



*"Bringing back Bluebirds for Future Generations!"*

# Bluebird News



Volume 32 Issue 4

Fall 2022

## Expo Memories From Jeanie Mortenson

Greetings to everyone,

Where did this year go? It doesn't seem possible we are in November already, it's been a very strange year and at times very scary. I called Board Chair David Schmidt last December and told him I was going to resign as Chair of the Expo as it just would not work out for me. My husband had a problem with his heart and from December until April we were in Rochester many times. They did lots of testing and he ended up having two surgeries and they replaced a valve in April. He is doing pretty good now which we are so happy that it's gone that way. When Virginia called and ask me to do an article for the Newsletter about my chairing the Expo it sure brought back lots of memories.

It was so very hard to resign. I always enjoyed it so much even with all the madness from January to April that kept me so very busy. When Doreen Scriven called and wanted Keith and me to take over the Expo in Faribault she said she'd be there to help and actually watch over us. That was over 13 years ago. I remember people would come in and want lunch. It ended up we got mixed up and I thought, oh boy, she won't want us to take over chairing the Expo ever again. But I got things straightened with the count and it was alright. She said she'd be happy if Keith and I would take over. We did so and he was my co-chair for a few years. Then, with all his other things he does for BBRP, he felt he had to quit co-chairing. Then Carrol Johnson was my co-chair, but he is the County

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Coordinator and it was just too much for him. So, after that, I chaired it and had a supporting committee. Mike Sandford and Glen Shirley helped me the last few years. We checked schools etc. and met at Culvers and enjoyed each other's company while planning.

I counted up how many different places we were at. We were at Faribault once, Medford twice, Elk River twice, Red Wing once, Byron twice, Northfield twice, Cannon Falls twice, and Cambridge once. It was at such great schools that were handicapped-accessible and at times we had field

trips in the local area. We always had such great food, a nice hot meal and our members brought in their wonderful variety of cookies. Everyone was so generous about providing beautiful items for our silent auction and raffle and also gifts of money. We always appreciated that so much and were so grateful. We've had such great, interesting speakers and presentations. The Raptor Center was always such a hit with the beautiful birds they had saved. Because of injuries they were not able to be released back into the wild so they were used in their programs. We had an Owl named Alice from the Owl Center. We had Jim Gilbert who would announce our Expo on his radio station on WCCO. Al Batt always would write about our Expo and plug us on his radio shows, and of course Jason Davis from KSTP's "On the Road" was so interesting that year in Medford. That was the year it rained and, of course, with rain you have ice. I don't know how no one fell and got hurt, the ice was so horrible. In April the weather is a little unpredictable. Especially in the last few years it seems we have such cold rainy days. This year we had that storm hit Faribault and surrounding areas. We lost our fence, our shingles, and gutters and our skylight on the porch was messed up. Again, I appreciate all everyone did for me, everyone was just the best. So many friendships are made. It is such a wonderful group of people coming together for our little gems of blue.

**The BBRP Board says "Thank You Jeanie!"**

## Expo History, by Virginia Windschitl

Going back in the old newsletter I found some information on previous Expos.

2002 – Faribault - 21st Annual BBRP Conference (only recently called the Expo)

2003 – North Branch

2004 – ?

2005 – Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

2006 – Faribault

(First year Jeanie helped plan?)

2007 – Elk River

2008 – Medford (Snowstorm the Thursday before the event & icy conditions)

[Editor's Note: This might have been my first Expo. Jason Davis from KSTP was a speaker.]

2009 – Elk River

2010 – Medford

2011 – Cambridge

2012 – Byron

2013 – Northfield

2014 – Red Wing

2015 – Northfield

2016 – Byron

2017 – Northfield

2018 – Cancelled a day or two before the Expo - Cannon Falls – Huge Snowstorm

2019 - Cannon Falls

2020 – Cancelled because of Covid

2021 – Virtual Expo

2022 – Cannon Falls

2023 – Little Falls

The BBRP board noted that we had not had an Expo north or west of the Twin Cities since 2011. After checking out a few possible locations we have chosen the Little Falls High School for an April 22, 2023 Expo. If you live in the area and want to help with setup on the 21st or on the day of the Expo email [info@bbrp.org](mailto:info@bbrp.org).



## Public Lands Nest Box Program

The BBRP board has again authorized funding in 2022 – 2023 to award up to 100 nest boxes to qualifying applicants. Applications will be accepted until February 1st of 2023, with awards being made and boxes distributed in March.

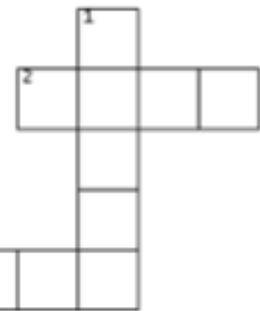
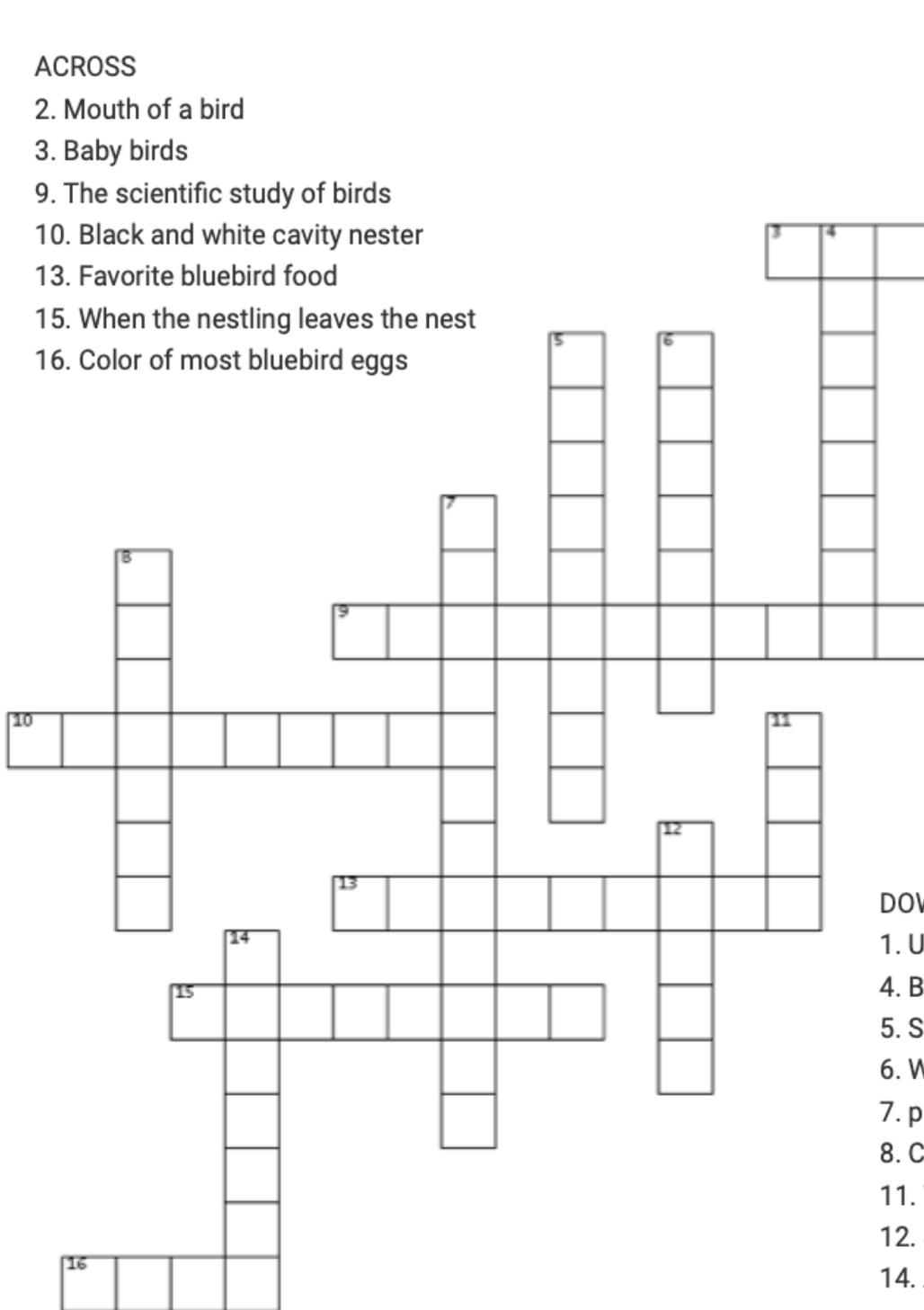
BBRP makes this offer to nature centers, preserves, schools, city, county/regional and state parks with established and supervised bluebird programs, to provide new nest boxes for expansion or replacements on their Bluebird trail(s). Please note requests are limited to 20 boxes per year per institution, all nest boxes given out will be Gilbertson – PVC boxes.

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@bbrp.org](mailto:info@bbrp.org).

**BBRP Puzzle**

**ACROSS**

- 2. Mouth of a bird
- 3. Baby birds
- 9. The scientific study of birds
- 10. Black and white cavity nester
- 13. Favorite bluebird food
- 15. When the nestling leaves the nest
- 16. Color of most bluebird eggs



Carrol Johnson took this picture at his farm. The BB is in a virburnum called 'Blue Muffin'.



**DOWN**

- 1. Used for flying
- 4. Baby bird breaking out of the egg
- 5. Seasonal movement of birds
- 6. Where to find eggs
- 7. protection of natural resources
- 8. Checking a bluebird trail
- 11. What bluebirds lay
- 12. Single group of nestlings
- 14. Another word for feathers

**Open BBRP Board Position**

The board is seeking an enthusiastic 'Bluebirder' to join the team as a "Community Outreach manager". Annually BBRP presents educational bluebird information sessions at community events and celebrations, libraries, nature centers and State Parks – wherever there is an opportunity to spread the word about Bluebirding. The person filling this position will work with other board members, county coordinators and community planners to find the best places and events for BBRP to participant in. Send an inquiry email to [info@bbbp.org](mailto:info@bbbp.org) to express your interest and we will share all the key information with you.

## Trail Reports Due

Please submit Trail Reports by December 15. Forms can be found at <https://bbrp.org/report-forms/>.

We need to know your statistics **whether you have fledged hundreds of bluebirds or none at all. Put in the notes if you only had tree swallows and/or chickadees or no nesting at all.**

*Please complete a separate form for each trail you are reporting on.*

If you prefer to send your report by mail you can print out a form and mail it to:

**Wally Swanson, 128 South Buchanan, Waterville, MN 56096**

Questions call Wally @ 507-362-8760. Email: [swansonw@frontiernet.net](mailto:swansonw@frontiernet.net)



Photos by Doris Glander

### "Crossword Answers"

**ACROSS**

2. bill, 3. chicks, 9. ornithology, 10. chickadee, 13. mealworms, 15. fledging, 16. blue,

**DOWN**

1. wings, 4. hatching, 5. migration, 6. nestbox, 7. conservation, 8. monitor, 11. eggs,  
12. brood, 14. plumage

## 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:

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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.

<p><b>AITKIN</b> Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953</p>	<p><b>DAKOTA</b> David Schmidt Inver Grove Heights 651-457-9195 schmidt_dw@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Pete Meyer Mound 952-472-7449</p>	<p>Ben Bartusek New Prague 952-758-3398 bartusek@bevcomm.net</p>	<p><b>RICE</b> Carrol Johnson Northfield 507-664-9433 mnbluebirder@hotmail.com</p>	<p><b>WADENA</b> Paul Sailer Wadena 218-631-4401 josiemae@wcta.net</p>
<p><b>ANOKA</b> Richard Sherva Anoka 763-360-5075 rmsherva@gmail.com</p>	<p>Marlys Shirley Farmington 952-469-3510 gshirley@frontiernet.net</p>	<p><b>HOUSTON</b> Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573 san@acegroup.cc</p>	<p><b>LYON</b> Paul Rasmussen Russell 507-823-4731</p>	<p>Fern &amp; Ken Vesledahl Nerstrand 507-645-8610 fvesledahl@outlook.com</p>	<p><b>WASECA</b> Wally Swanson Waterville 507-362-8760 dendroica55@gmail.com</p>
<p><b>BELTRAMI</b> Brian Hiller Bemidji 218-755-2212 brian.hiller@bemidjis-tate.edu</p>	<p><b>FILLMORE</b> Mary Bailey Chatfield 507-867-9118 marycbluebird@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>HUBBARD</b> Ron Jensen Park Rapids 218-732-4205 jenspr@unitelc.com</p>	<p>Cynthia Sabinske Ghent 507-829-7965 cynthia.sabinske@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>SCOTT</b> Jon Allen Savage 612-490-8700 jonedwardallen@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>WASHINGTON</b> David Morgan Stillwater 651-430-2427 Leadrsheep@aol.com</p>
<p><b>BENTON</b> Bob &amp; Sandy Rajkowski Rice 320-393-2909</p>	<p>Mike Jeresek Rushford 507-864-2573 san@acegroup.cc</p>	<p><b>ITASCA</b> Rick Blake Grand Rapids 218-327-3303</p>	<p><b>MORRISON</b> Mike &amp; Kelly Fulford Little Falls 612-581-6400 mike@oliverspoint.com</p>	<p><b>SHERBURNE</b> Jan Wallin Zimmerman 763-442-4390 janwallin37@gmail.com</p>	<p>George Brown Ramsey 651-245-2435 g.r-b.jr@comcast.net</p>
<p><b>CARLTON</b> Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953</p>	<p><b>GOODHUE</b> Steve Malecha Cannon Falls 507-581-4383</p>	<p><b>KANABEC</b> Steve Gilbertson Aitkin 218-927-1953</p>	<p><b>OLMSTED</b> Mary Bailey Chatfield 507-867-9118 marycbluebird@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>ST. LOUIS</b> Beth Urban Ely 218-365-5047</p>	<p><b>WINONA</b> Brianna Frisch Minnieska 507-459-4829 bri_kruse@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b>CROW WING</b> Mary Kalinowski Baxter 218-829-5297 marydee@brainerd.net</p>	<p><b>HENNEPIN</b> John Hauser Bloomington 952-831-8132 jgshauser@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>LAKE</b> Beth Urban Ely 218-365-5047</p>	<p><b>PINE</b> Jeanne Olsen Hinckley 320-384-6163 lostcreekbrds@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>SWIFT</b> Bill Hoberg Benson 320-843-3988</p>	<p><b>WRIGHT</b> Mary A Swenson Monticello 763-516-1074 maranswen@aol.com</p>
<p><b>LE SUEUR</b> Bruce Smisek Montgomery 507-364-8966 montgomerysodco@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>RAMSEY</b> George Brown Ramsey 651-245-2435 g.r-b.jr@comcast.net</p>	<p><b>WABASHA</b> Carol &amp; Dale Nibbe Lake City 651-345-2410</p>			

### BBRP Board Members

**Bianna Frisch (Membership)**

Minnieska, MN  
507-459-4829

[bri\\_kruse@hotmail.com](mailto:bri_kruse@hotmail.com)

**Carrol Johnson (State Coordinator)**

Northfield, MN  
C-507-649-0126 H-507-664-9433

[mnbluebirder@hotmail.com](mailto:mnbluebirder@hotmail.com)

**Nancy Engel**

Rosemount, MN  
763-843-6581

[nancyengel16@gmail.com](mailto:nancyengel16@gmail.com)

**Karah Bausch Olson**

Minneapolis, MN  
612-819-0944

[Karah.Bausch@target.com](mailto:Karah.Bausch@target.com)

**David Schmidt (Board Chair)**

Inver Grove Heights, MN  
651-457-9195

[schmidt\\_dw@yahoo.com](mailto:schmidt_dw@yahoo.com)

**Marilyn Suter**

Farmington, MN  
C-651-900-4335

[mbszsuit79@gmail.com](mailto:mbszsuit79@gmail.com)

**Wally Swanson (Treasurer)**

Waterville, MN  
507-380-4106

[dendroica55@gmail.com](mailto:dendroica55@gmail.com)

**Virginia Windschitl (Newsletter)**

Farmington, MN  
651-463-8056

[edbbnews@outlook.com](mailto:edbbnews@outlook.com)

**Joni Welda (Secretary)**

LaCrescent, MN 55947  
608-797-5101

[Ladyjockey@hotmail.com](mailto:Ladyjockey@hotmail.com)



Photo by Doris Glander

# Bluebird Recovery Program of Minnesota



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Farmington, MN 55024

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Editor BB News: Virginia Windschitl,

[edbbnews@outlook.com](mailto:edbbnews@outlook.com)

Photo by Doris Glander

## Upcoming Events

**March 4, 2023 - April 8, 2023**

**Nebraska Crane Season**

**Audubon Rowe Sanctuary Gibbon, NE**

**April 22, 2023 - BBRP Expo - Little Falls**

**May 18, 2023 - May 20, 2023**

**26th Annual Detroit Lakes Festival of Birds**

*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](http://www.bbrp.org)



Photos by Doris Glander

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