

BAYOU BLUEBIRD NEST NEWS

December 2005

Editor: Sheryl Cooper Bassi

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www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org

Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society



"BLUEBIRDER OF THE YEAR 2005

Sheryl Bassi, James Dean, Evelyn Cooper

BLACK BAYOU NWR CONSERVATION LEARNING CENTER MONROE, LA SITE OF LBBS 4TH ANNUAL MEETING AND NESTBOX WORKSHOP

The Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society held its 4th Annual Meeting and Nestbox Workshop on November 12, 2005 at the beautiful new state of the art Conservation Learning Center of the Black Bayou Wildlife Refuge.

The day's activities began with the Nestbox Workshop, led by Instructor Jimmie Orr, of Oak Grove, LA. Participants enjoyed building nestboxes of their own while learning about box placement and monitoring from Mr. Orr, Pres. Evelyn Cooper, and Officers Kenny Kleinpeter and Sheryl Bassi

The afternoon activities started with the social hour, and a brief business meeting. Keynote Speaker for the afternoon session was Kenny Kleinpeter, LBBS 1st Vice-President, of Baton Rouge, LA. A long-time host for Purple Martins and Wood Ducks, as well as an avid bluebirder, Kenny's presentation on these three beloved cavity nesters held his audience spellbound.

James Dean, Marion, LA, was named "2005 Bluebirder of the Year". James monitors a trail of over 1000 nestboxes and can always be counted on to conduct workshops, build nestbox kits, give presentations, and even make media appearances on behalf of LBBS. James' dedication to bluebirding and to LBBS made him a natural for this honor.

Kenny Kleinpeter, Baton Rouge was recognized as "Project Leader of the Year." Kenny established and continues to monitor the 100 box Kleinpeter Dairy Trail, the 40 box Kleinpeter Woods Trail, and his personal trail around his home in Briarwood. He also accepted the responsibility of rehabbing and monitoring the Highland Park Observatory Trail. He kept extensive records and made weekly reports on all his projects. His diligence in monitoring, and assembling and reporting so much important data on these projects has been a wonderful asset to LBBS during this years' nesting season.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to those whose efforts are so helpful to LBBS. Recipients included Jack and Deb Hoover, Monroe, Clay Green, of Lafayette, and Mary Jane Shearer, Tucker, GA.

The Officers and Board of Directors were pleased to honor LBBS Founder and President Evelyn M. Cooper with a "Lifetime Achievement Award". Her vision of a state-wide organization, and her courage and tenacity in making that vision a reality is an inspiration to all who know her.

Special guests for the event included Gary Springer, Carnesville, GA, Executive Director, North American Bluebird Society, and Ben Kleinpeter and Jackie Creaghan, Baton Rouge.

LBBS will host its Spring Celebration May 6, 2006, at Waddill Wildlife Refuge Center, 4142 North Flannery, Baton Rouge, La., from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Hummingbird Specialist Nancy Newfield will be the speaker. The public is invited. A Nestbox workshop will be held at the same location from 10:00 to 12:00 A.M.



Mary Jane Shearer, Tucker, GA proudly presents the "Project Leader of The Year" award to Kenny Kleinpeter, Baton Rouge for his extra-ordinary efforts in monitoring and maintenance of his trails.

*JOIN US FOR OUR SPRING CELEBRATION
AND BRING A FRIEND!!*

LOUISIANA BAYOU BLUEBIRD SOCIETY invites you to its Spring Celebration, May 6, 2006 from 1:30 until 5:00 at Waddill Wildlife Refuge Center, 4142 North Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge, LA. Nancy Newfield, Hummingbird expert, will be the featured speaker. She will have her books "Hummingbird Gardens" and "Enjoying Hummingbirds More" for signing. Following her presentation, a film about Bluebirds will be shown. Discussion will follow. The public is invited to attend.

LOUISIANA BAYOU BLUEBIRD SOCIETY invites you to attend its Bluebird Nestbox Workshop on May 6, 2006 from 10:00 until 12:00 at Waddill Wildlife Refuge Center, 4142 North Flannery Rd, Baton Rouge, LA and learn to make your own bluebird nestbox and receive a year's membership to the organization. Registration fee is \$15.00. Call 318-878-3210 or e-mail kpkmajk@cox.net or emcooper@bayou.com.



Deb Hoover, Monroe proudly displays her "Certificate of Appreciation" for her hard work for LBBS presented by Evelvn Cooper.



Hannah O'Neal, Dodson, LA shows off her nestbox she constructed at the workshop.



John Tidwell and daughter, Katie, Monroe, along with others enjoy putting together their nestboxes at the workshop.



James Berry, Clinton, AR, participated in the nestbox workshop.



More workshop participants enjoy construction of their kits. The workshop was led by instructor, Jimmie Orr, Oak Grove, LA



Above: Instructor Jimmie Orr, Oak Grove assists Libby Rushing, Dodson at the workshop.

Above right: Mary Jane Shearer, Tucker, GA introduces Gary Springer, NABS Executive Director, NABS, Carnesville, GA to LBBS.

Right: Mary Jane receives her "Certificate of Appreciation" in honor of all her work for LBBS.



NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

2006 ANNUAL CONVENTION

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

The NABS Annual Convention is a yearly event where bluebirders gather to share information, learn of new developments in bluebirding, enjoy programs and field trips, make friends and renew friendships.

Texas Bluebird Society will host the North American Bluebird Society's 29th Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas, April 26 - 30, 2006.

Headquarters hotel is the Airport Hilton, easily accessible to San Antonio International Airport, and featuring a stunning "Texas" décor in rich, warm colors.

"Your Texas affiliate is working hard to plan a Convention with your needs in mind," says TBS president Pauline Tom.

The registration cost of \$45.00 (only \$37.00 for NABS members) includes 2 - 5 days of general sessions and breakout session. The 1-day rate is \$25.00.

With the NABS 2006 registration price structure, a NABS member can attend all 5 days of the convention for just \$37.00 - without any bells or whistles. This includes entry into general sessions, break-out sessions, and a complimentary breakfast and lunch. (We're relying heavily on underwriting by the Texas Bluebird Society and we plan to find generous sponsors and to receive donated auction items from across the continent.)

To make reservations call: 1-800-HILTONS

To obtain the brochure, visit www.NABS2006.com or send a request to TBS, P O Box 40868, Austin, TX 78704. Phone Pauline Tom (512.268.5678) with questions. This will have registration information.

Please consider making this a great vacation for yourself and family or friends. You will never forget the experience.

NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY HAS A NEW HOME

Gary Springer, Carnesville, GA is the new director of NABS and we are working to rejuvenate the North American Bluebird Society to return to the dominant clearing house of correct information for bluebirds and cavity-nesters in the Americas. This is also the new location and home of NABS. It is easy to let memberships in organizations drop. It is easier to simply not join a group in the first place!

(Con't on page 6)

The North American Bluebird Society began more than twenty-five years ago when bluebirds were at extremely low numbers across much of North America. It started as a small core group that Larry Zeleny pulled together literally out of stacks of old letters from bluebird landlords that he kept in a closet over many years in a couple of old paper grocery sacks.

NABS membership exploded over what they projected they could EVER expect to join to help the cavity-nesters! When *Sialia* (NABS Journal) began to be published every three months new information and the best ways to produce cavity-nesters began to be shared around the country; bluebird, tree swallow, titmice and chickadee populations soared to record numbers where large trails were maintained.

We all became a "Band of Brothers" in our efforts to save this unique bluebird. As populations of bluebirds exploded more and more people joined in the effort locally and statewide. Soon there were states with a thousand bluebird members! (Originally Larry Zeleny suggested that the most "Bluebirders" NABS should expect to keep was around 350 people.)

NABS helped state after state to form their bluebird societies. Many of the early state or local groups also exploded in members only to decline and disappear over the years and then like the Phoenix, NABS helped another group to grow and rebuild from their ashes in these states.

Many NABS members were the ones to form or pull together a group in their area or to encourage and push and prod someone to build a new group, rebuild a group or simply to make the one they already had better. Each group fed off of the energy of NABS and vice versa.

I have watched over the years as NABS let states run with bluebird conservation in their areas which makes sense as each region has their own issues and problems to overcome to best help the cavity-nesters. This is fine as long as each state continued to grow in membership.

BUT, we all seem to fall victim to our successes! When bluebirds explode across a local or state area and members believe they know "enough" about bluebirds, they tend to drop out and do their own thing with nestboxes.

Groups get political sometimes or lose focus or have a falling out with their neighboring state. Decline sets in when people or groups accomplish their goals.

(Con't on page 7)

There has NEVER before in the history of mankind been so much pressure to push so many species to the brink of extinction. There is NO other conservation effort anywhere that people can make a backyard contribution to than helping cavity-nesters! If a picture is worth a thousand words, then saving and touching a real living creature is worth a million words.

NABS should be growing by leaps and bounds, inspiring children and adults to make a difference in their own backyards. This is where you can step up and forward information to friends and neighbors. You can pass on information from your group or your backyard to NABS to share what you have learned and continue to see with others. Join NABS now and get involved!

Keith Kridler, Mt. Pleasant, TX
 2nd Vice President, North American Bluebird Society
 Member, NABS
 Member, Cornell University Bluebird List

JOIN/RENEW NABS TODAY
NABS

P.O. Box 551

Carnesville, GA 30521

{ } New

{ } Renew

Adult.....\$ 20.00	NAME_____
Household.....\$ 30.00	ADDRESS:_____
Life.....\$500.00	CITY:_____
Organization.....\$ 50.00	STATE/PROV._____
Small Business...\$ 50.00	PHONE:_____
Corporation.....\$125.00	E-MAIL:_____

Additional Donations:
 \$20.00_____ \$50.00_____ Other:_____

NABS Endowment Fund:
 \$30.00_____ \$50.00_____ \$Other_____

"Friend of NABS" for current calendar year (does not include quarterly "Bluebird") \$15.00

If paid by credit card, this may be faxed to 330.359.5455

Visa_____ MasterCard_____

Card #_____

Exp.:_____ Signature:_____

BIRD TEMPERATURES RUN HIGH. WHY?

The town we were in is just large enough to have a bank with the ubiquitous flashing sign out front. The flow of red letters told us that the stock market had fallen slightly that day, that the time was shortly after three in the afternoon and that the temp was four degrees short of 100.

No one needed to tell us about the heat. The air conditioning in our van was barely keeping Jude (my wife) and me comfortable as we drove east across South Dakota. This was mid-July, so the heat was no surprise. We were prepared, and did the best we could to keep cool.

The birds we saw along the country and state roads we drove did the same – the best they could. Under the prairie sun, on land where the only shade in sight was provided by fence posts, their best looked insufficient.

We actually saw Lark Buntings employing the slices of shade from those posts. The birds were perched on the fence wire, tight to the post in the few-inch sunless swipe that offered small respite.

Many of the birds we saw coped by assuming an extreme posture. They straightened out the ankle joints (what many of us consider to be the bird's knees) to stand high and clear. They spread their wings to gain more air contact. They panted, opening their bills wide for more air exchange.

Among warm-blooded creatures, birds run hotter than most other animals. Eighty percent of all birds species are warmer than the warmest 10 percent of mammals. Why is this so?

The primary reason is that higher body temperature allows an animal to maintain a high activity level at all times. Birds are active through the day, in all seasons, in all parts of the world.

Other advantages are that at higher temperatures, nerve impulses travel faster, muscle strength is increased, and physical endurance is greater. All of these things are important to birds if they are to fly, to capture prey, and to avoid capture themselves. It is believed that a constant higher body temperature also aids memory and improves learning ability.

These advantages come with a price. To maintain high body temps, the animal has to eat a great deal (eating like a bird actually means the opposite of what my mother meant when she spoke those words). And, higher body temperature puts birds closer to the point where proteins in the body begin to break down and cause death.

Birds do not sweat. Sweating is one of the ways we cool ourselves, but birds don't enjoy that advantage. Sweating consumes large amounts of liquid, but water on the summer prairie, for example, can be as hard to find as shade. We used quick-stop stores to replenish our cooler with ice and Gatorade. Birds have other strategies.

They give up excess heat by exposing body parts to the air. Standing tall with wings spread effectively increases functional body surface, allowing more heat to escape. Compressing feathers against the body would reduce the insulating qualities of the feathers, and promote cooling. Many species of birds also have fewer feathers in warm weather than they do in colder months, again reducing the insulation factor.

Birds open their bills wide and pant in hot weather, to increase heat exchange between blood and inhaled air. This is the most important means birds have to cool themselves, the most commonly seen solution to the problem. The respiratory rate of House Sparrows will increase from 57 breaths per minutes at 86 degrees Fahrenheit to 160 per minute at 109 degrees.

Birds change location on hot days. At midday in summer, birds in almost any neighborhood can be hard to find. They are laying low in the shade somewhere, keeping cool. The birds we saw in South Dakota looked like they were having a rough time, but birds are extremely adaptable creatures, having evolved effective strategies for coping and surviving in a wide variety of extreme conditions.

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Take away our civilized accouterments, and they were going to outlast us on those South Dakota Prairies, that was for certain.

Article by Jim Williams
"Bluebird"

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FROM THE PERCH

What a wonderful Annual Meeting we had indeed! We were honored to have people to drive a long way to be with us. Special guests attended the meeting. Gary Springer, Executive Director of NABS told us of the "new home" for NABS and some future plans for it. He plans a "grand opening" sometime in the future. That would be a lovely trip to Carnesville, GA when it happens. Kenny's Dad, Ben Kleinpeter and Jackie Creaghan from Baton Rouge were guests at our afternoon meeting.

Members traveling a good distance to be with us were: Joe Herring, past president of Louisiana Wildlife Refuge and LBBS board member, Baton Rouge, Mary Jane Shearer, Tucker, GA, Ernie and Betty Lard, Hammond, Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville, Jim Berry, Clinton, AR, and Sheryl Bassi, Leland, MS.

Others attended were from Oak Grove, Winnfield, Dodson, Bastrop, Monroe, West Monroe, and Delhi.

At our next annual meeting, we will install new officers which will include the president. It is my hope that you will seriously consider using your talent to help us continue to grow.

If you can serve in any position or as a board member and have a computer, please get in touch with me. We do LBBS day-to-day business on the computer and also our annual board meeting by simultaneous e-mail. We need people to come aboard and learn how we operate and help us make LBBS greater.

Many thanks to all the people that brought such wonderful door prizes!! Wow! You really out did yourselves! We had almost two tables full. We sell tickets on them and this helps out with meeting expenses. It is a fun thing too!

Evelyn



Left: Sheryl Cooper Bassi and Clayton Cooper, Jr present the “Lifetime of Achievement Award” to President Evelyn Cooper awarded to her by the officers and board members of Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society.

THANKS TO HELPING HANDS!

To: Jimmie Orr, Oak Grove, for conducting the November 12th nestbox workshop;

To: James Dean, Marion and Jimmie Orr, Oak Grove for making 25 nestboxes to send to Olga and Walter Clifton, Abita Springs to replace some of the 56 that hurricanes wiped out on Money Hill Golf Course;

To: John and daughter, Katie Tidwell, Deb and Jack Hoover for volunteering to monitor and maintain the Leo Terzia Memorial Bluebird Trail;

To: Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville, LA for helping get the snail mail newsletters to members;

To: Deb Hoover, Monroe, and her helpers, Mildred Hyde and Nell Odom for taking care of refreshments for the annual meeting;

To: James Berry, Clinton, AR, Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville, Roselie Overby, Oak Grove, Marilyn Lewis, Winnfield, Ginger Bowers, Oak Grove, and Deb Hoover, Monroe for the wonderful door prizes.

To: A big thank you to our new board members Joe Herring, Baton Rouge, Dorothy Gammel, Denham Springs and Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have had a very good year. Below are the things we have accomplished:
We have added six new trails:

1. Kleinpeter Dairy Farm Bluebird Trail, 100 nestboxes, monitored by Kenny, Baton Rouge;
2. Kleinpeter Woods Bluebird Trail, 40 nestboxes, monitored by Kenny;
3. Trenton Street Golf Course Bluebird Trail, 8 boxes, monitored by Paula and Richard Gates, West Monroe;
4. Le Oxbow Bayou Bluebird Trail; 5 boxes, monitored by Don French, Delhi;
5. Jimmie Davis State Park Bluebird Trail, 12 nestboxes, monitored by Tommy Crowser and employees, Jonesboro;
6. Hodges Gardens Bluebird Trail, 23 boxes, monitored by Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville.

John Tidwell and Jack and Deb Hoover of Monroe have accepted the duties of monitoring and maintaining the Terzia Memorial Bluebird Trail on the grounds of the LA Dept. of Ag and Forestry. John tells me that his daughter will help him monitor and she will do a science project of the trail. We are so pleased about this.

We plan to start putting predator guards on the Terzia Memorial Bluebird Trail. Jack Hoover has volunteered to help do this.

Elizabeth Hoyt, Cheneyville is monitoring the Hodges Gardens Bluebird Trail.

LBBS members rehabbed the Hodges Gardens Bluebird Trail in April putting up 21 new boxes and adding 2 complete units.

Presentations were given to Winnsboro Garden Club, Hodges Gardens, Lake Providence Garden Club, Wisner Garden Club

Please be reminded that if you have not renewed your membership this will be the last newsletter you will receive. If you have 05 on your label or at the end of your on-line address, your membership is not current.

LOUISIANA BAYOU BLUEBIRD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP
www.labayoubluebirdsociety.org
An organization devoted to conservation of all native cavity-nesting birds

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
(This form may be copied and distributed.)

NAME _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE & ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

New Membership

Renewal

_____ Individual membership	\$ 7.50
_____ Family membership	\$ 15.00
_____ Lifetime membership	\$250.00
_____ Organization	\$ 25.00
_____ Small Business	\$ 25.00
_____ Corporations	\$100.00
_____ Donation	\$ _____

Your cancelled check will be your receipt. To save money, receipts are not issued unless specified. Please ask if your company or your spouse's company has a matching gifts program to augment your contribution. Inquiries for information concerning matching gifts may usually be made at the company's benefits office.

Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

Mail this form with check or money order to:

**Louisiana Bayou Bluebird Society
P.O. Box 983, Delhi, La. 71232**

An Affiliate of North American Bluebird Society