

TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter October 2016 • Volume 15. Issue 4



TBS Celebrates 15th Anniversary! 2001 - 2016

In the beginning...

Why Texas Bluebird Society Exists

Everyone knows what Texas Bluebird Society does ("Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time") and how we do it. But, "why we exist" is a story in itself, told by Pauline Tom (co-founder of the organization).

"Texas specific" publications did not exist when I started with bluebirds in 1999. The info I gleaned through extensive reading was not "incorrect" somewhere in the USA, but much did not apply in Texas (i.e., House Wrens; Tree Swallows; blowflies; hypothermia; spacing at 300-yards; NABS-sized nestboxes; migration south.)

Keith Kridler and David Shiels, located through cyberspace, taught me what works best for Texas differs from general info about bluebirding, including what's published by the North American Bluebird Society (NABS).

I cried out, "*WHY doesn't NABS have an affiliate in Texas to help Texans??!!*" NABS informed me, "*In 20 years, no one has ventured to start an affiliate for all of Texas.*" And, no one had plans.

The void consumed me. With electronic communication, the time for a bluebird organization was right. In order to lend a helping hand to Texans, I got the ball rolling. Keith and David, bluebird experts with decades of

experience in Texas, agreed to help make it a reality.

Help getting started came from outside Texas in the form of answered emailed questions from presidents of NABS affiliate organizations from coast to coast. At the NABS Convention in Ohio in June, I saw faces and heard voices of close comrades. And, after hundreds of emails just between the two of us, Keith Kridler (a charter NABS member) and I sat together for the first time, piecing together plans.

In the next few months, Keith rounded up a few other Texans with experience to comprise the Charter Board. We pooled passion and knowledge.

Texas Bluebird Society incorporated in September 2001. At the Board Meeting the following month, under oak trees in my backyard in Mountain City, a whirlwind brainstorm produced the slogan: **Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time.**

Check out the TBS Timeline on page 3 & 4 to see the major milestones and numerous achievements that have shaped the organization, guiding us to a promising future for our beautiful bluebirds!

THANK YOU PRESIDENT PAULINE TOM!

By Charter Member Lysle Mockler

Pauline Tom is a "bluebirder" with a rare degree of commitment. Her passion for bluebirds and bluebirding started before she ever spotted a bluebird.

She has spread "Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time" this-way, that-way and every which way. She has done this through chitchat in a weekly local newspaper column, in PowerPoint presentations, info booths at Texas festivals, through the Internet and, in the HEB checkout line.

Many areas had not seen bluebirds in years or ever. Now it is not unusual to see these beautiful birds in rural areas where they had not been seen in years.

Pauline Tom along with Keith Kridler founded the Texas Bluebird Society. She began with a few people in 2001 and has created one of the largest of the Bluebird Societies in the United States. She has given day in and out commitment for over 15 years. I have always thought she had the skills to run a fortune 500 company and all this talent has gone to our beautiful bluebirds.

It has not always been easy for Pauline as many bluebird enthusiasts do not have the computer skills needed to create the statewide group that is here today.

Texas Bluebird Society has had hundreds of volunteers over the years, who have put in many hours building bluebird nestboxes, delivering bluebird nestboxes, and educating the public regarding being a good bluebird steward. Not only have the bluebirds flourished, but like-minded folks through out Texas and even in other states have had the joy of being brought together through her years of work.

We all have much gratitude to Pauline for her tireless work and unending enthusiasm.

We thank her for the gift she has given to all of us.



*A special thanks to **Ron**, Pauline's husband, and her "right hand man" in all things bluebird related! His tremendous support to Pauline, and his (literally) thousands of volunteer hours, certainly demonstrates his dedication to bluebird conservation.*

Co-founder Pauline was the first president and still serves in that position today! She has guided TBS through a vast array of achievements utilizing technology to make board meetings, events, record keeping, and communication easier for everyone, while strengthening and improving TBS.



Pauline is a prolific presenter at numerous organizations and local clubs around the state, and of course TBS events, spreading Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time.



The Evolution of TBS

"It is absolutely amazing to me how the charter members of TBS were able to establish the basic concepts of the organization and steer it so quickly in all the right directions! We are only building and expanding on the marvelous ideas and incredible achievements of our first charter members and their mission. TBS has, and will continue, to pave the way for Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time." Debbie Bradshaw Park, editor.

January - December 2001

Thanks to Pauline's excellent memory and her amazing record keeping, she has created the following timeline:

- January – Pauline Tom obtained "Affiliate Start-Up Kit" from North American Bluebird Society (NABS) and set out to create an organization in Texas.



- June – After 100's of emails, Pauline and Keith Kridler sat down at NABS Convention in Columbus OH to establish basic details. They named the organization, "Texas Bluebird Society".

- Summer – Recruited Charter Board Members, Marj Swies, Lynne Warfield, Kate Oswald, David Shiels, Doug Rohde, Mark Klym, Don Hutchings, and, Mark Scarborough. Set up "www.texasbluebirdsociety.org", established address and a YahooGroup for board's

communication. Worked on by-laws. Obtained FEIN, and opened bank account.

- Sept 19 – Filed Articles of Incorporation for "Texas Bluebird Society, dba Texas Bluebird Society". (Our name was not legally available at the time)

- October 6th & 7th – Operated booth at TPWD EXPO in Austin, attended by 50,000+ (and every year it was held)

- October 19th – All Day Board Meeting at Pauline's, setting up who we are and what we do, with details from slogan to check writing procedures. Each board member accepted a realm of responsibility.

- November – Mailed blue-printed "primer" (Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time") to about 100 NABS members with mailing labels provided by NABS. Memberships began pouring in.

- December 13th – David's Boy Scout Troop (accompanied by The Tom's) installed 21 nestboxes at the soon-to-open Lake Tawakoni State Park. As they tent camped that night, it rained a record 13-inches.

2002

- Editor Mark Klym issued first "Texas Blues", folded by hand. Postage included the 3-cent bluebird stamp.
- Created and published (hard copies and on website) instructional materials on bluebird behavior, habitat, nestboxes, and how to attract them.
- IRS approved TBS' 501(c)3 "charitable organization" tax exempt status.
- Thanks to David's research and development, first promotion of heatshields for nestboxes in Texas. Photo on right.
- First event (2 days in 2 cities), "Spring Event", at Wills Point Bluebird Festival (with Info Room and booth) + presentations, silent auction, and BBQ at Sulphur Springs Best Western, plus Sunday morning field trip to Cooper Lake State Park.
- (Bottom) Keith Kridler has built, and will continue to build, hundreds of nestboxes, literally from scratch! Keith maintains a huge bluebird trail in the Mt. Pleasant area.
- Provided 5 start-up nestboxes for a trail in Davis Mountains, established trail (with Travis Audubon) at Hornsby Bend, assisted school teacher with 80-nestboxes in Sulphur Springs.
- Landmark "Celebration of Texas Blues" in San Marcos, coordinated by Pauline and Doug, Friday night and all day Saturday. The silent auction, the precedent for our popular "FUNdraiser", raised over \$800. This event was GREAT, and they get better every year!
- Repaid \$400 start-up loan to NABS, and donated \$60 for start-up in Louisiana.
- Volunteered to host 2006 NABS Convention.
- Collected, by mail, very basic "Season Nesting Summary" from members.
- 100+ members joined by year end!



2003

- Pauline suggested, and it was tested, an idea that has become an integral activity in everything we do as an organization! *Free nestbox with (in person) membership.* This concept is the main marketing tool to encourage membership, the purpose of fundraising (to buy cedar), the perfect vehicle to educate the public, and supports our mission of increasing the number of nesting sites for our bluebirds.
- Brian and Judy Hetherington built the official TBS nestbox after attending a bluebird workshop. Along with Bob Houck and their naturalist club, they built over 10,000 nestboxes in their 8 years of tenure before moving to Australia.
- Began initiative to create our own online data entry of nesting results.
- Found webmaster Mauro Liebelt (in Washington) on VolunteerMatch.org. He recreated, developed, and hosted our site for 8 years. He added online membership with PayPal. Mauro added interactive features still enjoyed today. He made TBS a premier website.
- Partnered with Golden Triangle Audubon to present Summer Bluebird Symposium in Beaumont, where we presented Keith Kridler with the “Cornerstone Award”. Read online newsletter Vol. 2 Issue 5 for full details.
- Made major revisions in by-laws, under leadership of Lamont Brown, which membership accepted at 2003 Convention in Bastrop.
- Established priorities for 2004 (since there was so much possible in so many directions). Commissioned committee (Cheryl Anderson, Lysle Mockler, Pauline) to design a new logo.



2004

Once TBS became the 2006 NABS convention host, the team worked tirelessly to secure a location, develop an exiting agenda with great presentations, create a special logo, and even wrote a song to make the convention in San Antonio “Texas memorable!”



- Focused on NABS 2006 Convention, Education, and Membership.
- With realignment of leadership, Doug Rohde served for several months as president, during which time Pauline worked on the NABS 2006 Convention.
- The Rohde’s, The Kridlers, and The Tom’s traveled to the 2004 NABS Convention in Ithaca, NY to observe the convention and to promote the 2006 Convention in TEXAS.
- Introduced “Weekly Field Worksheet”, and began creating ONLINE Season Summary.
- Symposium 2004 in Concan – with field trips!
- Adopted new logo. Still love it today!

2005 and Beyond

Every year TBS refines and expands our projects and processes with the aid of technology and our GREAT volunteers!

- Immersed in plans and preparations for NABS 2006 Convention, “Red, White, and Bluebirds” at San Antonio Airport Hilton. Created event logo, and even a song. Finalized presenters, schedule, and field trips. Created and mailed 24-page red, white, and blue brochure with “engaging 5-day itinerary”.
- Symposium in Fort Worth and Convention in Boerne.
- Launched “Start With Five” initiative.
- 2006 – Hosted successful and memorable NABS Convention
- 2007 – Participated in NestWatch beta program; opted to submit all nesting records to NestWatch, letting go of our own “sophisticated” online data entry system in favor of a far superior data collection system.
- 2008 – First Blue Feather Award to outstanding volunteer
- 2009 – Began “All undesignated donations purchase cedar”
- 2010 – Launched TBS FaceBook page. Board elections now online. Paid for printing TPWD booklet “Bluebirds in Texas”, edited by Mark Klym and Pauline Tom
- 2011 – TBS nestbox ranked highest in informal heat study
- 2012 – Website expanded and offers links to sales for TBS nestboxes, logo apparel, and “Bluebird Habitat” sign
- 2013 – Bluebird Conservation Lifetime Achievement Award presented to charter member Don Hutchings.
- 2014 - Initiated Nestbox Builder Certification so a select few volunteers consistently produce our official “Texas Nestbox” according to strict standards in batches of 250.
- 2015 – According to plan established 10 years earlier, switched to producing and presenting one event each year, rather than two.
- 2016 – Awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership to Virginia photographer David Kinneer.

President Pauline Tom Shares TBS Photos

Photo from 2002 conference in San Marcos. Keith Kridler, co-founder, chats with unidentified registrant. On left, future board member Lysle Mockler. To her right, David Shiels, Charter Board member. In background, future board members Norm Shoemaker. On far right, Don Hutchings, Charter Board member.



Auction Winners, Anne and Lamont Brown, future board member. Lamont gave immeasurable business sense wisdom during his tenure. He guided the board to QuickBooks accounting and developed the basic Chart of Accounts, all implemented later.



2005. Some board members with featured speaker, Keith Kridler. Lysle Mockler, Leann Sharp, Keith Kridler, Cheryl Anderson, Pauline Tom, Dan Hanan.



2002 Conference in San Marcos. Saturday morning nature walk at Aquarena Springs Board Walk. (L-R) Georgina Schwartz, Unidentified, Regina Garr. Pauline Tom, Carolyn Schoch, Steve Garr, peering through scope, Kate Oswald, David Shiels, Dr. Byron Stone and Bane Walker.



2005 fall auction winners, held Cibolo Nature Center in Boerne.



In support of the emphasis on members participating in as many festivals as possible, Lysle Mockler brings the outdoors in by hosting a booth at the Ellis County Expo in 2004.

First logo. Full story in next issue

In 2001 (our first months!) TBS created, published, and mailed this "primer" (printed in blue!) to about 100 NABS members in Texas. Nowhere does that word appear, but that's what we called it. It was written mostly by Keith Kridler. The primer brought in most of the initial charter members. Later, it was titled, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Bluebirds in Texas ... but didn't know to ask*. View in its final iteration on our website.



Texas Bluebird Society

Bluebirds Across Texas...one nestbox at a time

Texas is one of the few states where all three species of bluebirds can be observed in the same area at the same time. There are many areas in Texas with appropriate habitat for bluebirds, where the birds are not seen - yet!

During winter months, Mountain Bluebirds that have spent the summer nesting in more northern states and Canada flock to Texas to spend the winter with their close cousins, the Western and Eastern Bluebirds. These two species (which carry and "save" the colors of our flags) are year-round residents of Texas.

Just as their names suggest the Eastern Bluebird is commonly found nesting in the eastern two-thirds of Texas. The less common Western Bluebird nests in the western half of the state while the Mountain Bluebirds occasionally winter from the Edwards Plateau in the east to the Davis and Guadalupe mountains in the west and north into the panhandle of Texas.

West Texas offers these birds ideal weather and habitat during the winter months! During frigid temperatures the birds' main winter diet consists of juniper berries and the fruit from the parasitic plant of the mistletoe that festoons the branches of mesquite and oaks in this part of the state.

During mild temperatures a steady supply of insects are available throughout Texas. Natural food supplies vary from year to year and migration and wintering patterns of the bluebirds vary according to food availability. Loose flocks of 25-75 individuals are commonly reported and upwards of 500 have been seen in some areas with all three species occasionally

seen in the same flock! Normally smaller family groups from the previous year are seen during winter months in or near their breeding area.



All three species are occasionally found far from their normal breeding or wintering range. Reporting these sightings to the Texas Bluebird Society (tbs.org/austin.tx.com) will increase our knowledge of their constantly changing population trends.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS AND SPELLING

While in most cases, the English language does not capitalize animal and plant names, not categorizing them as proper names, the Texas Bluebird Society has decided to follow the nomenclature used by the American Ornithological Union - the group that assigns names to birds. Since they capitalize both first and second word, we do the same.

Similarly, we have chosen to use the term "nestbox" to describe what many call a "birdhouse". Carrying nesting birds use these structures, with rare exceptions, to hold their nests.

Texas Bluebird Society Charter Members

The first or “charter” members to join the newly organized Texas Bluebird Society from its inception September 19, 2001 to December 31, 2001.

100+ members joined TBS in the first full year of operation. Twenty-three of the original first year members are still active!

TBS adds approximately 500-600 new members each year, resulting in up to a 1,000 active members at any given time.

Cheryl Anderson	Maxey Kirkley
John Cys	Keith, Sandy and Shawn Kridler
Douglas Intermediate	Ed Melson
Dean and Patty Gary	Charles & Jackie Post
Dan Hanan	Doug and Karen Rhode
Brian & Judy Hetherington	Ron and Pauline Tom
Don Hutchings	Ricky Walker

Texas Bluebird Society Honorary Lifetime Members

Awarded to the following members for their exemplary service and dedication to the growth of the organization and the execution of its mission.

- Keith & Sandy Kridler
- Mark Klym
- Brian & Judy Heatherington
- Bob Houck
- David Kinneer



Now In With The New!

Election Information

Watch email for link to ballot and annual questionnaire on or about November 1st.

- There is no “competition.” Each nominee on the ballot, if elected, will serve.
- We will email a ballot to each address in our records. Simply click on the link provided to access the ballot.
- If you want to provide/change (or confirm we have your correct address), provide your email address to records@txblues.org on or before October 20th.
- If you do not receive your election email by November 4th, please notify tbs@txblues.org
- If you do not have email, mail your ballot choice (Yes or No) to TBS, PO Box 40868 Austin, TX 78704.
- The ballot allows for write-in candidates. Secure permission from the nominee before submitting his/her name.



(left) **Shirley Hrobar**, (center) **Kay Dansby**, (right) **Lonnie Castleman** are nominated for an initial 2-year term for the Board of Directors. Keith Schindler was elected to a 2-year term last year. **Pauline Tom**, **Ken Ray**, **Pat Nail**, **Benni Konvicka**, and **Linda Crum** are nominated for an additional 1-year term. Rex Reves is rotating off the board, after serving several (quite a few!) terms. Harold Latham serves on the recently established (appointed, non-voting) Advisory Board

Native Plants Attract Bluebirds

Arrowwood viburnum

By Linda Crum, Master Gardener and Master Naturalist

A member of the honeysuckle family, arrowwood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*) is an easy-to-grow, native, deciduous shrub that will tolerate a wide range of soil textures, moisture levels and soil pH. It prefers a slightly acidic, moist soil. Forming a dense shrub, 5 to 12 feet in height, it is well-suited for privacy screening. It tends to sucker from the root system.

The native range is from Maine to Florida and west to Iowa and Texas. Partial shade is the preferred habitat; however, with more moisture arrowwood viburnum can be grown in full sun. No significant pest problems for this tough, low-maintenance native. Legend has it that Native Americans used the straight stems of this shrub for arrow shafts, hence the common name.



In spring, leaves with coarsely but regularly-toothed margins emerge opposite each other on the straight stems of arrowwood viburnum. Three-inch clusters of small white flowers adorn the plant May-June. Fall brings color to the leaves ranging from yellow to red to reddish-purple providing the perfect backdrop for the bluish-black clusters of drupes. Drupes may not be formed until the shrub is about three years old.



Wildlife attracted to arrowwood viburnum include gamebirds, songbirds and small mammals. Also attracts Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Gray Catbird, and American Robin. Nectar from the flowers is particularly

important for both Arrowwood viburnum serves as the larval host for the Spring Azure butterfly.

Propagation is from cuttings or seed. Seed should be collected as soon as the fruit has turned a dark blue-black color. Store seeds with pulp on at 41 degrees. Seeds will need a period of stratification prior to germination.



Many cultivars have been developed from this native shrub to select for fall color, size of shrub or number of drupes. But one cannot go wrong by just planting the native for beauty and wildlife.



When it comes to feeding, what bluebirds eat is a large amount of insects. Approximately 80% of their diet comes from insects during spring and summer. In addition to insects, these birds eat berries and fruits off of small trees and shrubs.

I'm with Bluebirds: How to Energize the Movement for National Birding

By Kate Moran

As if you were not already inundated with political news or having to check your Facebook newsfeed to the array of commentary or hang out with friends who want to discuss issues. It gets tiring to debate! Let me just assure you, the intention of this article is not to create a political schism amongst the birding community but instead to reflect on the positives of the past eight years (as it relates to the work we do) and give you something to think about for the future (regardless of which candidate wins). Besides, more serious reflection is better than writing about Pokemon Go and birding? Maybe? Or audubon.org already beat me to writing on that topic...

Donald Trump, Gary Johnson, Hillary Clinton and Dr. Jill Stein have all mentioned the importance of this vote for the next generation (don't they always say this?). All of the candidates constantly pose the question, which one of them would be someone who will make the world a better place for our children/grandchildren? As far as that message concerns our mutual interest in bluebirds (and other cavity nesting birds), I wondered how politics really affects birding, conservation and what my son will be exposed to in the future as it relates to our amazing ecosystem (other than what I teach him). Surely our love of birding isn't just something we pass on to our family and friends like an apprenticeship in Colonial America. While this newsletter is public and will probably mainly be read by those of you who already have an interest in bluebirds, how do we capitalize off the public's captivation with the election season to tap into that interest and get them and our children as motivated as we have become to be members of TBS and contributors to conservation efforts? As I thought about this, I decided to look up some of the things President Obama has done to further our cause.

I would begin by proposing that love of birds and other wildlife first starts with exposure. What I mean by exposure, in this instance, is as basic as going outside and paying attention to the sights and sounds around you. Herein lies the problem with our current times. More and more children are staying indoors and not getting outside to play and exercise. Some of the stats I found were interesting: 6% of children ages 9-13 play outside; 8-18 year olds spend about 53 hours a week using media. On top of that, environmental issues are usually broadly discussed or turned into divisive political rants that do not help our cause. For example, kids are taught to "save the planet", but when asked what they are specifically doing to help the environment or an environmental cause, they

have a hard time naming anything beyond recycling. How does this relate to Obama? Well, in 2015 he created the "Every Kid in a Park" program to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service this year. This program gives all fourth graders and their families an annual pass for free admission to any national park, forest, monument, or wildlife refuge. President Obama said "because no matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks, our monuments, our lands, our waters—these places are your birthright as Americans." Programs like this and the North Face Explore Fund, which is a grant that gives nonprofits support for outdoor exploration, all help toward engaging the next generation in projects we're (TBS) currently involved in. President Obama with this initiative sought to "kill two birds with one stone." While that might not be a recommended slogan for helping our movement, the program sought to fight the growing obesity and healthcare costs with more children getting outdoors and burning calories, while opening the door to allow conservation to be a part of our national dialogue and domestic policy. Hopefully with this kind of exposure, some of these children will gravitate towards cavity nesting birds one day.

Trust me, this is a very abbreviated article considering the many things I have been researching regarding conservation, birding and policy. Of course there are many priority issues this country needs to address, but this is our hobby and passion (and for some, much more than that). It is near and dear to our hearts as we conserve what we love. I intended this article as more of a bullet point in things we need to think about regardless of who wins the election in November. As we bid President Obama farewell and look forward to our next president, my hope for this little article is twofold: 1) In case you were debating whether or not to get more involved with monitoring a trail this next year or setting up another box in your backyard, maybe this will inspire you to get out there and do more. Maybe while someone is playing Pokemon Go, they will stop out of curiosity and ask what you are doing? 2) Whomever you vote for to become our next president, think about the next generation. Think about the opportunity this election season presents to start a birding movement. It is the perfect time for us to capitalize and draw more to our cause. May our next president continue to help and build on conversation efforts. A better planet for all will yield better birding for all of us! In the meantime, you can find me at a local state or national park with my kid, hiking and helping bluebirds.

Keith Suggests Some Chores To Add To Your Winter List

November

- Build and install a few nestboxes for the woodpeckers this winter. Many different cavity nesters will use these nestboxes for winter roost sites. Each woodpecker that survives until spring will chisel out a nest site for themselves and other birds.
- If woodpeckers enlarge the entrance hole on your bluebird nestboxes leave the oversize hole until spring and then simply add another 3/4" block of wood with a 1 1/2" hole drilled in it. Line up the new hole over the entrance hole and attach the new hole with wood screws.

December

- Recycle your Christmas tree. Tie it upright near your bird-feeder for extra coverage for the songbirds. This will provide the needed escape cover from hawks, owls, or cats. A group of 3-7 year old trees wired to a fence corner will provide a roosting place for birds all winter. Haul off the "dregs" from a Christmas tree lot and save some of your birds.
- Build, or buy from TBS, Texas style bluebird nestboxes.
- Shame on you if you threw the seeds from your Jack-O-Lantern in the garbage. Seeds from pumpkins, watermelons, cucumbers, gourds, and many other vegetable seeds are a delicacy to Cardinals and other seed eating birds.

January

- Disinfect bird feeders and birdbaths this month using a chlorine bleach solution.
- During freezing temperatures keep a supply of fresh water for the birds to drink. No birdbath heater? Simply line with black plastic. When the water freezes, grab the corners to dump out the ice. Black plastic will also act as a solar collector and on sunny days the water will be warmed by the sun.
- Plant bare root berry producing trees or shrubs before the end of February.
- Nestboxes should be clean and ready for nesting season.

Keith will once again entertain and inform the audience at the 2017 Bluebird Season Kickoff on March 25th at the Waco Convention Center. It doesn't matter if you are brand new to bluebirds, or a member since the beginning, we always learn something new from Keith's exploits!



Keith Kridler, everyone's resident expert, our favorite speaker, and co-founder of TBS, participates in several List-Serve groups focusing on bluebirds and their behavior, in addition to, presenting numerous talks to clubs and organizations around Texas, and conducting/participating in various research projects.

Keep On Counting!

Nesting season is over but there is still time to send your nesting activity records to NestWatch. Remember they are interested in all birds, not just bluebirds. Cornell shares this Citizen Science data with researchers worldwide. You can make a difference, every egg counts!

Cornell has added a Bulk Import Tool that provides the ability to download large quantities of data. If you have a large amount of data (100+ records) contact NestWatch for instructions.

Texas has reported the second largest number of Eastern Bluebird nesting activity records for the past several years. (Ohio always has the largest report.) Thanks for your submissions. Let's all try to send as many nesting records as we can to help researchers worldwide, and be #1 next year!



Texas is currently the number two state reporting bluebird activity.

Mail in form or register on-line. Early bird registration deadline is January 25, 2017



2017 Bluebird Season Kickoff

Presentations Displays Advice
 (with Silent Auction FUNdraiser)
www.txblues.org/2017event



Saturday, March 25, 2017
 Waco Convention Center, McLennan Hall, 100 Washington Avenue, Waco TX 76701

9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Doors open at 8:30 for Registration and Silent Auction
On-line registration: RSVPbook.com/2017event

Featured Speakers

Keith Kridler, author and bluebird enthusiast extraordinaire
Alec Wyatt, ABA Young Birder 2014, *Birding 101*
David Kinneer, photographer, *Bluebird Photography*

Registration Costs and Deadlines

Extra Early Bird Advance Registration: \$20.00 Box Lunch and 10 Door Prize Tickets.
 Deadline: January 25th
 Early Bird Advance Registration: \$20.00. Box Lunch and 6 Door Prize Tickets.
 Deadline: February 25th
 Standard Advance Registration: \$20.00. Box Lunch and 2 Door Prize Tickets.
 Deadline: March 11th
 At-the-door Registration: \$15.00. No meal and no Door Prize Tickets.

Friday Evening Dinner & Social: Vitek's BBQ Beer Garden

1600 Speight Avenue, Waco TX 76706
 Deadline: March 11th
 6:30 Social *No outside liquor allowed.* 7:00 BBQ Dinner \$20.00

Lodging: SpringHill Suites, Waco Woodway \$99.00+ tax through February 25th.
 (254) 732 7979 Room rate code: "Bluebird"
 200 Colonnade Parkway, Woodway, TX 76712

FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes
 (submit observations to Cornell Lab of Ornithology through www.NestWatch.org)

To Donate a Silent Auction Item:

Beverly Davis (281) 660-0521
 2411 Stableridge Drive
 Conroe, TX 77384
auction@texasbluebirdsociety.org

For More Information:

eventplans@txblues.org (512) 517-5678 or (972) 217-1516



Call Benni Konvicka for auction information: (254) 968-6663

Donations (or notification of donations) received after February 25th must be processed manually, one-by-one, and will miss the program publication deadline.

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

ADVANCE Snail Mail Registration (includes Box Lunch)
 On-line registration available at RSVPbook.com/2017event

Registrant #1

Name _____ Name for Name Tag _____
 Street Address _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Contact Phone _____ E-mail (for e-mail updates) _____

Registrant #2 (same street address)

Name _____ Name for Name Tag _____
 Contact Phone _____ E-mail (for email updates) _____

# Registrants (Please circle)	Description	Cost
1	2 Member	\$20.00
1	2 Non Member	\$20.00
1	2 Friday Dinner	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____		Total Due: _____

New \$15 Membership at this event includes FREE nestbox!
 Do you plan to join at the meeting? Yes No
(This is not a firm commitment for membership. Please do not send membership dues now.)

To register more attendees, please include an additional sheet with your mailing.

For Planning Purposes Only

1. TBS Members and New Members: TBS will give you a FREE nestbox at this event if you pledge to "NestWatch" at least 2 nestboxes (submit observations to Cornell Lab of Ornithology through www.nestbox.org) in 2016 nesting season.

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? _____

Mail Registration Form with Payment made payable to "Texas Bluebird Society" to: Linda Crum, Registrar
 9 Crescent Falls Ct.
 The Woodlands, TX 77381

EXTRA EARLY BIRD Registration—Deadline January 25, 2017
EARLY BIRD Registration—Deadline February 25, 2017
STANDARD Registration—Deadline March 11, 2017
AT-THE-DOOR Registration available (no lunch or door prize chances) TX Blues

Volunteers are APPRECIATED!

Everything we achieve happens because of a volunteer.

Linda Crum
Jennifer Fleming
Shirley Hrobar
Debbie Park

John Park
David Smith
Ann Thames
Pauline Tom

Ron Tom
Vanessa Voisenet



Preparation for the Silent Auction FUNdraiser begins months before the actual event. All \$ raised is used to buy supplies to build our Texas style nestboxes. We need lots of great donations for our March 25th event.

Don't forget to send your Silent Auction item to: Beverly Davis
2411 Stableridge Drive,
Conroe, TX 77384
(260) 660-2501
auction@texasbluebirdsociety.org

Volunteers Needed!

There are so many ways that you can help—a one time nestbox delivery, host a booth, or be an event volunteer. Got administration skills? We are always looking for technical expertise. There are projects for a graphic artist that have been sitting on the back burner. Establish monitor nestbox trails, work with school groups, give presentations?

We can always use your help!



Will you volunteer to help TBS?

Contact: tbs@txblues.org



Thanks For Your Financial \$upport!

Iris Lytle Balew
Randy Beehn
Jim Cheatham

Kayron Dube
Eileen Egloff
Dorothy Hoffman

Joe & Heather Leising
Ray Noblit
Marvin & Trudlise Rathke

Tommy Stephenson
Deborah Tugwell

Welcome New Members!

New members who give us print permission on Membership Form

- Marion & Carolyn Allen
- Randy Beehn
- Christine Besseret
- Ann Brown
- Jimma Byrd
- Cathy Calfy
- Jason Corzine
- Peter Gustavsson
- Wendy Hagerman
- Daniel Hodges
- Joanne Huntington

- Thomas Johnson
- Carolyn Johnston
- Steve Knight
- Stacie McCullough
- Marina Isabel Nance
- Pam Pierce
- Jim F. Polasek
- Garry L Reece DVM
- Ken Roy
- Marion Shaver
- James C Simmons

- Charlotte Snowden
- Nancy Teinert
- Texas Trees Foundation
- Linda Thompson
- Nita Thornton
- Bodley Thornton
- Erin Tran
- Marina Valenzuela
- Louis Zettler III
- JMB, Trinity
- KB, Dallas

- JB, San Saba
- B&PB, The Woodlands
- BG, San Saba
- BG, Lometa
- WH, Huffman
- JH, Cherokee
- BJ, Round Rock
- RN, Longview
- DS, Lometa
- TS, Buda
- SS, Goldthwaite
- NT, The Woodlands
- DT, Teague



David will share his photography tips on composition and other techniques to capture great moments like in his photo above.

Bluebird Season Kick-off March 25, 2017 Waco Convention Center

Featured Speakers:

Keith Kridler, author and bluebird enthusiast extraordinaire

Alec Wyatt, ABA Young Birder 2014, *Birding 101*

David Kinneer, photographer, *Bluebird Photography*

Friday Evening Dinner and Social: Vitek's BBQ Beer Garden

600 Speight Avenue Waco, TX 7670

6:30 pm social. (no outside liquor allowed.) 7:00 pm BBQ dinner \$20.00 (Resv. Deadline March 11th)

Lodging: Springhill Suites 200 Colonnade Parkway Woodway, TX 76712

\$99+tax through February 25th. (254) 732-7979 Room rate code: Bluebird

Registration Costs and Deadlines

Extra Early Bird Advance Registration: \$20.00 Box Lunch and 10 Door Prize Tickets. Deadline: January 25th

Early Bird Advance Registration: \$20.00. Box Lunch and 6 Door Prize Tickets. Deadline: February 25th

Standard Advance Registration: \$20.00. Box Lunch and 2 Door Prize Tickets. Deadline: March 11th

At-the-door Registration: \$15.00. No meal and no Door Prize Tickets. (printable registration on page 10.)

Details and on-line registration: 2017event.txblues.org

Board of Directors

Pauline Tom: President, Executive Committee

Ken Ray: Treasurer/AP, Executive Committee

Keith Schindler: Secretary, Website Asst.

Pat Nail: Executive Committee

Benni Konvicka: Fundraising Auctions, Executive Committee

Rex Reves: Technical Designer, Executive Committee

Lonnie Castleman: Nestbox Construction Coordinator

Linda Crum: Membership Secretary

Shirley Hrobar: Renewal Coordinator

Kay Dansby: Administrative Assistant

Advisory Board

Harold Latham

Contact Us:

tbs@txblues.org,

PO Box 40868 Austin, TX 78704,

512-268-5678 (Pauline Tom)



***All cavity-nesting birds are protected by federal law.
Do not disturb birds or nest.
Monitor and report activity to NestWatch.***

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

Debbie Bradshaw Park, Editor

Send stories/photos to editor@txblues.org

Send email/address changes to records@txblues.org