



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!"

Bluebird News



Volume 31 Issue 1

Winter, 2021

2021 Virtual BBRP Expo

We are happy to announce there will be a 2021 Expo! Based on responses from our Expo survey and due to the ongoing pandemic, we're planning a virtual Expo for 2021. The date is Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. Look inside this newsletter to see the schedule.

To participate send an email to info@bbrrp.org and we will send you a link closer to the date of the Expo. We hope you can join us on April 10.

Keynote Speaker at 2021 Virtual Bluebird Expo

We are looking forward to having Sharon Stiteler, known as "The Birdchick" for her work in the birding community, as our keynote speaker.

A theater major from Indianapolis with seven older siblings, Stiteler started birding as a kid. She has commented "I was given a Peterson Field Guide to Birds when I was seven years old and snapped. I loves birds, it's just the way I'm wired." She was fascinated by the piliated woodpecker she saw in the field guide and wanted to see one in person. That's what got her started in bird-watching.

Sharon has lived in Minnesota since 1996 and has successfully made it her goal to get paid to go birding. She has traveled the world as a field trip leader,

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birding consultant, humorous keynote speaker, bird field technician, bird bander and writer. She is the author of the books "Disappearing Rabbits," "City Birds/Country Birds" and "1001 Secrets Every Birder Should Know," and works as an interpretive ranger for the National Park Service for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA). As a park ranger based out of the Visitor Center at the Science Museum, Sharon's job allows her to share her passion and knowledge of the area's expansive natural beauty with locals and visitors.

She has appeared regularly on TV and radio including Outdoor News Radio, All Things Considered and has been on NBC Nightly News answering bird questions. When she's not digiscoping or performing improv, she's a blue ribbon beekeeper. (Placing the lens of a digital camera to the eyepiece of a spotting scope to take photos is called "digiscoping." It's an inexpensive way to take good pictures without a long, heavy telephoto lens and the expensive camera body that goes with it.) Minnesota Monthly stated "The real shift in the hobby [birdwatching], however, is the emergence of a new type of birder, one who is technologically savvy like Stiteler and combines a data bank of nerdy bird knowledge



Sharon Stiteler (The Birdchick)

Continued on page 2

2021 Virtual BBRP Expo continued

with a love of the chase and a knack for social media.

You can find her blog on her website, <http://www.birdchick.com>. She is putting together a talk especially for us, "Chickadees, Wrens, Tree Swallows and more aha! Secondary cavity nesters who compete with Bluebirds."



What are secondary cavity nesters? Who are they? Are they protected? Chickadees – Tree swallows – House wrens – House sparrows What do they eat, territorial range, nesting frequency, how they interact with bluebirds.

100 Club Members

The following bluebirders fledged at least 100 bluebirds during the 2020 nesting season. They will be getting patches to acknowledge their successes. Congratulations!

Name		Town	County	Total
Keith	Radel	Faribault	Rice	1021
Loren	Murphy	Faribault	Rice	701
Ronald	Guck	Hastings	Dakota	466
Mary & Bill	Bailey	Chatfield	Fillmore	307
Ron	Jensen	Park Rapids	Hubbard	283
Mike	Jersek	Rushford	Fillmore	266
Mason	Hjelle	Mora	Kanabec	265
Larry	Buhr	Faribault	Rice	258
Fern	Vesledahl	Nerstrand	Rice	232
Benjamin	Bartusek	New Prague	Rice	225
Brianna	Frisch	Minneiska	Winona	223
Vincent and Laura	Mangan	Spring Valley	Mower	217
Darrell	Isebrand	Eagan	Dakota	206
Wally	Siewert	Frontenac	Goodhue	200
Don	Johnson	Rushford	Fillmore	189
Steven	Malecha	Cannon Falls	Goodhue	186
Angela	Grill	Plymouth	Carver	179
Sherry	Taylor	Austin	Mower	158
Dennis	Melenke	Brownsville	Houston	154
Jeanne	Wilkinson	Anoka	Anoka	149
James	Newport	Faribault	Rice	149
Peter	Meyer	Mound	Hennepin	145
Joseph and JoAnn	Adelmann	Owatonna	Steele	144
Tom	Sherwood	Hastings	Dakota	139
James	Taylor	Inver Grove Heights	Dakota	136
Don	Glassing	Inver Grove Heights	Dakota	136
Brad	Lewis	Rochester	Olmsted	134
Quintin	Lohse	Chatfield	Olmstead	129
Paul	Schutte	Annadale	Houston	127
Fran	Nelles	St. Michael	Wright	119
Bob	Hursh	Edina	Hennepin	104
John	Doherty	Blaine	Anoka	102
Gloria	Peterson	Lindstrom	Chisago	102



“Virtual Expo” Agenda

We may not be able to gather together in person as we had planned, but that won't stop us from bringing Bluebird information to you. Join when you can, learn something new, ask some questions, and have fun!

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

9:00 – 9:10am	Greeting and opening remarks – Expo chair – <i>Jeanie Mortenson</i>
9:10 – 9:30am	Presentation and discussion – “Top Ten Tips for Successful Bluebirding” reviewed by <i>Maryls & Glen Shirley</i> – Lifelong Bluebirders & BBRP board members
9:30 – 9:40am	Q & A
9:40 – 9:45am	Mini break – transition to next session
9:45 – 10:15am	How to help young Bluebirders get started – presented by - <i>Steph MacPhail</i> – Washburn Elementary Outdoor Classroom – Bloomington & <i>Sara Grover Holger</i> – Project Get Outdoors –Whitewater SP Naturalist
10:15 – 10:25am	Q & A
10:25 – 10:30am	Mini break – transition to next session
10:30– 11:10am	Current Bluebird problems & questions —panel to include - <i>Mike Jeresek</i> – SE Minnesota BB guru, <i>Carrol Johnson</i> , - BBRP Statewide coordinator and <i>Wally Swanson</i> – BBRP Trail Reporting manager - moderated by BBRP board member <i>Mike Sandberg</i>
11:10 – 11:15am	Mini break – transition to next session
11:15 – 11:55 pm	Keynote speaker — “The Birdchick” – <i>Sharon Stiteler</i> – National Park Service Ranger – all round top notch birder –she has been on NPR's ‘ <i>All Things Considered</i> ’, NBC Nightly News and regular appearances on Twin Cities’ TV and radio stations.
11:55 – 12:05 pm	Closing remarks

To participate send an email to info@bbrp.com and we'll send you a link !
 Questions email us at info@bbrp.org



VIRTUAL BLUEBIRDING CLASS 'LEARN WHERE & HOW THEY NEST' - HOW YOU CAN HELP

Each spring thousands of beautiful little bluebirds return to Minnesota from Kansas and Missouri looking for nest sites to raise their young. That's where we come in by providing them nest boxes and weekly monitoring to insure their safety from the time the first egg is laid until the little ones fledge.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER MONITOR IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Backyards, parks, golf courses and nature areas throughout the State contain bluebird nest box trails. From April to August bluebirds and their competitors will be nesting in these boxes. In order to keep bluebirds safe and record their nesting progress the nest boxes need to be monitored on a weekly basis.

COME JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT BLUEBIRDS AND TRAIL MONITORING ESSENTIALS:

We'll cover the things you need to know to help keep bluebirds safe during the nesting season

We'll learn how to identify which species – bluebird or other – is occupying a nest – how their eggs differ

We'll talk about competitors and predators – what can be done to deter them – *'introducing new techniques'*

We'll learn how to check the nest boxes - determine who is using the box by nest type

How to record what we find each week and reporting it to BBRP at season end

We'll answer all your questions from black *'Ant'* predator to nest box placement *'Zone'*

Finally, if you want to get involved, we'll identify where the nest box trails needing monitors are located

BLUEBIRDING INFORMATION - LEARNING THE ESSENTIALS

WHEN: Saturday, March 20, 2021 – 10:00 – 11:30 am (*both sessions are the same – just optional times & days*)
Thursday, March 25, 2021 – 6:30 – 8:00 pm

WHERE: Virtual via your PC, tablet or smart phone

RSVP: send an email to bluebirdsafe@gmail.com – let us know which session you'd like to join, we'll send you a link

QUESTIONS: email questions to bluebirdsafe@gmail.com

INSTRUCTOR: David Schmidt - Bluebird Recovery Program member and MN Master Naturalist instructor

*This class is presented
in cooperation with the
following nature based
organizations:*



Tidbits

Board Members Needed

The BBRP board would like to find some enthusiastic bluebirders to join the board. We have had several members who resigned in the last several months because of job or family commitments. Our greatest need right now is for a secretary to record meeting notes and handle correspondence. We would also be interested in individuals with backgrounds in non-profits, computer technology or education. BBRP does not have member-wide elections. The current board will consider applications from BBRP members who would like to help BBRP accomplish its mission. If interested you can submit a short bio, information about your bluebird trail(s), and why you would like to contribute to the running of BBRP. This can be sent to info@bbrp.org or to P.O. Box 984, Faribault MN 55021.

Purchasing Bluebird Nest Boxes

Carrol Johnson, BBRP Statewide coordinator, has been acting as an intermediary for new boxes and the purchase of replacement parts. After many years doing this from his home in Northfield Carrol has decided to close up shop from his garage.

Joe Adelmann and his wife JoAnn make and sell the nest boxes we've have at the BBRP Expo in the past. Like last year, the 2021 Expo will again not be an in-person event.

Anyone looking to purchase new boxes or replacement parts can contact the Adelmanns directly. Their email address is 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 may be.

On our website we have lots of information about approved nest boxes if you want to construct your own. You can download the plans for the BBRP modified version of the Gilbertson PVC nest box like the ones that the Adelmanns sell, along with several types of wooden nest boxes approved by the North American Bluebird Society.

2020 Fledging Totals

2020 Total Minnesota									
	Sites 4602	Eggs 16817	Hatched 14447	Fledged 13844					
County	Sites	Eggs	Hatched	Fledged					
Anoka	98	416	366	353	Itasca	3	5	5	5
Becker	5	15	12	11	Kanabec	71	425	387	382
Beltrami	122	439	408	408	Kandiyohi	7	35	32	28
Benton	4	22	17	17	LeSueur	18	81	69	69
Carlton	15	40	30	25	Lyon	1	0	0	0
Carver	172	209	190	184	Morrison	69	176	146	146
Chippewa	9	0	0	0	Mower	81	473	394	375
Chisago	33	172	140	129	Nicollet	1	8	8	0
Crow Wing	13	40	39	34	Olmsted	183	717	615	603
Dakota	595	1970	1664	1629	Pennington	13	4	4	4
Dodge	15	55	50	46	Pine	74	130	106	101
Douglas	7	5	5	5	Pope	30	88	76	57
Fillmore	302	1580	1308	1239	Ramsey	58	195	170	168
Goodhue	111	654	536	480	Rice	846	4616	3951	3808
Hennepin	648	1590	1372	1318	Scott	81	184	139	131
Houston	112	519	467	431	Sherburne	33	130	115	115
Hubbard	64	328	309	283	St Louis	15	37	31	28
Isanti	41	58	36	36	Stearns	51	181	155	155
					Steele	98	299	254	254
					Wabasha	7	27	21	16
					Wadena	18	87	81	75

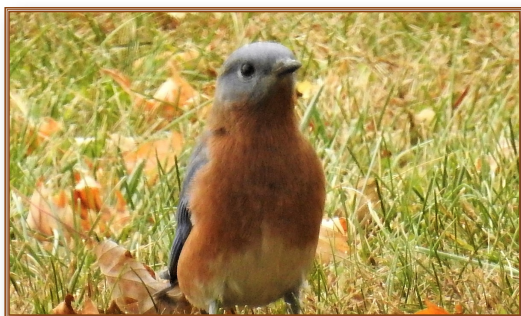
New Members

Barry Shillingford, Eagan MN
Myron & Julie Jurek, River Falls WI
Tom & Mary Hendricks, Little Falls MN
Barb & Joel Mielke, Preston MN

Donations –Thank You!

Lhyne Campion
Mason Hjelle
Jeff & Bonnie Meyer

Photos by
Doris
Glander



Bluebird Recovery Program of MN

Bluebird Recovery Program Membership Enrollment in the Bluebird 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 and quarterly Newsletter. There are also annual 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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____State _____Zip _____County _____

Phone _____Email _____

Please indicate how you'd like to receive the BBRP quarterly Newsletter ____ via email or ____ via USPS

If giving a membership as a gift please enter your name below so the recipient can be aware of your generosity:

Please mail form and payment to:

BBRP c/o Brianna Frisch, 11018 Taylor Hill Road Minnieska, 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 mnbbluebirder@hotmail.com for more information.

AITKIN Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953	Marlys Shirley Farmington 952-469-3510 gshirley@frontiernet.net	HOUSTON Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573 san@acegroup.cc	LYON Paul Rasmussen Russell 507-823-4731	Fern & Ken Vesledahl Nerstrand 507-645-8610 fvesledahl@outlook.com	WASECA Wally Swanson Waterville 507-362-8760 dendroica55@gmail.com
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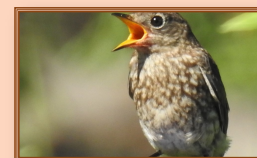


Photo by Doris Glander

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Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!"

P.O. Box 984
Faribault, MN 55021

Volume 31 Issue 1
Winter 2021

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 93
Faribault, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bluebird News is published quarterly by the
Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota

P.O. Box 984

Faribault, MN 55021

BBRP is a 501(C)(3) Organization

Membership qualifies as a tax-deductible donation.

Editor BB News: Virginia Windschitl,

edbbnews@outlook.com

Photo by Doris Glander

Upcoming Events

March 20, 2021

Virtual Bluebird Class - 10 - 11:30 a.m.

March 25, 2021

Virtual Bluebird Class - 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

April. 10, 2021

Virtual BBRP Bluebird Expo - 9 a.m. - Noon

*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."*

Visit our Web-site at
www.bbrp.org



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.