

# TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter · Volume 10. Issue 2

MAY 2011

## Inside this issue:

Thanks Volunteers!	
Thanks Donors!	
Welcome New Members!	2
Symposium Registration	3
Photos & Notes	4
Project Bluebird	5
From The Master	6
State of the Organization	7

*"The birds richly repay you for the trouble you take*



*in attracting them and looking out for their interests.*

- Joseph H. Dodson, *Your Bird Friends and How to Win Them*, 1928 Photo by David Kinnear

### Texas Bluebird Society

#### Mission Statement

To spread "Bluebirds (and other native cavity-nesting birds) Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time" - through education; and, the installation of "NestWatch'd" nestboxes in appropriate habitat; and, sustaining and increasing their natural food supply (insects and berries of native plants) - while enjoying the process and the bluebirds.

## Fire Ants Kill Birds and Babies

By Keith Kridler

Yesterday, some friends came to pick daffodils and show the bluebird eggs to their three year old granddaughter. We carefully walked her around for over an hour watching out for fire ants. RIGHT at the very end, she pulled up a large tree leaf, shook it in the air, and we were horrified when she was absolutely covered in swarms of the Imported Red Fire Ants.

A single ant bites you to hold on tight and then follows with more ants stinging you and injecting a venom very similar bee venom. The bite causes a local infection leading to a fairly large pustule under the skin, and for children this often leaves a scar and hardened tissue at the site of the sting.

The ants like to build a colony up under anything that will protect them from heavy rains. Leaves, boards, paper litter, or even a plastic bag are



Not very pretty but they don't leave much in the nest when they are done. You can see a few of the ants on the top but there were thousands down inside the nest. Photo by Keith Kridler



A ribbon of Tanglefoot around nestbox poles stops fire ants from reaching a nestbox from the ground along the outside of the pole. Placed under a

baffle, there's no risk of a bird's wing touching the sticky goop. Tanglefoot in a tub is stickier than Tanglefoot in a tube. It's difficult to find the tub [www.NAbluebirdsociety.org](http://www.NAbluebirdsociety.org) sells the tubes through their online catalog. Photo by Pauline Tom



Eastern Bluebird killed by flying squirrel and "cleaned" by fire ants. Photo by Keith Kridler

perfect fire ant home locations. They mass their bodies under this shelter and will forage up to 100 feet for food.

Anyway, now is a good time in red fire ant territory to begin using a bait type poison for these ants near the mounting poles for your active bluebird nestboxes. I prefer Amdro, a fairly "safe" pesticide that is mostly targeted to the diet of fire ants. They carry this bait back to their mound to kill or thin out the whole population in the colony. I normally scatter a tablespoon or so of this bait every time I find an active bird nest, EVERY TIME I monitor the nestbox.

Scatter this bait from five to 10 feet AWAY from the mounting pole. You want to kill off the fire ants that are coming into this area from further out in the yard, fields, or pastures.

IF there is an active, large fire ant mound within that 10 foot range that I see,

*Continued on page 6*

**Board of Directors****President**

Pauline Tom  
Mountain City

**Vice President**

TBA

**Treasurer//AP**

Katy Couvillion  
The Woodlands

**Assistant Treasurer//AP**

Linda Crum  
The Woodlands

**Secretary**

**True Blue Friends Mgr**  
Judy Hetherington  
Bronte

**Membership/ AR**

Caryn Brewer  
Conroe

**Nestbox Inventory Mgr:**

Meg Scamman  
Conroe

**Speakers Bureau**

David Smith  
david.smith310@gmail.com  
San Antonio

**Board Member**

Nancy Glover  
Wills Point

**Board Member**

Jimmie Konkvicka  
Stephenville

**Contact Us**

TBS  
PO Box 40868  
Austin, TX 78704

Pauline Tom  
512.268.5678  
ptom5678@gmail.com

From our website

[www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org)

**Thank You, Volunteers Are Appreciated**

*Anything and everything that happens for TBS is because of the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.*

*An extra special thanks to our very active **Board of Directors** for tirelessly providing essential services to keep TBS at its best.*

Mark  
Carlson  
strums his  
banjo at  
bus tour  
depot.  
Photo by  
Pauline

**Check This Out!**

TBS added two new "events" at the Bluebird Festival in Wills Point April 16th. The Talent Box Theater donated their venue for our slide presentation, "Bluebirds 101." TBS hosted "view bluebirds" bus trips to Lake Tawakoni Stat Park. Our new "Poor Man's PowerPoint" (8.5 x 11 laminated photo presentation) debuted, as TBS volunteers took turns as "Tour Guide." A special thanks to Nancy Glover for coordinating so many of the details to assure a successful event (and, to her patient husband, Tim! Also, gratitude to Wills Point ISD for donating use of school buses with drivers and AV equipment.

Thanks to:

Mark Carlson  
Pat Chamberlain  
Cindy Compton  
Katy Couvillion

Carol Danko  
Trei Dickerson  
Jack Downing  
Janet Fayle  
Nancy Glover  
Tim Glover  
Leslie Green  
Joy Harsh  
Brian Hetherington  
Judy Hetherington  
Bob Houck  
Bruce Kreidler  
Don Lawrence  
Ray Lewis  
Deb Luten  
Patti Marshall

Roberta Marshall  
Lysle Mockler  
Barb Ohlman  
Diane Palmer  
John Park  
Pat Powers  
Judy Ramsey  
Shannon Ramsey  
Kay Ray  
Rex Reeves  
Meg Scamman  
Sharon Schubert  
Jimmy Shipp  
Susan Tullos  
Linda Wilson  
Randy Wyman

**TBS Thanks Donors For Their Financial Support**

Katy Couvillion ■ DeAnna Ubernosky ■ Judy Worthy ■ Paula Santagata ■ Sarah Kendric ■ Debbie Bradshaw ■ Susan Tullos ■ Ginny Hester ■ Polly Reed ■ Sam Jeffrey ■ Carroll D. Gregory ■ Gail B. Rapoza ■ Connie Real ■ Texas Master Naturalist Piney Wood Lakes

**Lifetime Members**

**A special thanks to those who express confidence in and support for TBS with a Life Membership (\$250).**

Edra Bogucki ● Mark Byrd ● Greg Grant ● Diane & Eric Hale ● Highland Shores Garden Club ● Maxey Kirkley ● Keith, Sandy and Shawn Kridler ● Leonard May ● Donna Parker ● Kathy & Billy Pinkerton ● Randy Reddemann ● Doug and Karen Rohde ● Ronny Rolf ● William & Linda Stevens ● Byron Stone ● Ron and Pauline Tom ● Jack Vick ● Dr. Thomas M. Wheeler ● Marsha Winfield

**Welcome New Members**

• Joyce Adams • Kathleen H. Adkins • Yvonne Aiavolasiti • Earline Baker • Janese Ballard • Jim Barrett • John M. Beard • Lawrence Behrmann • Laszlo Beregszaszy • Kathy Billiot • Darlene Bowers • Debbie & Sullivan Bradley • Donna Brasher • Joleen Cahill • Ann Cole • Cindy Compton • Carol Danko • Cindy Domeshek • Gina Donovan • Pre-scilla J. Dugas • Corena Dyke • Marissa Eddings • Jerry Elder • Kathy Etten • Gloria Foltin • Mr & Mrs. Charles Foster • Laurie Frazier • Veronica Gard • Mary Godkin • Maria P. Grancio • Jennifer Granger • Jan Greer • Carroll D. Gregory, MD • Metha Haggard • Renee Halfin • Betty Hill • Annette Hooker • Duane Horne • Suzanne Hundle • Ann Hunter • Monica Picard Jeffery • Liz Johnston • Jenny Johnston • Paula Kay • Sarah Kieschnick • Judy Klimaszewski • Martha Knies • John Koenigs • Bill Koussel • Sandra Kurtz • Rita Ladd • Jamie & Susan Larson • Kerry Lemon • Jarle Lillemoen • Susan Linnard • Janie Lisenby • Sabrina Martin • Teresa McGee • Judy McMahon • Elizabeth Nalley • Denise Narum • Judy K. Neely • David & Terry Nelson • Katherine Peake • Roger Peckenpaugh • Teena Clark Perkins • John & Toni Platt • Lawrence Quan • Mary Rains • Connie Real • Janet Reeves • Kent & Ann Richardson • Ralph Ritzma • Elyce Rodewald • Roel Rodriguez • Mark & Becky Rogers • Sabra Rollins • Joan Russell • Renee Sanchez • Judy Schaefer • Sharon K. Schubert • Ginger Shaffer • Jimmy Shipp • Kathy A. Smith • Jeanne Smith • Alanna Sommer • Linda Stedman • Janet Stockard • Dawn Stover • Dan Symonds • David & Edwina Thomas • Susan Tullos • Lydia Varels • Paula Vickers • Martha Walker • Ginny Wangenstein • Kathy Wasdin • Philip Wickes • Roland & Jan Wilken • David Willey • Chris Williams • Anne Woodley • Laura Zebeahzy

*We print names of all new members who give us permission on the Membership Form, otherwise initials, city are used.*

• EB, Austin • SB, Magnolia • CB, Center • CB, Tyler • CB, Hockley • CC, Magnolia • EC, Tyler • DC, Bellville • NC, Wimberley • SC, Cypress • JC, Conroe • RC, Warren • MC, Nacogdoches • CC, Tyler • JD, Tomball • JD, Lufkin • TF, Atascosa • PF, Nacogdoches • KG, Spring • CG, Tomball • DH, Nacogdoches • RH, Willis • BH, Tyler • CJ, Wimberley • CJ, Cypress • JK, Hemphill • NK, Magnolia • AK, Robinson • MM, Magnolia • GM, Texarkana • DM, Tyler • PM, Tomball • PM, Whitehouse • PM, Conroe • EM, Nacogdoches • NM, Tyler • RM, Tyler • CM, Magnolia • WN, Glade-water • SO, Magnolia • JP, Pinehurst • KP, Liberty • JP, Spring • RP, Pleasanton • RP, Buda • RR, Tyler • DR, Wash-ington • JR, Nacogdoches • BR, Wills Point • CS, Crosby • JS, Texarkana • RS, Robinson • CS, Pearland • MS, The Woodlands • NS, Magnolia • SS, Utopia • PS, Austin • CS, Norman • MT, Nacogdoches • SW, Magnolia • PW, Tyler • GW, Conroe • NW, Hockley • SW, Tyler • KW, Tyler • NY, The Woodlands

**2011 Bluebird Symposium  
in Glen Rose  
(with Silent Auction Fundraiser)**



*Presented by the Texas Bluebird Society*      *Sponsored by the Somervell County Texas Master Gardeners*  
**Saturday, August 20, 2011**  
 Somervell County Expo Center  
 202 Bo Gibbs Blvd, Glen Rose, TX 76043

**9:00 AM – 2:30 PM**  
**Doors open at 8:30 for Registration and Silent Auction**

**Featured Speaker: Keith Kridler**

*Author, Speaker, Naturalist*

- Nestbox basics for success
- How, What & Why of Bluebirds

**Other Presentations:**

- Nestbox installation
- Gardening to attract Bluebirds
- Sparrow control for Bluebirds
- Success with NestWatch
- Nestbox Housekeeping



©Luke Hoag

**REGISTRATION COSTS and DEADLINES:**

Early Bird Advance Registration: \$12. Fajita Buffet and 10 door prize tickets. Deadline July 20, 2011.

Advance Registration: \$12. Fajita Buffet and one door prize ticket. Deadline August 6, 2011.

At-the-door Registration: (No meal and no door prize tickets): \$6.

**NEW!** Friday 6:45 pm BBQ (BYOB) at the Holiday Inn Express: \$10. Deadline August 6, 2011.

The Holiday Inn Express (254.898.9900) offers "Texas Bluebird Society" rates (includes hot breakfast) — Standard:\$84; King Suite: \$96. RV Hookups available at the Expo Center (254.897.4509); \$20/night.

**FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes** (submit observations to Cornell through [www.NestWatch.org](http://www.NestWatch.org))

**For More information or to Donate Silent Auction Item(s):**  
 Jimmie & Benni Konvicka  
 1315 North Dale Ave.  
 Stephenville, TX 76401-1604  
 jkonvicka@gmail.com  
 254.968.6663



*Donations received after July 20th will miss the publication deadline.*

*\*TBS is recognized by the IRS as a 501c3 "charitable" organization. Donations are tax deductible, as allowed by law.*

Revised 03.23.2011

**ADVANCE Registration (includes Fajita Buffet)**

**Registrant #1**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Registrant #2 (same street address)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for Name Tag \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# of Attendees	Registration Fee	Cost (ea)	Total Cost
Member		\$12	
Non-Member*		\$12	
Friday Night Dinner		\$10	
		<b>Total Due</b>	

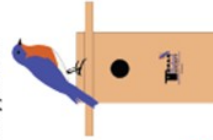
\*Do you plan to join at the meeting?  Y  N  
**\$15 Membership at this event includes FREE nestbox!** (This is not a firm commitment for membership. Please do not send membership dues now.)

**Planning Purposes Only**

1. TBS Members and New Members: TBS will provide to you FREE a nestbox at this event if you pledge to "NestWatch" at least 2 nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell through [www.nestbox.org](http://www.nestbox.org)).

Do you plan to participate?  Yes  No  N/A

2. \$15 Nestboxes available for purchase (based upon availability). How many do you plan to purchase? \_\_\_\_\_



**Mall Registration Form with Payment made payable to "Texas Bluebird Society" to:**

Jimmie & Benni Konvicka  
 1315 North Dale Ave.  
 Stephenville, TX 76401-1604

**EARLY BIRD Registration — Deadline: July 20, 2011**  
**ADVANCE Registration — Deadline: August 6, 2011**  
**AT-THE-DOOR Registration available (no lunch, no door prize chance)**

**CODE: TX BLUES \* WEB**



# Photos & Notes



## IDENTIFYING MULTIPLE NESTBOXES



Need help “naming” multiple nestboxes for monitoring reports? TBS member LeAnn Sharp is an old hand at naming nestboxes along her bluebird trail. She simply names them after loved ones. Each nestbox is named after a child, grandchild, friend or relative. Easy to remember and creates a connection between the birds and the nest-

## SEEDS?



Bluebirds cannot crack open shells; they do not have a “seed-eating beak.” They may eat the meat of sunflowers or sometimes cracked peanuts. *Photo by L. Hoag*



## BACK TO NATURE

“He (bluebird) kept checking the cavity every 5 minutes or so. After about 30 minutes his mate stuck her head out. She seems to be sitting fairly tight on the nest. I figure she has a clutch of eggs in there.”

It is fun to observe bluebirds! Ronnie Kramer was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a pair of bluebirds enjoying a natural cavity nest. Due to metal fence posts replacing wood, and the ever expanding human invasion, natural homes are harder for the natural cavity nesting birds to find. *Photo by R. Kramer*



## FIRST TIME NESTBOX OWNER

David Pruitt (La Vernia) joined TBS and received his free nestbox at the Mitchell Lake Audubon event. *Photo by D. Pruitt*

He installed his first nestbox and didn't have long to wait for results. “This pair of bluebirds are definitely interested.”

Report nesting activities at [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org).



## REMEMBER!

Mealworms are a *snack*, not a meal. Entertaining for us to watch them feed, but very little nutrition for the birds.

Protected feeding cages allow small birds to eat mealworms in peace, large birds cannot interfere.

*Photo by L. Hoag*

## Birders In Fort Worth Flock Together For “Project Bluebird”

### In The Beginning

Four years ago Project Bluebird started with one successful nest box installed by Jim Marshall. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds, rare inside the city limits of Fort Worth, raised three batches of babies from that little house along the Trinity River Trail near the Hulen Street Bridge. Adelaide Leavens, Executive Director of Streams and Valleys, played an instrumental role in helping Jim get this project underway.



### 2010 Brought Expansion To Trinity River Area

The project has expanded each year since. Now the 2010 nesting season included:

- Additional nest box installations for a total of 29
- An increase in the number of sightings of adult bluebirds
- More active nests with eight of the 29 boxes containing eggs or babies
- New monitors who have volunteered to help watch the boxes and track activity including: Cindy

Compton, Randy Wyman, Bob Howald, Gary Carl, Charles Dryfes, Mike McNerey, Roberta Marshall, and Earline and Bob Baker.



### 2011 ALREADY HAS NEW “FIRSTS” FOR PROJECT

First-year rookie volunteer monitor Tom Simmons spotted the first eggs for the 2011 Project Bluebird season.

Tom reported seeing four eggs February 26th which meant the first egg was probably laid February 23rd, much earlier than previous years. The eggs hatched March 15th and the first chicks of the season fledged April 2nd.

In addition to this box, there are 30 others for 2011. Of these 31 boxes, 12 have bluebird nests with a total of 50 eggs or babies.

One box has a wren nest and the other has a Carolina Chickadee nest and eggs.

Last year the first egg was seen on March 13th. Off to a good start in spite of the crazy weather conditions!



### Bluebird eggs are blue, right? Not always.

As many as 4-5% of bluebirds lay white eggs.

*Regardless of color, only one egg is laid each day, usually in the cool of the morning.*

I have read this before, but until opening a box March 6th in Oakmont Park in Southwest Fort Worth, I had never seen white bluebird eggs. Reviewing information online I learned:

- White eggs produce normal colored offspring.
- Normally colored females lay white eggs.
- White eggs are as fertile as blue eggs.
- A female that lays white eggs will apparently always lay white eggs.
- The trait appears to be genetic.

A typically colored bluebird pair was nearby the nest box and the female went in, confirming these were indeed bluebird eggs. This is the first bluebird activity I know of in the boxes in the Oakmont Park area. This clutch represents two firsts for Project Bluebird.

The bluebird numbers in Fort Worth should also grow because of the installation of 14 next boxes at the Colonial Country Club golf course which is south across the Trinity River from some of the successful nest boxes along the Trinity Trail.

I think these are positive signs for 2011 to be a good bluebird year along this stretch of the Trail.



*Hope you have many opportunities to enjoy it.—Jim*

*Report and photos by Jim Marshall*



## Musings From The Master... Fire Ants Kill!



**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 our own TBS Facebook.

There is a lot more to Keith than being a "blues" expert. Get the inside story on our "Master" in the next edition of Texas Blues.

*Fire Ants Kill Babies and Birds...continued from page 1*

then I will give the area around that mound and extra tablespoon of Amdro.

You can NEVER find all of the mounds to kill them out with a contact pesticide!!!! The queen and most of the workers will be down in the ground as deep as four feet and will just move their whole colony after you treat the small "surface" mound.

Greasing is also an effective fire ant defense. When greasing metal poles to keep ants from climbing up to the nest, you HAVE to apply new grease every time there is a new nest start!

Once a month, I would drive Harry Krueger around his 60 nestbox bluebird trail. He wore a rubber glove coated in the grease from a one pound can of high-temperature wheel bearing grease that he thinned with real turpentine to make a 90%grease and 10% turpentine blend; this would last for at least 40 days.

I am not sure if the grease for CV joints (constant velocity) in front wheel drive cars might not be better than the high temperature wheel bearing grease we used back in the 1980's. Harry would apply the grease to all of the poles and then throw away the disposable painters' glove(s). By having someone else drive him and open the car

doors and open gates and open boxes, he did not have to "clean up" between nestboxes.

You HAVE to apply the grease on metal as it soaks into wood. You HAVE to apply the grease above the tops of any vegetation. Livestock, especially cattle, will lick off and EAT these various types of auto grease. Wild hogs will rub on poles or pipes with creosote, grease,

or heavy oils. Hogs will chew into pine trees and then rub the pine tar on themselves to help get rid of their mites, lice, fleas, ticks and other ectoparasites.



This one hurts. The ants are busy cleaning the bones but they ate the baby birds alive. Even though these birds were old enough to fly it appears they did not attempt to leave. Notice the bones are not completely hardened in the skull yet this time ant he ants consume this thin bone. Photo and text by Keith Kridler. Check Notes section on our Facebook page.

## Fire Ants Are A Huge Problem In Texas!



**Dr. Paul Nester**, Extension Program Specialist – Fire Ants

"The impact of red imported fire ants in the state of Texas is estimated to be \$1.2 billion annually. Red imported fire ants are pests of urban, agricultural and wildlife areas and can pose a serious health threat to plants and animals.

More on fire ant control with Paul Nester, TAMU fire ant specialist, in the next issue. Find out the latest research and control practices for fire ants.



## President's State Of The Organization Report

Texas Bluebird Society appreciates your support! You're part of an organization making an impact in the conservation of bluebird and other cavity-nesting birds.

At the end of February, TBS assigned **Membership #2853**. As we're adding members weekly, that count will be higher by the time you receive this newsletter!

**954 (an all-time high) hold current membership** in Texas Bluebird Society. **Many add a donation (\$5 - \$100)** when they renew, a sure sign of membership support.

TBS stands strong financially, when many non-profit organizations have suffered during the financial downturn. Usually, we have **over \$17,000** in our bank accounts, a threshold that will allow the organization to continue should we come to a point in time where we must pay for some of the professional services now provided by volunteers. (We aim to decrease that balance to \$15,000 in 2011.)

Our financial reports show that **TBS is well-managed by the fantastic all-volunteer Board of Directors**, which meets about every 6 weeks for two hours by teleconference and by the Executive Committee members, who usually work together daily by email. **We have Board Members who enjoy their work!** I hear Board Members say, "I'm looking forward to the Board Meeting"!!!

2010 Budgeted Income: \$24,385

**2010 Actual Income: \$28,424**

2010 Budgeted Expenses: \$26,575

**2010 Actual Expenses: \$25,684**

Each of our **past two semi-annual events attracted 115 registrants**, with **over 100 in attendance**. And, each auction at these events brought **over \$2,000 in income**, with all dollars going towards the purchase of

lumber (at a discount) for nestboxes built by our own volunteers.

By far, our largest expense category is **Nestbox Construction: \$10,843** (actual) in 2010.

In the past seven years, Brian and Judy Hetherington, along with Bob Hauck, ripped lumber for over 8,374 nestboxes; most of those nestbox kits, they have assembled. About two years ago, we added a team in Montgomery County that assembles some nestboxes.

In 2010, the Texas Bluebird Society began paying for the printing of the **Texas Parks & Wildlife booklet, "Bluebirds in Texas."** We've budgeted to continue the printings in 2011.

Our new member "materials" now include two 4x6 full-color "cards," "QuickStart," and "Developmental Stages for NestWatch Data" (several photos of daily growth.) We print these on an as-needed basis for ten cents each through Walgreens.com!

**TBS holds very little in inventory**, other than nestboxes (which quickly turn) and minimal educational materials. Our imprinted and embroidered apparel and "Bluebird Habitat" signs (available through the "Sales" section on our website) are printed one-by-one by vendors and serve to advertise Texas Bluebird Society. (We receive no income on these; rather, we make them available to members at the lowest possible price.)

**We spread "Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time."** Often we hear of an individual who see their first bluebird or their first blue eggs in their own nestbox because of our work. We're making a difference, not only in bluebird conservation, but also in the lives of humans whose lives they impact. **Thank you for being a part!**



Pauline Tom, President

facebook

**Texas Bluebird Society** [www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org)  
Non-Profit Organization · Austin, Texas



**TEXAS Bluebird SOCIETY**  
"Bluebirds Across Texas... one nestbox at a time"

join us on  
**facebook**

Photos, stories, questions/answers and more. Take a look, we know you will **"LIKE"** it!



**"Texas Blues"**

*This newsletter of the Texas Bluebird Society is published four times a year.*

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

**Need Nestboxes?**  
Purchase in quantities of 4 from our website [www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org) (Sales tab)



*Photo by L. Hoag*

**ALL NATIVE CAVITY-NESTERS are protected by federal law. Do not disturb the birds or the nest.**

**Monitor the nest and report to NestWatch.**

*Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time*



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Blueberry Festival  
Saturday, June 11th  
8:00am - 4:00pm  
Downtown Nacogdoches

\*\*\*

Summer Symposium  
Saturday, August 20th  
Somervell Expo Ctr  
202 Gibbs Blvd.  
Glen Rose  
*See page 3 for details and registration deadlines.*

Hope To See YOU There!

*2011 Summer Bluebird Symposium*

*See page 3 for details & Registration form.*

For members who love to go camping there are RV hookups on site at the Expo Center.

Dinosaur Valley State Park is located just 4 miles west of Glen Rose.

**Attention Bluebird Addicts!**

*Twelve Successful Steps To Bluebird Happiness*

1. Choose the correct nestbox
2. Locate it in the appropriate habitat
3. Provide predator guards
4. Keep the cat indoors
5. Eliminate pesticide use
6. Wait
7. Monitor and record data
8. Register your nestbox at [NestWatch.org](http://NestWatch.org)
9. Send nesting data to [Cornell's NestWatch.org](http://Cornell's NestWatch.org)
10. Clean out box after each nesting
11. Check boxes at beginning of season
12. Investigate 2 websites: [sialis.org](http://sialis.org) and [texasbluebirdsociety.org](http://texasbluebirdsociety.org)



Even though Linda is an experienced Master Gardener, she couldn't move the trees closer to the nestbox. Linda improvised to protect her bluebird babies from the hot Texas sun.

Make sure your babies are protected with afternoon shade. When placing a nestbox under a tree, do not place under low-hanging limbs; rather place under a high canopy. Otherwise they'll become a predator's next meal.

*Photo by L. Crum.*

*Excerpt from "Attracting Bluebirds To Your Backyard" presentation by Linda Crum at the Montgomery County Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center .*