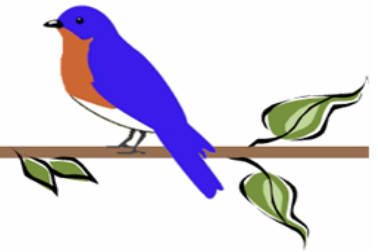


TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter • Volume 12. Issue 1

MARCH 2013

Other Cavity Nesters: *A Real Cutie—The Carolina Chickadee*

This is the first in a series of articles on other cavity nesting birds in Texas.

**By Linda Crum,
Master Naturalist**

Inquisitive, curious, acrobatic, cute and friendly are common adjectives used to describe the Carolina Chickadee, *Poecile carolinensis*. A common backyard bird, the Carolina Chickadee is easy to attract with black oil sunflower seed and suet. They will dart into the feeder, grab a seed and fly off before a larger bird has time to protest sharing the feeder. Flying to a nearby limb, Carolina Chickadee will hold the seed under its feet and peck open the shell, clearly keeping distance from each other while feeding. In winter, the diet is about half plant and animal. The rest of the year about 80 to 90 percent of the diet is insect and spiders.

Named by John James Audubon in South Carolina, the Carolina Chickadee is very similar to the Black-capped Chickadee. Both have black cap, black bib, soft-gray wings and back, and whitish to buffy underside. Carolina Chickadee's range is from Kan-

sas to New Jersey and south to Texas and Florida. The ranges of the two species overlap in a fairly narrow band from Kansas east to New Jersey where they do hybridize. They can usually be distinguished by their songs. The Carolina Chickadee

species found in Texas is the Carolina Chickadee.

The pairs can bond for several years, but a failed nesting may cause the female to seek out another male in a different territory. Two different studies, one in Texas and another in Tennessee, found that the

Carolina Chickadee pairs in Texas bonded for longer periods than those in Tennessee. While they may be socially monogamous, DNA reveals the truth—they are sexually promiscuous. In the overlapping range, the Carolina and Black-capped females prefer the Carolina males. This preference may be one

reason the Carolina Chickadee range is moving northward. Carolina Chickadee is a cavity nester that can live more than 10 years. They are capable of excavating their own cavity but will readily accept a nestbox or an abandoned woodpecker cavity. All birders should have several nestboxes scattered about the landscape to attract native cavity nesters. Place one into or at the edge of woodland with the cavity facing a clearing for the Carolina Chickadee. The nest base will be built of moss with hair, feathers, thistledown, or other soft plant fibers lining the nest cup. Carolina Chickadee will raise one brood per year, and the clutch size can vary from three to ten eggs. The eggs are white with reddish-brown specks or splotches and are very fragile. Incubation period is about eleven to fourteen days with the identically marked parents sharing in the incubation. The naked hatchlings will have wisps of down on the head, wings, and rump. The young will fledge in about two weeks.

In winter, Carolina Chickadee form mixed flocks, often with Tufted Titmouse, woodpeckers, and nuthatches. When spring arrives, the highest ranking pair of the flock will usually claim the territory for nesting.

Continued on page 7



has a four-note song while the Black-capped Chickadee has a two-note song. They will imitate each other's song in overlapping areas, so the song is not entirely reliable in the overlapping range. The only

reason the Carolina Chickadee range is moving northward.

Carolina Chickadee is a cavity nester that can live more than 10 years. They are capable of excavating

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Lynne Richards (pictured with John English) worked diligently on technical issues to ensure presentations went smoothly.

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Bluebird Enthusiasts Kick Off the Nesting Season in Style



By Sandra Meineke

Over 100 bluebird lovers from across the state met in Kerrville in February to discuss the future of one little bird that is native to most parts of Texas. Tears were shed and laughter was shared as presenters revealed tips, photos, advice and anecdotes about this delightful little creature that is showing up in new locales in the Texas landscape with the help of its devoted fans.

Although the beautiful Texas Hill Country was experiencing a smattering of rare rain, the mood inside the Inn of the Hills Conference Center at the 2013 Season Kickoff of the Texas Bluebird Society was anything but dreary. A Friday evening banquet launched the event and was followed by a day of presentations and activities that ended around 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Speakers were alternately entertaining and serious. Saturday lunch was delicious. And a large array of items, were available through the group's silent auction, which brought in \$3,700 to build more nest boxes.

Keynote speakers were Mark Klym, a gardener, birder and hummingbird enthusiast from Bastrop, and John English of Abilene, a wildlife and nature photographer who specializes in landscape and bird photography. Klym is the coordinator of the Texas Wildscapes program for the Wildlife Diversity division of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. English is a Texas Master Naturalist, board member of the Big Country Audubon Society and an award-winning photographer.

Other presenters included Linda Crum of The Woodlands and Debbie Bradshaw Park of Sour Lake. Crum is a Texas Master Gardener, Texas Master Naturalist and board member for the Texas Bluebird Society. She participates in nestbox building for TBS and monitors bluebird trails at WG Jones State Forest and the Texas AgriLife Extension office in Montgomery County. Debbie Bradshaw Park, who retired to Texas in 2006, has served as a board member of Texas Bluebird Society, and is an active volunteer and editor of the *Texas Blues* newsletter. She monitors the Tyrell Park bluebird trail in Beaumont Botanical Gardens. Emcee for the event was McKinney resident and bluebird enthusiast Paul Nelson. He built his own nestbox five years ago and has had a family of bluebirds housing in it ever since.

Linda Crum touched on bluebird basics at the beginning of the day then wrapped up the event with a disturbing look at the damage that (English) House Sparrows can inflict on adult bluebirds and their babies.

Mark Klym's first presentation was on the seasonal movement of bluebirds. Klym's second presentation was about wildscaping options for attracting birds to nest in a certain area. Basic elements of a bluebird habitat include shelter, places to perch, water and food, places to escape predators and weather, and brush along fence lines for hiding and resting. He also returned later in the day to discuss the Ash-Throated Flycatcher.

Debbie Bradshaw Park's presentation introduced participants to NestWatch, a project of Cornell University. She presented a history of the program, some of the well known research findings, and ended with offer of a nestbox to TBS members, in attendance, in exchange for a commitment to NestWatch at least two nestboxes.

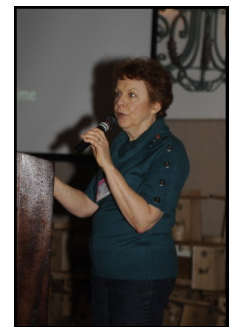
John English's topic was photographing cavity-nesting birds. He showed many of his original photographs that cap-



John English presented "Photographing Cavity-Nesters," a popular program at the Kick-off.

tured birds and other wildlife in their natural habitat while explaining camera techniques, lenses, and patience to capture the right photo.

The event came to an end with everyone planning to meet again at the Summer Bluebird Symposium to be held in Mount Pleasant on August 10th. Look for details in upcoming newsletters and on the TBS website www.txblues.org.



Linda Crum is a favorite speaker at events.



Without our GREAT volunteers there would be no events!

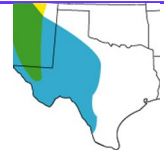
Member Shares Mountain Bluebird Photos

Description: The beautiful male Mountain Bluebird (MOBL) is vivid, sky-blue with a lighter breast and white abdomen. The female is grayer with splashes of sky blue. Mountain Bluebirds measure about seven inches in length and have long, swallow-like wings; giving them a graceful appearance in flight.

Habitat: Mountain Bluebirds prefer open woodlands and alpine meadows with small groves of trees and shrubs.

Nest Construction: Nests consist of dry grass, weed stems, pine needles, twigs, straw, rootlets, shreds of dry bark, and, sometimes, wool, hair (e.g., deer or horse), or feathers. Deep, well-formed cup lined with finer materials, and occasionally a few feathers or trash (shredded paper, plastic wrappers)

Clutch Size: The Mountain Bluebird nests in natural tree cavities, or, in man-made nest boxes. Females lay 4-8 oval, smooth, glossy, unmarked pale blue eggs. Mountain Bluebirds usually two broods per season.



Mountain Bluebirds winter, but rarely nest, in TX and then only in the mountains.

Photos by Eric Breden (during Robert Lee County Christmas Bird Count 2009.)



Members Share Eastern Bluebird Photos



Photo by Gil Eckridge



Photo by Curtis Rainwater, Conroe



Winter photo by Bill Lindemann

View TBS photos at www.flickr.com/photos/texasbluebirdsociety

Spring Is Here



Bluebirds bring us joy in the Spring and hope for the upcoming Summer. Let's do our part to create a safe and environmentally friendly habitat for our cavity-nesting friends.

Shelter * Water * Food

- ◆ Provide Texas style nestboxes
- ◆ Add appropriate predation controls
- ◆ Provide water for drinking and bathing
- ◆ Landscape with native plants
- ◆ Keep grass short and pesticide free
- ◆ Encourage insects
- ◆ Observe nesting activities
- ◆ Report to NestWatch (nestwatcj.org)

Upper right EABL photo by Paul Pruitt,
all other photos on this page by Michael Adair



Musings From The Master...

Spring Has Sprung!

Spring has sprung in the south; every day now has more birds moving up from wintering grounds, and we are hearing various breeding/territory/warning songs being belted out by more and more species, while my brother Barrie, in the sleepy town of Homeworth, Ohio is getting another load of snow and is at 14°F again today! Yesterday I heard a Mockingbird imitating the song of a Purple Martin! Normally the first Purple Martins will migrate through this area, and we will miss seeing/hearing the Purple Martins as we humans are too busy with our own lives. Mockingbirds, on the other hand, are NEVER too busy to stop and listen to the music, and they are never too busy to pass along a snippet of good news. Mockingbirds are the town crier of the bird world. They listen for ANY new sounds and interesting songs, and then they will repeat these over and over for about a week. Then they will drop this old news and pass along or share the next new tidbit of local gossip maybe. Anyway, in the south if you have a resident mockingbird in your yard in spring and summer, then you have the perfect habitat for bluebirds to nest in your yard also. The same applies for the winter months; if you have multiple Mockingbirds hanging around all winter then you will have multiple sources of wild fruits and berries, or there is a constant, or nearly constant, supply of insects in and around your property which will be good for the bluebirds also.

We normally have Purple Martins in this area traveling through the end of January, and the first ones to stay at local Purple Martin housing sites will arrive around the 15th of this month, near Valentine's Day. Again, for our area this is the same date farmers need to plant their Irish Potatoes as this is the "average best time" to plant potatoes to miss the last of the spring time freezes, but just in time for potatoes to mature BEFORE we hit the first of the really hot days of late spring. There is about a two-week window, and IF you miss this window of opportunity, then you will lose your whole crop. Officially, Purple Martin landlords report or register their first birds to arrive. They are already in Shreveport and beyond this year. Link below is to the reporting site. Everything you ever wanted to know about Purple Martins is on their website: www.purplemartin.org/scoutreport.

For the spring nesting birds this Valentine's Day also applies to them. They need to arrive early enough in order to locate a suitable nesting site with a good source of food, water, and shelter, and they need to do this BEFORE they have a lot of competition from other birds of their own species, or other species that will compete directly with them for these same habitat requirements. NOW is the time to be sure you have cleaned out any and all nesting boxes. You need to repair or replace any of the older nesting boxes. MAKE SURE that your boxes will NOT get overgrown this year with vines, shrubs, or be covered up by tree limbs during the nesting season.

Snakes and other predators are only a few weeks away from beginning to search out nesting boxes as they have learned that these birds often nest first in the spring. Across the south, various species of Owls have been laying eggs for several weeks now. Locally we can have Screech Owls nesting in Wood Duck nesting boxes right NOW. We can have Barred or Barn Owls nesting in Black Bellied Tree Duck nesting boxes. You might have either the Black or Turkey Vultures that will nest in abandoned buildings, and in junk cars and trucks abandoned at remote locations. Deer hunters often find that Great Horned Owls or one of the species of vultures have entered through an open window or open door and are nesting inside their deer stand over the summer! Historically vultures nested in hollow logs, caves, deep in masses of storm damaged trees—basically anywhere they could hide their nest and or young.

Do a little research; nesting boxes for owls, ducks, woodpeckers, and kestrels need entrance holes big enough for these target species, nest box floor sizes for each species, and then most importantly, location in good habitat with good predator protection. The larger species all need coarse wood chips, and they will use pine needles. These birds do not bring in their own nesting materials, and they require a well-drained nesting box filled with fresh chips now so that they can create a depression to hold a clutch of eggs and NOT be on the bare bottom of a wood nestbox!

Keith Kridler, everyone's resident expert, our favorite speaker, and cofounder of TBS, participates in several List-Serve groups focusing on bluebirds and their behavior. Keith has given us permission to publish his contributions to these groups. This is an edited excerpt from the Bluebird Monitors Yahoo Group on 2/4/13.

(...continued from page 1) **Carolina Chickadee**

Last spring, two nesting pair of Carolina Chickadee raised their brood in clear sight of and within 30 feet of each other in my backyard. One pair was in a nestbox hanging from the soffit of the house, while the other nested in a ceramic Williamsburg bottle on a post of the pergola. The cavity openings were facing each other. One brood fledged within two days of the other. There was a lot of fussing among those Chickadees during

the nesting period. Clearly, the second pair did not read the book of one pair claims the territory for nesting. To say that they are spunky is an understatement. Once, while monitoring the nest of a Carolina Chickadee, the Chickadee incubating the eggs lunged and hissed at me from the nest.

Despite that I am on the Texas Bluebird Society Board, the Carolina Chickadee remains my favorite

bird. I love watching them hang upside down from a limb looking for insects. Whenever they come to the birdbath for a drink, they will light on the brass drip tube and drink from the water droplet rather than drink from the basin. Bluebirds will kick them out of a nestbox so I implore you to put up more than one nestbox so that the diminutive, but spunky, Carolina Chickadee will have a place to nest.



Photo by John Park

THANK YOU DONORS! Silent Auction FUNdraiser Nets \$3,700



Judy Hetherington's smile spreads the good news. Kick-off attendees spend big bucks to buy lumber and materials to build Texas style nestboxes to help spread Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time.

A special thanks to businesses* who donate year after year to help TBS raise \$ to build nestboxes.

Alamo Inn B&B and Outdoor Store*
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Wild Birds Unlimited, Kerrville



Inspect before you buy, then bid high to raise funds for nestbox supplies.

An extra big thanks to **Benni Konvicka** and **Judy Hetherington** and to the many volunteers who help gather donations, track items, handle the logistics, and create the displays to encourage bidders to go wild! And the bluebirds thank you too.

*Behind the boxes..***2013 Season Kickoff Auction BIG Success!****By Benni Konvicka**

The silent auction at this year's Season Kickoff was a resounding success. Texas Bluebird Society received over 180 donations of auction items! The bidding was lively, with net results \$3,700. All funds generated by our silent auctions are used to purchase wood for building bluebird nestboxes which, through our members, are distributed throughout the eastern two-thirds of Texas.



Bidders commented on the variety and value of items available. We had books, some out of print, some signed by the author. We had notecards, feeders,

mealworm certificates, tee-shirts, caps, decorative items for the home and for the outdoors, beautiful artwork, a bat house, jewelry, items for the gardener, a butterfly house, incredible wine, a variety of nestboxes, delectable food choices, and many other kinds of items. The array was very impressive.

All of this success could not have been possible without the generosity of our many individual and corporate donors. We are very fortunate to have many companies and several individuals who regularly support TBS through their auction donations.



Pres. Pauline Tom thanks local hosts and super auction helpers, Jerri Porter and Charlene Fischer.

items by winner at the close of the auction, and in calculating bidders' auction totals. No activity like this could happen without this kind of tireless assistance.

We had a very interesting "first" for this Kickoff auction. TBS members **Walter** and **Beverly Davis**, who donated several auction items individually, made a cash contribution to TBS for purchasing items to be placed in the auc-

tion. Generally, auctions like ours can expect items to bring in about 60% of their retail value. However, the fourteen items purchased with the cash contribution provided by the Davises earned 110% of their retail value! This is really quite remarkable.



A HUGE Thank You to Walter and Beverly for their auction and Kick-off support. In addition

to donating personally and through their auction cash contribution, the Davises helped transport nestboxes and supplies from our storage facility in Conroe, and they helped with both the set-up and take-down of the Kickoff event. TBS is very lucky indeed to have your support, thanks Walter and Beverly.

I cannot close without mentioning this Kickoff's Outstanding Bidder: **Jan Cheney**. Jan must have liked what she saw because she purchased over two dozen auction items. Way to go, Jan! See you in August.



Volunteers help Benni Konvicka (far right) arrange auction items. (Bonus—they get a sneak preview of the items)

Thanks to everyone who helped make this auction such a huge success for the Texas Bluebird Society.

If you would like to support the twice-annual TBS auctions, please consider donating items, providing your time to help as an auction volunteer, or making a cash contribution to purchase auction items. For further information contact:

Benni Konvicka, TBS Auction Coordinator

1315 N. Dale Avenue
Stephenville, TX 76401
254.968.6663
auction@texasbluebirdsociety.org

**Next Auction: Summer Symposium
August 10th in Mt. Pleasant**

Mistletoe - *Phorandendron leucarpun*

(member of the Viscaceae family)

By Judy Hetherington



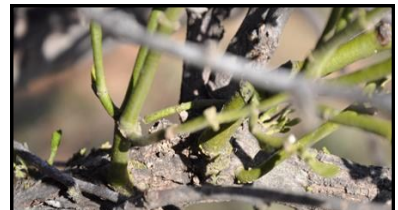
Mistletoe plant

Mistletoe is a semi-parasitic plant that grows on mesquites, junipers, hackberries, and other deciduous trees in the Big Country. The flowers are clusters of tiny yellow flowers on smooth, green, jointed stems. The word "mistletoe" could have been derived from German; *Mist* for dung and *Tang* for branch. This derivation refers to the fact that mistletoe is spread in the feces of birds.

Various varieties of mistletoe can be found in Europe, Great Britain, US and Australia. All varieties have pairs of evergreen leaves that are ovoid with smooth edges. While mistletoe "feeds" on the host tree, it may only slow the growth of the tree. If the infestation is heavy, however, it can kill the tree (and itself).

The Lady Bird Johnson Plant Database describes mistletoe as follows:

This is the common Mistletoe hung at Christmastime. The genus name derives from the Greek *phor* a thief, and *dendron* tree, and refers to their getting at least some nourishment from the trees on which they grow. The fruits are covered with a sticky substance poisonous to man, but relished by such birds as cedar waxwings and bluebirds. The birds spread the seeds through their droppings and by wiping their beaks on branches, where a new plant may become established.



Mistletoe growing on a mesquite bush



Mistletoe in bloom

While often considered a pest that kills trees and devalues natural habitats, Mistletoe has recently been recognized as an ecological keystone species, an organism that has a disproportionately pervasive influence over its community. A broad array of animals depend on mistletoe for food, consuming the leaves and young shoots, transferring pollen between plants, and dispersing the sticky seeds. A study of mistletoe in junipers concluded that more juniper berries sprout in stands where mistletoe is present, as the mistletoe attracts berry-eating birds which also eat juniper berries. Such interactions lead to dramatic influences on diversity, as areas with greater mistletoe densities support higher diversities of animals. Thus, rather than being a pest, mistletoe can have a positive effect on biodiversity, providing high quality food and habitat for a broad range of animals in forests and woodlands worldwide. (Courtesy of Wikipedia) Photos by Judy Hetherington.



Mistletoe with berries

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* denotes Honorary Lifetime Membership

Our membership form includes the \$250 Lifetime option

From the president's desk:

State of the Grassroots Non-profit Organization

Texas Bluebird Society recently assigned **Membership #3868**. The newsletter mailing list for this issue (email and snail mail) includes an incredible **1,053 current members**. Most of you accept an email notification when the newsletter is posted online, so your **entire donation for membership dues goes towards the work of the organization**.

Membership dues (and hundreds of hours of preparation by Board Members and Local Coordinator Volunteers) produce our **two semi-annual events** (Season Kickoff and Summer Bluebird Symposium), paying for the venue rental; honoraria; printed materials; administrative costs; and even for coffee.

At an event, you can count on hearing not only about bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds, but also about the value of native plants that attract insects and provide berries. Too, you can count on camaraderie and fun.

It looks like 2013 will be the first year that our two **FUNDraising Auctions** will pay for almost all of the lumber for nestboxes built by volunteers (Each of past five years, **we expended over \$6,000 for nestbox construction**).

At this point in TBS history, we have distributed approximately **8,000 nestboxes**. Pair this quantity with the **10,000's additional nestboxes** installed through the influence of Texas Bluebird Society since 2001. We are, indeed, spreading bluebirds (and other native cavity-nesting birds) "*across Texas...one nestbox at a time.*"

These nestboxes result in the production of bluebirds, many in vicinities where bluebirds had not previously been observed. Bluebirds add to the quality of life for humans. As bluebirds are now a "species of least concern" (according to ornithologists), our species needs them more than their species needs us. What a difference we make.

A remarkable **133 TBS household memberships NestWatch'd**, reporting nesting observations to www.nestwatch.org. This number will grow as TBS focuses on recruiting individuals willing to serve as citizen scientists. (Texas Bluebird Society promotes NestWatch by giving a free nestbox to members at-

tending a semi-annual event when they commit to NestWatch at least two nestboxes at least once or twice a week.)

Our Board Members devote hundreds of hours each year to the work of Texas Bluebird Society beginning with ten two-hour Go To Meetings during the year. Each Board Member plays a specific role in the organization, and each takes on a key responsibility in at least one of the two semi-annual events.

The three incoming board members (Rex Reves, Lynne Richards, and Benni Konvicka) each work full-time jobs outside the home. This is good news, as we're reaching beyond retirees.

It's not just board members working to undergird the work of the organization. At the recent Season Kickoff in Kerrville, 30 registrants (in addition to the seven Board Members present) signed up to lend a helping hand.

Numbers do not begin to tell our story. Ours is a story of individuals, people drawn to bluebird conservation by their own experience with bluebirds or through the influence of an individual with a bluebird experience.

Consider a bit of the story of two Texas Bluebird Society members who participated in the recent Kickoff.

Ricky Ruth Walker attracted bluebirds to the Walker Ranch in Bandera in the early 90's. Even though she had seen no bluebirds, she installed nestboxes. By the time Texas Bluebird Society came along, Ricky had fledged hundreds of bluebirds. Ricky joined Texas Bluebird Society in Fall 2001, just behind Keith Kridler, as soon as she heard word of the new organization. To show support for TBS, she brought chili and beans and cornbread to the Kickoff for Texas Bluebird Society in Mountain City, where charter board members established a skeleton plan and created our slogan. She and her husband, Billy, have given generously all through the years. Ricky ironed flags for the 2006 North American Bluebird Society Conference, hosted by TBS. Ricky has a heart for sharing bluebirds through supporting the work of Texas Bluebird Society. Ricky has encouraged my heart all through the years.

Paul Nelson, who now emcees our events, started

with bluebirds and Texas Bluebird Society in February 2007 when he saw a bluebird in his yard. Paul wrote to tell us his mom found us through our website, and he constructed a nestbox with our plans. After five days with no takers, Paul wrote again. (I broke the word to him that some wait for years; and, some nestboxes never attract a bluebird.)

In late March 2007, Paul wrote that bluebirds were using his backyard as a resource for food. You might remember Paul's story printed in our newsletter: "While reading another website someone recommended to put the mealworms within 5 ft from their favorite perch site. Well, at my house, their favorite perch site is my TV antenna! So I climbed up on my roof and thumb tacked an empty milk jug bottom under the antenna! Guess, what? In 5 minutes, a pair showed up and the female began eating! The next day, they found two containers I placed in my backyard!"

Not long thereafter, in nesting season 2007, bluebirds "finally" nested in Paul's nestbox. What an encouragement they were to him, just when he needed it most.

By the time Texas Bluebird Society recruited Paul to help with our booth at a festival in 2012 in Ravenna, Paul had made believers of friends and family members with his evangelistic zeal and passion for bluebirds. Now, they're joining Texas Bluebird Society.

Paul's unabashed love for bluebirds shone through as he exceeded our two most recent semi-annual events. What hope he gives to those of us who carry a few more decades – hope that individuals will continue in future decades spreading "Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time."

You have a story, too. Even if you have no bluebirds, your support of the organization through your membership makes a difference in bluebird conservation and in the lives of those who see and experience bluebirds because of Texas Bluebird Society.

Thank you.

Peace, hope, and love —



Pauline Tom, President

Upcoming Events

All events offer free nestbox with \$15 membership

Thursday, February 28th

10:00-11:00 am
Presentation by Linda Crum
Arbor Gate Nursery
Tomball, TX

Thursday, March 14th

10:00-11:00 am
Presentation by Pauline Tom
Spring Lake Garden Club
Hays County Extension 1253
Civic Center Loop
San Marcos, TX 78666

Saturday, March 16th

9:00am-3:00 pm
Booth
ECMGA Lawn/Garden EXPO
Waxahachie Civic Center
Waxahachie, TX

Saturday, March 23rd

10:00am-4:00 pm
Booth, and presentation
by Linda Crum
2013 EXPO
Lone Star College—
Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive
Conroe, TX 77384

Saturday, April 27th

10:00am-4:00 pm
Booth
Wills Point Bluebird Festival
Wills Point,

New events are continually added. Be sure and check out Events at www.txblues.org for the latest listings and details.

Save This Date!

Find registration and event details at www.txblues.org

August
Saturday
10

Summer Symposium

August 10, 2013

Mount Pleasant Civic Center

Mount Pleasant, Texas

Great Speakers * Demos * Tips and Techniques

Silent Auction FUNdraiser

Meet and Greet Dinner Friday Night

The South Carolina Bluebird Society

Cordially invites you to the

36th Annual North American Bluebird Conference

"The Art of Bluebirding"

October 3-5, 2013 in Aiken, South Carolina

Details—www.nabluebirdsociety.org



The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter, *TX Blues*, is published four times a year: March ■ May ■ July ■ October
Debbie Bradshaw, Editor

Send street or email address changes to Caryn Brewer at: records@texasbluebirdsociety.org or send to our P.O. Box.

Need Nestboxes?

Check for a nestbox distributor near you.

Go to www.txblues.org and click

Nestbox Distributors

from the main menu.



Photo by Luke Hoag

ALL NATIVE CAVITY-NESTERS are protected by federal law. Do not remove an active nest or eggs except for House Sparrows. Monitor the nest and report to NestWatch.

Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time

He said **WHAT?**



Juveniles say the darndest things!

Photo Caption Contest Instructions

- ◆ Email your caption to editor@txblues.org or mail Debbie Park, Editor 1218 Attaway Sour Lake, TX 77659
- ◆ Enter as many captions as often as you like.
- ◆ Deadline is **April 15, 2013**.
- ◆ TBS Board will judge entries.
- ◆ Top 3 captions will be published in next newsletter.

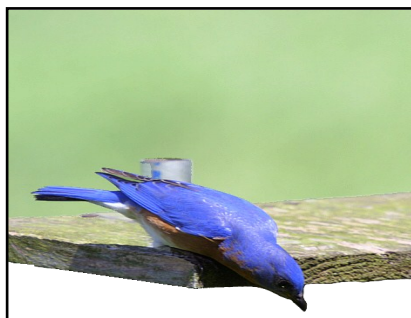
What did YOU hear?

Enter the TBS

Photo Caption Contest

1st Prize: **One Year Membership**

Special thanks to Gil Eckridge who suggested the idea and supplied the photo!



Bluebirds are nesting!

Record your observations at nestwatch.org

Involve other family members!

NestWatch needs data on all birds.