



"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!"

Bluebird News



Volume 32 Issue 2

Spring 2022

2022 Expo

Wasn't it great to be able to gather again and learn more about our favorite avian friends, the bluebirds? After a cold early spring, April 23rd ended up warm, sunny and very windy.

It was unfortunate that our first scheduled speaker, on habitat planting, had to cancel. Thurman Tucker contracted covid and had to be quarantined and was advised by his doctor not to attend our event. After learning this the Sunday before the event, we had to adjust the schedule and let the other speakers know the times had been changed.

After a welcome by our MC, Mike Sandberg, we heard from Katy Anderegg, from River Bend Nature Center, Faribault. She discussed the various stages of a Monarch Butterfly's life cycle and what she has learned about how to find eggs and feed and care for the caterpillars so they successfully pupate and emerge as adult butterflies.

Wally Swanson announced the Bluebirder of the Year, John Doherty, who monitors at Cedar Creek Ecosystem Reserve in Anoka County. He was not in attendance so will receive his plaque later.

Our second speaker was Mike Jeresek, a Filmore County Coordinator from Rushford, who gave advice on how to improve chick production. He had 34 single boxes last year and had 218 bluebirds fledged so he

knows what he is talking about.

After a delicious lunch there was time to visit the information booths of BBRP and various other nature non-profits or bid on the silent auction.

The afternoon program started with our Board Chairperson David Schmidt presiding over our first annual membership meeting as an independent 501(C)(3) organization. He gave a brief history of BBRP and its separation from Audubon of Minneapolis in 2018 and introduced the current board members. A summary of 2021 income, expenses, and end of year balance was displayed, discussed, and approved and he highlighted 2020-21 accomplishments & 2022 goals. He also invited anyone interested in serving on the board to apply for consideration.

The third speaker of the day was Keith Radel – "Intro to Bluebirding - Dos and Don'ts - How to get Started." At the same time there was a County Coordinator's meeting in the Cafeteria with the State Coordinator Carrol Johnson & Board Chair David Schmidt.

Next was Al Batt who again entertained us with his unique style of story-telling. He even brought a few giveaway items for the first person to correctly answer some

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Speakers:

Top left: Al Batt

Top Right: Keith Radel

Bottom left: Mike Jeresek

Bottom Right: Katy Anderegg

nature questions.

The day ended with “Bluebird Potpourri - Avian flu, Nest box types, Mounting assemblies - Proper placement, Installation, and Removal of nest boxes” with the bluebird speakers and board members on stage; to answer any questions and hear observations and suggestions from the audience.

After a cancelled Expo in 2020 and an online Expo in 2021 it was good to see all of you who came out to our event this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this event possible. The board is exploring possible sites in more western or northern parts of the state. We will keep you posted and we hope to see you as we gather again next year.

County Coordinate News:

We conducted our first ever or first in many years, county coordinators’ meeting at the Expo in April. There were twelve in attendance, which is not quite half of all coordinators, but not bad for a first meeting considering the location of the Expo.

Since the meeting two new individuals have joined the ranks of coordinators. Cynthia Sabinske, from Ghent, is an additional coordinator in Lyon County. She has been monitoring and maintaining a trail at Camden State Park and just purchased ten new boxes for upgrades on that trail.

Jon Allen, recently retired Park Supervisor for the city of Savage, has joined us as a coordinator for Scott County. He has been actively maintaining trails and mentoring volunteers in his area for trails at McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center in Savage and Canterbury Park in Shakopee.

A big BBRP welcome to them! Their contact information can be found in this Newsletter and on the BBRP website at, <https://bbrrp.org/county-coordinators-2019/>. We encourage any of you who are interested in sharing your bluebird knowledge with people in your area to consider becoming a county coordinator. For information about responsibilities and expectations of a county coordinator please contact State Coordinator, Carrol Johnson at mnbluebirder@hotmail.com or call him at 507-649-0126.

Board Member Profile: Joni Welda

I was born and raised in Winona to a family who loved the river and outdoors. I was one of those kids who brought home every frog, turtle and stray dog that crossed my path. I became a birder at a very young age and carried a pair of binoculars around my neck wherever I went.

I became a bluebirder in the mid 1980’s when the Bluebird was in its largest decline. I was doing volunteer work with the USFWS at the Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge and met a gentleman who had a “bluebird trail” at the Refuge. I became interested in what it was all about and after learning, began to put up artificial nest boxes at my own property. I joined BRAW (Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin) and NABS (North American Bluebird Society) to learn as much as I could about Bluebirds and how to help their cause. In the early 1990’s I became the La Crosse County (Wisconsin) Coordinator for BRAW and gave seminars, helped schools and boy scouts to set up, build and maintain artificial nest boxes and set up trails. During those years, my sister got interested in bluebirding too and we attended 3 years of NABS annual conferences together in various states. As a County Coordinator, I met many wonderful people all with the common goal of helping the Bluebirds’ numbers increase. When I moved back to Minnesota, I contacted the County Coordinator in my county about setting up a Bluebird trail for my Capstone project from the Minnesota Master Naturalist course that I was finishing up. He helped me get started and I was able to reclaim a trail that had been let go. It’s given me great satisfaction to see my trail thrive after eliminating countless sparrows who had taken over the area and old boxes and watch the number of returning bluebirds increase each year—this is my 7th year with this trail.

Recently, I wanted to get more involved with the BBRP and asked to become a Board Member when an opening occurred. I look forward to getting to know more members of the BBRP and share knowledge and experiences with others. I guess for me, bluebirds have become a way of life and I can’t imagine not having nest boxes to tend every year or staying involved in some way on their behalf.

I retired in 2016 after a 32-year career as a violinist but stay busy with nature photography, boating on the Mississippi and maintaining our 10 acre farm.

Photos submitted by Joni Welda



100 Patch Awards

The following bluebirders fledged at least 100 bluebirds during the 2021 nesting season. They are getting patches to acknowledge their successful year. Congratulations!

First Name	Last Name	City	State	County	Single Boxes	Paired Boxes	Bluebirds Fledged
Robin	Wells	Kimberly	ID	Twin Falls	297	0	996
Keith	Radel	Faribault	MN	Rice	21	161	483
Ann	Wick	Black Earth	MN	Dane	128	2	367
Loren	Murphy	Faribault	MN	Rice	0	79	314
Ron	Guck	Hastings	MN	Dakota	6	79	273
Mike	Jersek	Rushford	MN	Fillmore	34	0	218
William & Mary	Bailey	Chatfield	MN	Olmsted	32	50	210
Brianna	Frisch	Minneiska	MN	Winona	22	18	200
Wally	Siewert	Frontenac	MN	Goodhue	0	78	177
Ron	Jensen	Park Rapids	MN	Hubbard	64	0	175
Larry	Buhr	Faribault	MN	Rice	2	33	175
MaryAnn	McMahon	CHASKA	MN	Carver	6	50	159
Angela	Grill	Plymouth	MN	Hennepin	299	0	120
Steven	Malecha	Cannon Falls	MN	Goodhue	1	30	114
Don	Johnson	Rushford	MN	Fillmore	33	0	105
Donald	Glassing	IGH	MN	Dakota	12	12	101
Mary	Roan	River Falls	WI	St. Croix	32	24	100
Bart	Anderson	Prior Lake	MN	Hennepin	76	0	98
James	Taylor	IGH	MN	Dakota	12	12	97

Tidbits

I want to thank all those who helped to make the Silent Auction work so smoothly at the Expo. It was my first time running it and you all made it so easy. I can't thank you enough!!!

Also, thank you to those of you who donated to the Auction. There were SO many great items and I heard great comments from visitors about how great all the items were and those last minute bids before the auction closed showed how much they enjoyed them also!! Start saving up for next year!

Joni Welda
Silent Auction Chairman

Report from Mike Jeresek (county coordinator for Fillmore and Houston counties) Saturday May 14

Things are heating up quite literally here. On my 35 box trail I am seeing a little of everything. I have 2 boxes that should fledge this week. 27 of the boxes have some degree of nesting going on. Here is a run-down: 3 full nests, 15 with eggs laid, 9 with bluebird chicks in them, and 8 empty boxes. I have been putting in the vanilla trees in all active boxes to help control the gnats.

Local bluebirders are reporting seeing bluebirds, so are fingers are crossed that 2022 is better than the 2021 season.

New Treasurer Needed

After many years of service our treasurer, Marilyn Suter, wants to retire from that job. We need to find her replacement. We are looking for any member or non-member who might be interested in volunteering for this job. Do you know of someone with a love of nature and bookkeeping/accounting experience that would be a good candidate? As someone said, "It's easier to turn a good numbers person into a bluebirder than to turn a bluebirder into a numbers person."

Board Members Wanted

It would be good to add at least one more board member in addition to a new treasurer. Knowledge of Word Press would be a bonus (but not a requirement).

If you or anyone you know might be interested email to info@bbrp.org.

BBRP Website News

We have added a "Members' Only Documents" webpage under the Membership tab. This will be used periodically for information BBRP wants to share with just our members. When you click on the page you will be prompted for your username and password to access the information. Questions, send an email to info@bbrp.org.

Check the "News and Current Events" webpage; this is updated frequently with things happening in our area, like the 'Avian Flu.' Events happening regionally and throughout the state are also listed here. If you have news or an upcoming event, please send an email to info@bbrp.org.

County Coordinators, please send us updates on what's happening in your area. We like to add the latest information on the "County Coordinator" webpage to keep our members and website visitors updated.

If you are looking for bluebird or related information and don't find it on our website, www.bbrp.org, please send us your questions or suggestions. Send them to info@bbrp.org. We will do our best to include new items.

HOUSE SPARROWS – SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

(Reprinted from Bluebird News July 2007)

Editor's note: I just moved one of my nestboxes after having a house sparrow making several nests which I removed, one with two eggs in it. As an introduced bird the house sparrow and its eggs are not protected.

The next time you drive by an unattended nest box with a house sparrow sitting on top of it, here are some theoretical statistics to think about. House sparrows average 3 broods per nesting season with each brood averaging 4-7 eggs. House sparrows probably live for an average of 1-3 years in the wild. Let's make the following assumptions:

1. One pair of house sparrows produces 20 chicks per year
2. Half of the chicks do not survive
3. Half are male and half are female
4. They don't mate until year 2 (although they can reach maturity much earlier) They mate for 1 year only and then die

Using these assumptions, here's how 1 pair of house sparrows can theoretically grow in 7 years:

Year 1: 2 sparrows = 1 pair

Year 2: 10 sparrows = 5 pairs (original pair died, 20 new chicks, 10 chicks survived)

Year 3: 50 sparrows = 25 pairs (5 pairs bred, 20 chicks each, 10 chicks per pair survived)

Year 4: 250 sparrows = 125 pairs (25 pairs bred, 20 chicks each, 10 chicks per pair survived)

Year 5: 1,250 sparrows = 625 pairs (125 pairs bred, 20 chicks each, 10 chicks per pair survived)

Year 6: 6,250 sparrows = 3,125 pairs (625 pairs bred, 20 chicks each, 10 chicks per pair survived)

Year 7: 31,250 sparrows = 15,625 pairs (3125 pairs bred, 20 chicks each, 10 chicks per pair survived)

Please note that these numbers have not been scientifically proven and are provided only for purposes of demonstrating how theoretically 1 pair of house sparrows can multiply. Imagine the results if more than 50% of the chicks survive each year or each pair breeds for more than 1 season! It puts a different perspective on that unattended box with a sparrow sitting on top doesn't it?

New Members:

George Skinner - - - - - Minnetonka, MN

Orville & Kathryn Jonsrud - - Annandale, MN

Wyatt Andreas - - - - - Ellendale, MN

Carolyn Law - - - - - Little Falls, MN

Shirlie Rice Hegg - - - - - Bloomington, MN

Jo Stick - - - - - Northfield, MN

Brent Anderson - - - - - Corcoran, MN

Matthew Mensing - - - - - Faribault, MN

Joan Nelson - - - - - Dennison, MN

David Pope - - - - - Janesville, MN

Loren Hoppe - - - - - Northfield, MN

Karen Herborn - - - - - Northfield, MN

Donation: Orville & Kathryn Jonsrud



Photos by Doris Glander

Bluebird Film Online

Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society (MBTCS) is fortunate to have Rick Andrews as a Trail Monitor. Over the past few years Rick has taken on a Bluebird Trail in Southwest Alberta and has documented his journey and recently produced a short film about his experience.

The short film follows a pair of Mountain Bluebirds as they nest and raise a brood of nestlings in the foothills of southern Alberta. (Editor's note: I do wonder about the wooden post and predators. BBRP does not recommend using wooden posts.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2jhn4ms-_8

Blue Determination

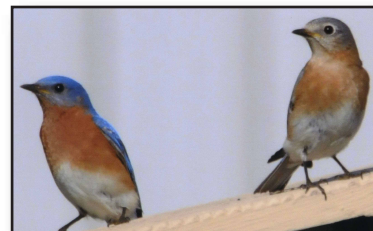
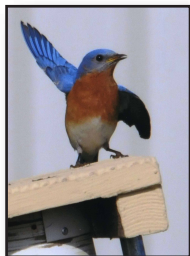
Just a few words about our beautiful bluebirds and how determined they are.

In early April 2022, on DNR ground that is wide open space - on County 1 in Rice County, MN, mom bluebird decided to build a nest and lay two eggs. That night it was 9°. She decided the eggs were no good and she pushed them down in the nesting material. I saw that and took them out and on April 24th there were four more eggs! With all the cold wind and rain, on May 14th two eggs hatched and were looking really good on my last check.

P.S. I did mark and put one of the eggs in an active nest, it did not hatch.

Loren "Murph" Murphy, Faribault

Pictures from long time Bluebirder, Joan Sculz



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 mnbluebirder@hotmail.com for more information.

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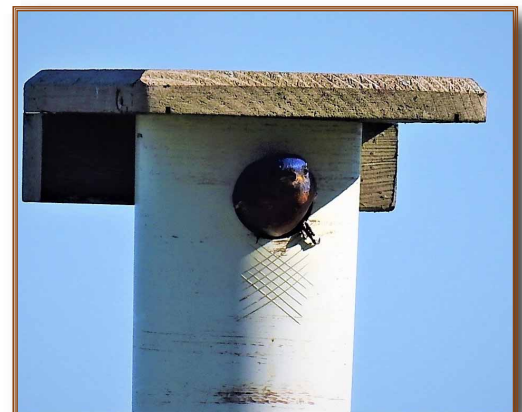


Photo by Doris Glander

Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota



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Photo by Doris Glander

Upcoming Events

Saturday, June 25

Gammel Dag in Peterson

BBRP Information Booth

Wednesday, July 27

Fillmore County Forestry Field Day

Small Farm, Big Impact

Saturday, August 20, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm CDT

Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah

9:00 am - 4:00 pm CDT

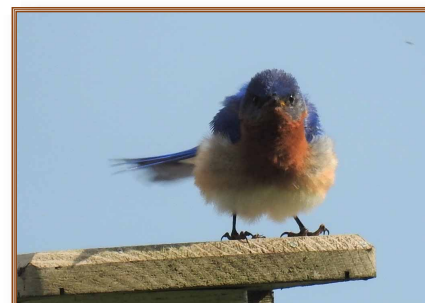
<https://www.hendersonhummingbirdhurrah.com/>

September 22 - September 25

Hawk Ridge 50th Anniversary & Hawk Weekend Festival

<https://www.hawkridge.org/event/hawk-weekend-festival-2021/>

*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.