

# Bayou Bluebird Nest News

Editor: *Christina LeGuin*

Volume 1



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### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Shane Marcotte**

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## Shane's Story

Shane Marcotte originally became active with Bluebird recovery through his interest in the Ivory Bill Woodpecker, which is believed to be extinct. There is an on-going search for this bird in the Louisiana swamps and a lot of important "bird" people are convinced that this woodpecker may still exist. While doing his own researches on the Internet for information about the Ivory Bill Woodpecker, Shane found a wealth of information on a wide variety of birds and quickly became fascinated by them. Shane's interest soon centered on the Eastern Bluebird, which is the bluebird found in Louisiana.

Shane's wife, Emily, purchased a Bluebird house and he hung it in their backyard. He soon became aware that he had erected the nest box wrong without any predator guard protection. Shane set out to educate himself and joined the Cornell University Bluebird List and discovered even more valuable information.

"There are many ways we can help the Eastern Bluebird", says Shane, "by providing nest boxes, which in essence are abandoned cavities." In doing so, we should add a predator baffle to the pole. This helps keep snakes, raccoons, mice and other climbing predators away. Although Shane doesn't have House Sparrows, he learned about how to get rid of the dreaded pest.



**Shane Marcotte (from Watson, LA)**  
**and his nest box**



Here in Louisiana where the heat index rises dramatically, it is wise to have a second or "Echo Roof" as it is called. I found this information on Cornell University's Bluebird List. This helps substantially by lowering the heat in the nest boxes during the summer months of June through August by creating an airflow between the roofs.

You can make the roof easily using lumber about 1/4 inch thickness and three inches all around larger than the nest box roof. Make some spacers (we use small hose) about 1 1/2 inches long. Drill holes on both roofs to match. Put a 2 inch long screw through the echo roof, spacer and nest box roof. It takes little time to construct and it is worth every effort.

## From the Perch...



We have launched into our advertising full swing. All throughout the summer, I hope we can make contacts, even on individual basis, to bring in new members. Let's all make an effort to talk about our meeting and bluebirding. I have found that sometimes it only takes one question about it to a person and the rest is easy.



In my conversation with one couple this summer, they said they had a bluebird box on a fence and had babies. They didn't know that you clean the box when they fledge and mama and papa will nest again, most likely three to four times in Louisiana. They were amazed and happy that I told them. It is unbelievable how many people are "bird" people, yet they have not sought to be educated about it. We can, in our efforts, educate many people about bluebirds and have fun doing it.

I look forward to what we as an organization are going to do for Louisiana in promoting the Bluebird Recovery Program. We are pioneers in our efforts and I have every confidence that we are going to be very successful. We have some wonderful plans for programs for our schools and organization in the very near future.

Please send to us any experiences you have had with your bluebird efforts this summer or in the past so that we may share them in our newsletter.

*Evelyn Cooper*  
President



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to your favorite  
bluebirder on  
the next Special  
Occasion!

*Bluebirds across the bayous...where we lend a helping hand!*