



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations"

# Bluebird News



Volume 30 Issue 2

Spring 2020

## Public Lands Nest Box Program

Several years ago the Bluebird Recovery Program of MN, to further its mission of "Education and Outreach", began offering to nature centers, preserves, schools, city, county/regional and state parks with established and supervised bluebird programs the opportunity to apply for a donation of new nest boxes for expansion or replacements on their Bluebird trail(s). With various different individuals maintaining the BBRP website over the past several years the web page featuring the nest box offering was deleted. At a fall 2019 BBRP board meeting the program's documentation was found and a decision was made to restart the offering. The board authorized funding to award up to 100 nest boxes per year to qualifying applicants. Applications would be accepted until the end of February each year, with awards being made and boxes distributed each March.

For the 2019 application period we received 9 applications, 8 of which met the program qualifications and all 100 nest boxes were granted. The boxes were given to 5

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State Parks from central Minnesota to the southeastern corner of the state, one to a south metro city for their park's bluebird trail program, one to a county historical society and one to Camp Ripley in Morrison County. These 8 organizations have been maintaining bluebird

trails for an average of 13 years; they have an average of 35 nest boxes currently installed and 1 to 10 volunteers doing weekly trail monitoring. They've all stated their aging trails are in need of nest box replacement. The BBRP grants will be put to very good use.

We have already begun to receive applications for the 2020 granting period which closes on February 28, 2021. The program requirements and an application form can be found on the BBRP website, [www.bbrp.org](http://www.bbrp.org), under the heading 'Public Lands Nest Box Program'. Questions about the program can be sent to [info@bbbp.org](mailto:info@bbbp.org).



Photo by Doris Glander

## Purchasing Bluebird Nest Boxes

We know many of you have purchased nest boxes at the annual BBRP Expo in past years. Due to the cancelation of the 2020 Expo in April some of you have sent us an email or called asking where you could purchase a nest box.

Joe Adelmann and his wife JoAnn make and sell the nest boxes we've have at the BBRP Expo each year. If you're interested in purchasing additional new boxes or need any replacement parts please contact them directly. Their email address is [josephadelmann@msn.com](mailto:josephadelmann@msn.com) or you can call them at 612-598-1374 or 507-213-0199, they'll be happy to supply you with whatever your bluebird nest box needs might be.

## County Coordinator Corner

S.E. Minnesota Bluebird News

Had my first bluebirds fledge on May 11th. What an exciting day for me. I had been busy feeding mealworms for several weeks in hopes that she could fledge the 5 chicks. I am currently feeding 6 other boxes now hoping they will be successful too. As of May 11th my trail of 39 boxes has nesting in various degrees in 26 boxes. Several of my historically good sites have no activity yet.

I hope 2020 proves to be a better year than 2019 was for everyone.

Good luck to all the hard working blue birders in 2020.

Mike Jeresek

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Dear Bluebirders,

Since the bluebirding season has started with hopeful signs, I am sorry to tell you that buffalo gnats have arrived in a part of Fillmore County. The reporting person said they were swarming and biting the group on their necks. I guess it is time to spray any baby bluebirds with imitation vanilla at least every other day -- especially close to fledging -- to prevent nest failure.

Some bluebirders are experimenting with affixing the vanilla scented car ornaments to to the ceiling of the boxes to try to extend the scent. I will send information as I hear from them on their success.

On an upbeat note, after 18 years living here and 28 as property owner, I am repeatedly sighting sandhill cranes near our wetlands. Nesting? I can only hope.

Please call, (507) 867-9118, or email with any questions.

Mary C Bailey, County Coordinator  
Olmsted and Fillmore Counties  
Bluebird Recovery Program of MN

## IN MEMORIAM



SE MN lost another dedicated bluebirder on April 19, 2020. Maxine Sheldon passed away at her home in rural Chatfield after a lengthy illness. Bluebirders will remember her as the lady in the mobility scooter with her golden retriever service dog, Chai, as she attended the SE MN Bluebirders' Picnics at the end of each season.

Maxine loved her bluebirds and even went out in the rain in her scooter and used an umbrella to shelter bluebird babies that had prefledged until their parents could lead them to safety. She typically had five eggs in her nesting site near her house, and they usually hatched into five male

bluebirds. We referred to them as "Maxine's little boys." This season there are five eggs in that box again. Maxine's story continues. . .



## Chatfield's Young Bluebirder and New Trail



Pictured here is August Hoffman with his father John as they install four bluebird boxes at their home in rural Chatfield. He will monitor this trail with his dad and mother Danielle this season. August was very interested in the installation process; and, as you can see, he was in charge of the cylinder and the screwdriver. Two of the boxes were donated by Mary Scheifert, the widow of Dan Schiefert, a dedicated Rochester bluebirder who passed away last year. The other two were donated by Bill and Mary Bailey, Fillmore and Olmsted County Coordinator.

## Editor's Corner

I emailed the Minnesota DNR this question: "I am on the board of the Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota. Has there ever been any consideration of having a bluebird on a license plate?"

This is the answer I received back:

*Hello,*

*We do receive many suggestions for different species on the License Plates. Our Commissioner decided that no more than one new plate would be issued per year. However, because of the MLARS debacle at the Department of Public Safety, no new plates have been issued since 2016. In fact, a pollinator plate design won a contest in 2017, and the plate has yet to be released because of ongoing issues with the State's computer system.*

*Thank you for your suggestion, and if we are ever able to issue a new plate design, blue birds, along with the many other suggestions, will be taken into consideration.*

Thank you. Lori Naumann

Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota DNR, Promotions and Permits Officer

***"The soft mellow warble of the bluebird, heard at its best throughout spring and early summer, is one of the sweetest, most confiding and loving sounds in nature."*** Thomas Roberts

**Thomas Sadler Roberts** (February 16, 1858 - April 19, 1946) was an American physician known for his work in ornithology, bird conservation and for his book *The Birds of Minnesota* (1932), a comprehensive account on the birds of the area. Roberts was an influential educator on birds and their conservation and helped establish the Bell Museum of Natural History. **Thomas Sadler Roberts Bird Sanctuary** in Minneapolis is named after him.. He was among the many ornithologists who saw the last flocks of the passenger pigeon in Minneapolis. (From Wikipedia)

## New BBRP Website Online Membership System

BBRP has upgraded its membership enrollment and tracking system to make it easier to become a member or renew a membership via our website. When you become a member or renew your membership via our website a membership "profile" much like you have for online banking or a medical insurance account will be created for you. The profile will contain the information you provided us on your membership form. With that you will be assigned a user-id, the ability to create a unique password and update your personal information. If you forget your membership expiration date you'll be able to log into your profile to check. Additionally, you'll be able to change your newsletter delivery preference, your address, phone number or any piece of information in your profile at any time to keep BBRP informed.

This new system will also give our membership manager the ability to automatically create mailing labels for members receiving their newsletter by mail. There will be other additional new features to make it easier to manage membership data, like automated reminders prior to membership expiration.

About half of our members are lifetime members, of those about 80% have not provided us with an email address. As this group has no expiration date, there will probably be no need for them to be concerned about this change. However, if a lifetime member wishes to provide BBRP with an email address, go to the Membership tab on the BBRP website, [www.bbrp.org](http://www.bbrp.org), for further directions.

The other half of our members have two and five year memberships. Approximately 65% of you have provided us with an email address and about 30% are now receiving their newsletter via email. Everyone who has provided us with an email address can go to the Membership tab on the BBRP website and follow the instructions for creating a password to access your membership profile.

As all of this may seem a little daunting but don't be too concerned. This system change will greatly help BBRP administer the nearly 450 memberships, helping to better manage the newsletter distribution and keep members informed of their expiration dates. If you have any questions at any time please send an email to [info@bbrp.org](mailto:info@bbrp.org).



Photo by Doris Glander



### BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT & RENEWAL

Enrollment in the Bluebird Recovery Program includes: initial Information Packet containing a full color Trail Guide, Top Ten Tips including colored Nest Guide, Record Keeping booklet, Pole Assembly instruction sheet, yearly Report Form & quarterly Newsletter. There are also annual informational meetings and a yearly Bluebird Expo. Consultation and advice are available by phone, e-mail, correspondence or in the field.

Enrollment contributions are **tax deductible**.

\_\_\_\_\_ New Member      Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Membership periods are:

\_\_\_\_\_ 2 years \$23.00      \_\_\_\_\_ 5 years \$55.00      \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime \$150.00

\_\_\_\_\_ \* Gift Membership \* - indicate amount & period of gift \_\_\_\_\_



*Bringing back Bluebirds  
for Future Generations!*

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* If giving a Gift Membership, please provide your name so that the recipient can be informed of your generosity. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to:

Bluebird Recovery Program, c/o Brianna Frisch  
11018 Taylor Hill Road, Minnetonka MN 55910





## 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 [mnbluebirder@hotmail.com](mailto:mnbluebirder@hotmail.com) for more information.

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## Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota



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### Upcoming Events

**Saturday, Sept. 19**  
**National Cleanup Day**

**Tuesday, Sept. 22**  
**Bike to Work Day**

**December 1, 3030**  
**Trail reports for 2020 nesting season due**



*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 Joan Schulz



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