 – Atrium
Program starts at 9:00 – Auditorium
Ends at 3:30

Registrations Due: March 14th, 2018!

Food: Lunch and cookies are provided by the school.
Grilled chicken breast, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cole slaw salad, sliced apple, and dinner roll.
Please do not bring cookies. School policy does not allow outside food.

Cost: \$25 per adult – \$10 per child

Parking: Student Lot – West side of School – [Look for the Bluebird Trailer!](#)

Hotel: Grand Stay, 32027 Alexander Court, Cannon Falls, MN
Call prior to 3/13/18 for reservations – 855-455-7829. Ask for BBRP.
Reserved rooms available for check-in 4/13/18 - check out 4/15/18. Rate \$119.00/night.

What Else Can I Expect at BBRP EXPO 2018?

Vendors: Bluebird Nestboxes, Bird Feeders, Bird Related Merchandise, Meal Worms, Honey, Maple Syrup, and Book Sales & Signing by our speakers, Jonathan Popelle and Matt Schuth, PLUS MORE!!

Information Booth: Everything you want to know about Bluebirds!
Where every Bluebird question you have has an answer!

Silent Auction: Donated items by members and local businesses
(Contact Bruce Smisek - Silent Auction, @ 952-292-9165 or sodcompany705@gmail.com regarding early donations).

Membership Renewal: Is your membership current?
Take advantage of being at the EXPO and renew!

Invitations are being extended to nature-related organizations to have booths at the Expo.

Bluebird Recover Program Expo 2018

Keynote Speakers

“It’s All About Bluebirds” – Mike Jeresek, member BBRP

- Keeping your trail successful
- Being a good example to fellow bluebirders
- Developing new bluebirders in your area to expand the BBRP mission

Growing up on the banks of the Mississippi River, Mike has always been an outdoorsman. Upon his retirement from teaching in 2002, Mike started his bluebirding experience achieving his goal to become a member of the “100 Club” in 2006. He currently serves as county coordinator for BBRP in Fillmore, Houston, and Winona Counties.

“The Science of Climate Change” – by Alan Anderson

- Basic science of climate research & the greenhouse effect
- Impacts of climate change on the world and our friend the bluebird
- Solutions to reverse the trends
- Recommended actions to maintain a hospitable climate for future generations

Alan was raised in Owatonna MN graduating from Oregon State University with a degree in Wildlife Science and Management. After 34 years, Alan retired from the Boy Scouts of America. His passion for climate change was stirred after attending a Nobel Conference at Gustavus Adolphus College in 2012. After taking an on-line course from MIT, on the Science of Climate Change, he began public education focusing his concern about the health of the planet we will leave our children and grandchildren.

"Weekly Bluebird Monitoring Made Simple, Making Year-end Reporting Even Simpler" –

David Schmidt, member of BBRP

- How to easily record your observations on the trail
- Submitting your annual results on BBRP.org

David is a volunteer Master Naturalist from Inver Grove Heights and avid friend of bluebirds, monitoring and coordinating volunteers to monitor trails in Dakota County. Additionally, he’s a longtime volunteer at the Minnesota Zoo where he got his start bluebirding. He also provides assistance with nature based programs at Dodge Nature Center, the National Park Service and newly established Darvan Acres Nature Center.

Breakout Sessions Speakers

Morning and Afternoon

In an effort to meet various educational and informational interests, BBRP Expo 2018 Committee is pleased to introduce breakout sessions.

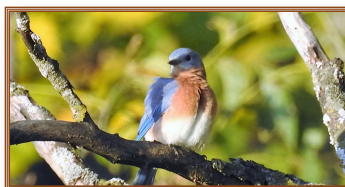
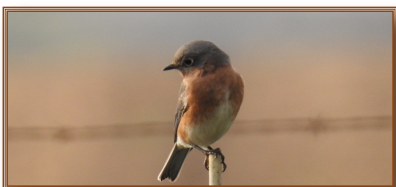
As you register, please select one morning and one afternoon session! Please include the title of your choices on the registration form. Your options and when they are offered are listed below:

“Bird Language: Learning the Language of Nature.” (Offered both AM & PM)

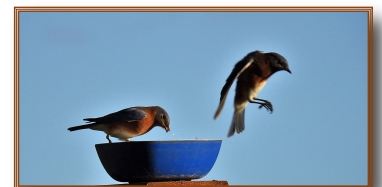
By Jonathan Poppele

- Introduce the world of bird language
- Share the fundamentals of interpreting bird language
- Give you information about deepening your own journey into learning the language of birds

Jonathan is an independent naturalist, author and educator whose work helps people connect more deeply to themselves, others, and nature. He earned a master's degree in conservation biology studying animal tracking as a tool for citizen science research and has taught biology, ecology, and writing at the University of Minnesota. Jonathan is the Minnesota coordinator for Bird Language Leaders--a partnership between the National Audubon Society and the Nature Connection Mentoring Foundation.



*Photos by
Doris
Glander*



"Prairies & Pollinators - A Cause for Hope"**(Offered both AM & PM)****By Chris Schad, The Bee Shed**

- An overview of honey bee biology and beekeeping basics
- Review of the natural history of the North American Prairie and its value in supporting pollinators
- Research supports the business case for native prairie restoration and how that approach is starting to take root in public green spaces.

Chris is a biologist by training, with several peer-reviewed papers published in scientific journals. Recently his attention has turned to prairie restoration and other ways to support local pollinators such as honey bees. He manages bees on his rural Rochester, MN property plus on other regional sites. He is the founder and co-owner of The Bee Shed, SBC, a specific-benefit corporation dedicated to beekeeping education, public education about pollinators, and prairie restoration.

"Defending the Bluebird Territory"**(Offered both AM & PM)****By Keith Radel**

- Are the birds visiting our nestboxes friend or foe?
- What about pests?
- Who are bluebird predators?
- How can we help defend their territory?

Keith installed his first bluebird nestboxes in 1986 fledging zero birds. After attending a bluebird conference, he fledged 81 bluebirds in 1988 averaging over 100 bluebirds every year since. Keith currently serves as Assistant State Coordinator of BBRP. His extensive knowledge of bluebirds will help you answer any questions you may have as a new or seasoned bluebirder.

"Nature at Our Doorstep"**(Offered both AM & PM)****By Matt Schuth**

- Provides solid information about birds, trees, insects and other aspects of the natural world using personal experience and homespun humor, myth, and folklore.
- Disseminates little-known information regarding the living, breathing world lying just beyond our doorstep

Matt is an author, naturalist and volunteer at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. He grew up on a farm near Wabasha, Minnesota, on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi. He has worked in various capacities at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since 1982, managing maple syrup production, working on wetland projects with graduate students, helping to prepare and maintain research plots, setting up bluebird trails, wood duck houses, and osprey nests, and keeping track of bird, mammal, and butterfly sightings at the Arboretum. Matt writes about the natural world for the "Arboretum Magazine" and conducts nature walks and talks throughout the year.

"Bluebird Trail Set-Up & Analysis"**(Offered AM only)****By Fern Vesledahl**

- Starting a Bluebird Trail or want to improve a trail?
- Learn proper and improper nestbox locations

Fern has been an active BBRP member monitoring bluebird trails for over 14 years in Rice County. She has served the organization as a former chairperson and newsletter editor. Fern currently serves on the board, assists at BBRP Educational Booths, Expo Committee member and is a Rice County Coordinator. She thanks her fellow bluebirding friends for teaching her best practices for helping bluebirds. Now she wants to give back to others interested in pursuing this rewarding hobby.

"County Coordinator Meeting"**(Offered AM only)****By Carrol Johnson, State Coordinator BBRP & Larry Alderks, Chairperson BBRP**

- For all County Coordinators and those who are interested in this role
- Roles and responsibilities
- Helpful hints to promote bluebird recovery efforts in your county
- Support ideas and concepts of BBRP

"The Science of Climate Change –**(Offered PM only)****Question & Answer Session" - By Alan Anderson**

- For those who want to discuss and hear more from our keynote speaker Alan Anderson about climate change
- Find out what we can do to make a difference

BBRP Is Inviting All Youth! EXPO 2018

The future of BBRP and any volunteer program lies with our youth. EXPO 2018 is pleased to offer a youth specific program for the afternoon. We encourage you to reach out to your children, grandchildren, and local Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and 4-H organizations! Have them contact Luann Alderks, email: expo@bbrpmn.org or 507-645-9470 for group specific registration forms.

Youth program registration will begin at 12:30. Youth are invited to attend the entire day with accompanying adult.

Program includes:

“Pollinators! How You Can Help!” – by Chris Schad,
The Bee Shed **“Nature at Our Doorstep”** – Matt Schuth,
UM Arboretum

“Yes – Bluebirds” – Connor & Claire Berndt, youth with
bluebird trail experience

**“Weekly Bluebird Monitoring Made Simple, Make
Year-end Reporting Even Simpler”** - David Schmidt,
BBRP Member

Tidbits

National Geographic is teaming with Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and BirdLife International to make 2018 the “Year of the Bird.” This year marks the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the most powerful and important bird-protection law ever passed. In honor of this milestone, nature lovers around the world are joining forces to celebrate the “Year of the Bird” and commit to protecting birds today and for the next hundred years. Check out their websites to learn more.

The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas (MNBBA) documents the distribution of every species that currently breeds in Minnesota and provides a solid foundation for future conservation efforts. Check out the pages on bluebirds: <https://mn-birdatlas.org/species/eastern-bluebird/>

Bluebird Box Plans

I would encourage you to check out our “Modified Gilbertson PVC Bluebird Nest Box” on the BBRP website. If you want to build your own nest boxes this provides very detailed instructions. This has been tested out in the field and is the approved BBRP design.

On the BBRP website, under the Information heading, click on Spec’s for Nest House.

Have you had a change of address?

If you have moved, changed from a box number to a street address, or have your mail forwarded for several months, please let us know. If you are a snowbird let us know the dates when you leave and return. Under bulk mailing restrictions, the Postal Service does not forward newsletters, but returns them to BBRP with postage due. If the return notice has a new address, BBRP then sends your newsletter to the correct address with the additional required postage.

Please contact Membership Chair, Brianna Frisch, 507-459-4829 or email us at membership@bbrpmn.org if this applies to you. Your help in keeping our costs down is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

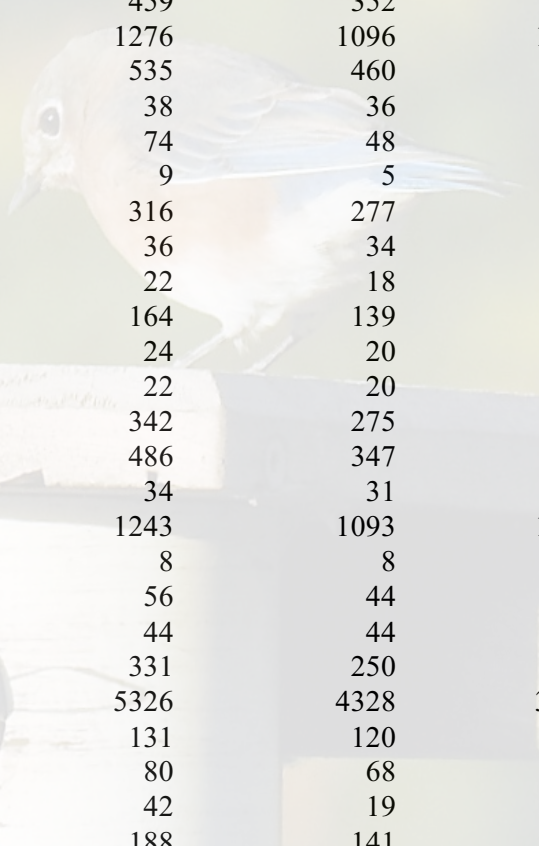
Thank You

We want to thank Barb Mielke, of Preston MN. Because she served 32 hours of volunteer time to our organization and submitted it for a \$250 3M Foundation Match program BBRP has now received a check from the 3M Foundation.



Photos by
Doris
Glander



Bluebird County Results**BBRP Board Members**


County/Reports	Eggs	Hatched	Fledged
Anoka/7	340	275	259
Becker/1	12	11	11
Benton/2	98	75	68
Blue Earth/1	77	67	67
Carver/2	191	166	154
Cass/1	344	326	318
Chisago/6	229	187	163
Crow Wing/3	30	28	28
Dakota/37	2004	1675	1591
Dodge/1	87	79	70
Fillmore/60	1571	1366	1189
Goodhue/11	459	352	339
Hennepin/28	1276	1096	1060
Houston/9	535	460	354
Hubbard/1	38	36	35
Isanti/1	74	48	36
Jackson/1	9	5	5
Kanabec/3	316	277	263
Kandiyohi/2	36	34	24
Lac Qui Parle/1	22	18	13
LeSueur/6	164	139	130
Lyon/1	24	20	20
Mille Lacs/2	22	20	20
Morrison/2	342	275	262
Mower/3	486	347	336
Nicollet/3	34	31	31
Olmsted/36	1243	1093	1026
Pennington/1	8	8	8
Pine/4	56	44	42
Pope/1	44	44	43
Ramsey/11	331	250	239
Rice/94	5326	4328	3933
Scott/8	131	120	116
Sherburne/3	80	68	67
St Louis/2	42	19	19
Stearns/4	188	141	130
Steele/6	272	232	232
Wabasha/4	113	103	95
Wadena/2	32	30	24
Waseca/1	18	14	14
Washington/8	220	186	180
Winona/5	394	362	328
Wright/8	562	474	444
MN/393	17880	14929	13786
43 counties			

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This year 43 counties reported. Some I had not seen a report from in a few years so that is encouraging. Five counties fledged over 1000 birds, a number which has stayed fairly steady.

The total number of birds fledged is about what we have done for a few years, so this is the new normal. I don't believe we will see 20,000 again. Wally Swanson



Need help or have suggestions? Call your County Coordinator!

If you are an active bluebirder, and would like to donate some of your time to help others help the bluebirds, the BBRP is looking for more county coordinators. If interested, contact Carrol Johnson, State Coordinator, at 507-664-9433 or mnbbluebirder@hotmail.com for more information.

"Ringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!"

AITKIN Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953	CROW WING Mary Kalinoski Baxter 218-829-7552	Bob Hursh Edina 952-334-5084	LE SUEUR Bruce Smisek Montgomery 507-364-8966	RAMSEY George Brown White Bear Lake 651-429-1978	WABASHA Carol & Dale Nibbe Lake City 651-345-2410
ANOKA Jeanne Wilkinson Anoka 763-427-2779	DAKOTA Marlys Shirley Farmington 952-469-3510	Pete Meyer Mound 952-472-7449	Ben Bartusek New Prague 952-758-3398	RICE Carrol Johnson Northfield 507-664-9433	WADENA Paul Sailer Wadena 218-631-4401
BELTRAMI Jim Humeniuk Bemidji 218-766-1390	David Schmidt Inver Grove Heights 651-457-9195	HOUSTON Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573	LYON (S. Lyon) Paul Rasmussen Russell 507-823-4731	Fern & Ken Vesledahl Nerstrand 507-645-8610	WASECA Wally Swanson Waterville 507-362-8760
BENTON Bob & Sandy Rajkowski Rice 320-393-2909	FILLMORE Mary Bailey Chatfield 507-867-9118	HUBBARD Ron Jensen Park Rapids 218-732-4205	Rita & Dennis Engels Ghent 507-428-3554	SCOTT Marilyn Suter Farmington 651-4604236	WASHINGTON Vacant
BROWN Dominic Sellner Sleepy Eye 507-375-8737	Carrol Johnson Northfield 507-664-9433	ITASCA Vacant	MILLE LACS Vacant	SHERBURNE Jan Wallin Zimmerman 763-856-2950	WINONA Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573
CARLTON Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953	Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573	KANABEC Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953	OLMSTED Mary Bailey Chatfield 507-867-9118	ST. LOUIS (N. ST. LOUIS) Beth Urban Ely 218-365-5047	Brianna Frisch Lewiston 507-459-4829
CASS Vacant	GOODHUE Steve Malecha Cannon Falls 507-581-4383	KANDIYOHI Ronald A. Erpelding Willmar 320-235-0788	PENNINGTON Dave & Diane Peterson Thief River Falls 218-681-7614	STEARNS Vacant	WRIGHT Dorene Scriven Minneapolis 612-922-4586
CHISAGO Robert Walz North Branch 651-307-4679	HENNEPIN John Hauser Bloomington 952-831-8132	LAKE Beth Urban Ely 218-365-5047	POPE Bruce & Barb Mulvaney Glenwood 320-278-3763	SWIFT Bill Hoberg Benson 320-843-3988	

BBRP Awards List

We need your help in updating our information on BBRP Bluebirder of the Year awards. Can you add to our list? Please include some kind of documentation, such as a photo of the award or an item from an old newsletter. Please contact Marlys Shirley, our secretary, gshirley@frontiernet.net (27010 Hamburg Ave., Farmington MN 55024) if you have any additions or corrections.

BLUEBIRDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This award is to reward those whose bluebirding skills have resulted in the greatest percentage of fledglings per location. This award is for the PREVIOUS season's work by the recipient and given out at the following year's Expo.

FIRST Year Awarded: 2003 – Carrol Johnson 11 sites, 5.8 per location

2004

2005

2006

2007 – John Beal (Rice Co., Steele Co.) 156 birds from 24 sites = 6.5 per location

2008 – Bill Krinke, Echo MN, 81 birds from 14 pairs of boxes = 5.79 per location

2009 – Jerri Pelkey

2010 – George Brown (Co.) 80 birds/11 pairs of nestboxes = 7.27 birds per location

Bluebird Recovery Program
Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis



P.O. Box 984
Faribault, MN 55021

"Raising our Bluebirds for Future Generations!"

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Editor BB News: Virginia Windschitl,
edbbnews@outlook.com

Photo by Doris Glander

THE NEXT BLUEBIRD EXPO
WILL BE HELD IN
CANNON FALLS
ON APRIL 14, 2018.

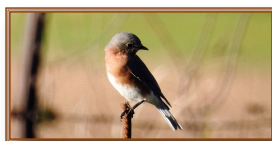
Upcoming Events

April 14, 2018 - Saturday
Annual BBRP Expo
Cannon Falls High School



September 15, 2018
Trail Reports for the 2018 Nesting Season Due

September 15, 2018 – Saturday
13th Annual Southeastern Minnesota Bluebirders' Picnic
Chatfield



September 22, 2018 – Saturday
16th Annual South Central Bluebirders' Picnic
Riverbend Nature Center, Faribault MN

Our Mission:
"To encourage, inspire, educate and assist individuals and organizations to become actively involved in the restoration and preservation efforts to sustain a healthy and expanding population of bluebirds and other native cavity nesters."



Photos by Doris Glander

Thank you to everyone who wrote articles, provided photographs or helped with the mailing of this publication of the Bluebird News.