



# Nest Box News

FALL 2020

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

Volume 9 Issue 4

*An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society*



**Fall migration for our hummingbirds has started for many of our hummers. I currently have two that are still coming daily, so I'm keeping their nectar on tap. More facts on the migration of these jewels are explored on [page 7](#).**

**The leaves are starting to fall and I prescribe to the theory that the fallen leaves make for great mulch and leaf litter for all sorts of insects. The birds that live in the trees can feed off of these insects fairly easily. It increases the humus levels, which benefit the trees and the overall environment.**

**My Swamp Sunflowers are in full bloom and the bees are buzzing! Maybe the more things change the more they really do stay the same...Stay well, be safe and turn your eye to the sky...**

*Terry McGrath, Editor*

**In the midst of our lives, we must find the magic that makes our souls soar...Unknown**



## Inside This Issue

In Loving Memory	2
Insider News	3
Save The Date	4
SCBS Directory	5
From The Archives	6
Migrating Hummingbirds	7
Ask Your Friends	8
A Rescue Story	9
2020 Stats	10





# ***In loving memory...***



## **Margaret L DeBruhl**

**April 23, 1946 - September 22, 2020**

**Margaret “Peg” Maerz DeBruhl peacefully passed after a biking accident on September 22, 2020. She and husband Mike moved to Aiken in 2008, having spent over 30 years in Northern VA. Prior to that, they had lived in England and North Dakota.**

**After earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Spanish from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Peg entered the Air Force as an administrative officer. She first served in Recruiting in North and South Carolina and Tennessee. She then served as the Administrative Officer, and the only woman in a 300-man Avionics Maintenance Squadron, while she and Mike were stationed at RAF Bentwaters in England. Upon leaving the Air Force, she relished her life as the mother of two loving daughters and Nana to four wonderful grandchildren.**

**She later earned an Associates Degree in Horticulture which greatly supplemented her love of plants, nature, and gardening, including working in several garden centers. She continued this love throughout her life often acting as a sounding board and advisor for family, friends, and neighbors on plants and landscape issues. Upon moving to Aiken, she became a member of Women of Woodside and enjoyed charitable endeavors. Peg was also a proud member of the Professional Education Organization (PEO) assisting her PEO sisters in supporting further education for women. She loved all animals and was an active supporter of the Aiken SPCA and Humane Society and a member of the South Carolina Bluebird Society.**

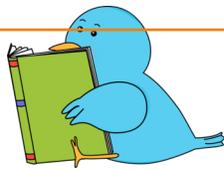
**Peg loved Aiken life especially the Triple Crown events, associating with friends, Blessing of the Hounds, Christmas parades, art classes and projects with friends, and was the joint - creator of Pillywiggins – a craft organization for decorations and plant arrangements. She shared a love of historical events and interests with Mike, especially Aiken, Charleston, Savannah, and Williamsburg, and many other locations of historical or archeological significance. She truly enjoyed adventures and travels with friends, including several cruises and roads trips and especially loved her time with family at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. She shared her contagious enthusiasm for travel both domestically and abroad with her children and grandchildren to encourage them to learn about history and other cultural differences.**

**She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years Mike, daughters Kristina Parks and Nicole Mullikin of Holly Springs, NC, and her exceptional grandchildren Karson and Haiden Parks, and Liam and Maggie Mullikin. She is also survived by her brother Frederick Slavin of Columbus, NC, her sister Amy Slavin of Sanford, NC, her brother in law Patrick DeBruhl, and sister in law Evangeline Wyatt of Asheville, NC. She is lovingly remembered by numerous friends across the U.S. and abroad, having retained long term special friendships from their Air Force days and wherever they traveled.**

**A memorial service will be held at a later date in Aiken, SC. In lieu of flowers, please send donations or remembrances to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.**



## Insider News!



*DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!*

**The SCBS Conservation series has the first year Bluebirds and the second year Chickadee available for purchase. The set of 4 stamps ( 4"x6") is available for \$10.00 and the prints (Bluebirds 8"x10), Chickadee (9"x11") are available for \$25.00. Buy the set for \$30.00...These gorgeous stamps and prints are also available on our website: [Southcarolinabluebirds.org](http://Southcarolinabluebirds.org)**

**Deadlines for contributions to the Nest Box News are: Jan 15, April 15, July 15 and Oct 15 send your pictures, comments or articles to:**

**[mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net](mailto:mcgrathjtl@atlanticbb.net)**

**!!! ATTENTION !!!**

**High quality prints from original artwork**

**\*\*\*NEW LOWER PRICES\*\*\***



**Use AmazonSmile for your online shopping!! When you shop, designate SCBS as your non-profit charity of choice and they will donate 0.5% of your purchase total to SCBS .**



## LIFETIME MEMBERS

## GREAT FOR CHRISTMAS!!!

**Lifetime Memberships are available. If you're interested in finding out more, contact Mary Shultz at: [shultzim@att.net](mailto:shultzim@att.net).**

**join now!**

**Another great reason for becoming a member of the SCBS is Member pricing for a complete nest box, pole and baffle is 75.00. Non-members would pay \$88.00!**

**Alexander, Karen, Antaki, Charolotte, Bendle, Tim & Mary, Brant, Doug & Elena, Brenneman, Ron & Dori, Brock, Roger, Burke, Jim & Sharon, Call, Tracie, Chin, Ed & Cindy, Eastman, Caroline, Frick, Randy, Fuller, Muf, Hendry, Glen & Gail, Hill, Jim & Jackie, Hurst, Cindy, Koehler, Paul, Krauss, Janis, Moseley, David & Nancy, Myers, Greg & Shirley, Oliff, Barry & Cyndy, O'Neill, Bob & Barbara, Radford, Scott, Raynor, Robert, Sacks, David & Maggi, Shultz, Mary, Snyder, Debbie, Tucker, Bill & Sandy**

**CONSIDER A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FOR \$200**

**For information on joining NABS, see <http://nabluebirdsociety.org>**

**For information on bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds in SC, go to <http://southcarolinabluebirds.org>**



# SAVE THE DATE

# 2020

# PRESENTATIONS

## Member Meetings\*

7:00 pm at O'Dell Weeks, Rm. #3

September 28 ???

October 26 ???

November 16 (week before Thanksgiving) ???

December Merry Christmas

NO MEETING

## Board Meetings\* 3 pm at The Reserve

August 11 ???

November 10 ???

\* any member welcome to attend



Feb 6, 2020—  
Dogwood Garden

Club...Orangeburg

Feb 19, 2020—Aiken Garden Club

Feb 24, 2020—Cherokee Garden Club...Barnwell

Feb 29, 2020—Wingard's Bird Expo...Lexington

March 2, 2020—Summerville Garden Club

March 9, 2020—Gardendale...TBD

March 9, 2020—Adult Education...Aiken High...TBD

March 12, 2020—Augusta-Aiken Audubon

March 20, 2020—Trinity Methodist...Aiken

April 9, 2020—Grovetown Garden Club...Grovetown

April 9, 2020—Les Dames Garden Club...Edgefield

April 18, 2020—Aiken Earth Day

**AMID THE Covid-19 SITUATION, THE APRIL MEETING WAS CANCELLED. PRESENTATIONS THROUGH APRIL WILL BE RE-SCHEDULED. WE ARE WORKING ON A DAY TO DAY BASIS...STAY SAFE EVERYONE!**



*We can always use your help, ideas, photos and comments...*



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## SCBS DIRECTORY

### Officers

#### *Director Emeritus*

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#### *Treasurer*

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## **FROM THE ARCHIVES ...**

**Volume 7, Number 4**

**Winter 1985**



**In Dr. Lawrence Zeleny's "Question Corner" series, a member in Tallahassee, Florida asked the following question:**

***"We have counted over 16 bluebirds in a single flock. Is this kind of concentration unusual"?***

**Dr. Zeleny replies:**

***"During the fall months family groups of bluebirds will join other groups to form loose flocks which usually remain intact until late winter or early spring. In earlier times these flocks often numbered 100 or more birds, but now they are usually much smaller".***



***Editors Note: I couldn't begin to imagine how much food that many bluebirds could eat!!!***

# Migrating Hummingbirds Need Energy

It's the time of year when people start to think about taking their feeders down for their hummingbirds. Leaving your hummingbird feeders up will not cause the birds *not* to migrate. They might fight like crazy over the feeder with other hummingbirds, but they don't like it enough to risk the freezing winters with no bugs for them to eat.

Here's why it's important to keep your feeders out for fall hummingbirds.

Late migrating fall hummingbirds can use the extra energy from a feeder as they move south. It's important for these birds to have an easy source of food so they can quickly refuel after cold nights. Though your summer resident hummers might be gone, there are still some to the north that will be coming through! Although uncommon, there are hummingbirds that over winter in South Carolina and North Carolina. Rufous Hummingbirds are most likely to overwinter here, though some rarer species may show up in November. And while you're waiting for the latecomers, remember to keep your feeder clean and the nectar fresh. Mold and fungus can cause a lung infection and makes the birds' tongues swell, leading to a slow death by starvation. Look for a feeder that comes apart easily to remove the nectar and wash with mild soapy water and a wash cloth and small brush for the ports.



Spring migration 2020

**Ask  
Your  
Friends**



***A member recently asked:***

**Sometimes the more varieties of birds I see at my feeders results in more wasted food as I try to please every-birdy. Who eats what??**

**Black oil sunflower seeds are favored by most birds except Bluebirds, and Safflower seeds, which are not popular with squirrels, but Cardinals love them! Sunflower hearts, a Bluebird favorite, also has a fan following of most of the other birds. Millet is yummy to Cardinals, Towhees Mourning Doves and Sparrows, thistle is popular with the Finches and Pine Siskins. But if Black oil sunflower and sunflower hearts are available, they seem to prefer those. And don't forget the suet!**



***Special thanks for this information shared by SCBS member and Trail Monitor Linda Burgess!!***

## ***You Did What??!! A True Story Starring The Hendry's...***

**Gail & I were camping at Clark's Hill Lake at the Petersburg Campground the 2nd week of August. We went fishing in the Savannah River below the dam on the SC side. While standing on the bank, I noticed some splashing out in the river. Thinking it was a fish breaking water, I cast out to try my luck. I then noticed an adult bluebird calling and calling while hovering over the splashing area. So it wasn't a fish but a baby bluebird that had fledged and flew out over the river only to come down in the water. The little fellow tried for several minutes to escape, to no avail. I could see he had his head up while trying to break free of the water. As he grew exhausted he stopped battling and his head was down in the water. By now he was about 30 feet out from shore. I couldn't take it any more. I emptied out my pockets (wallet, cell phone & car keys), and dove into the river shoes and all! I was able to retrieve the little guy and bring him to shore. I handed him off to Gail and she dried him and tried to get him warm as the river water was quite cold. He was gasping for air and I assumed he had swallowed enough water that he had basically drowned. After 15-20 minutes we put him down on the blacktop of the parking lot to get even warmer. To our surprise, he left a small deposit on the ground and proceeded to fly off - BACK TOWARDS THE RIVER!!! Luckily he only made it as far as the river bank which is lined with huge boulders and rip rap. I didn't want to leave him in that predicament as the boulders are quite large and if he got down in between them he would be lost in snake city!! The parents were on a sign nearby, calling frantically. After some frantic searching on our part, we located the little dude and he flew off across the parking lot into the woods - AWAY FROM THE RIVER, with the parents in tow. That's when we said our goodbye's.**

**Glen & Gail**

**Savannah River**



***Gail and Lucky***



# A Banner Year!



**Bluebird**

**4,316**

**Carolina Chickadee**

**588**

**Tufted Titmouse**

**86**

**Brown-headed Nuthatch**

**88**

**White-breasted Nuthatch**

**9**

**Carolina Wren**

**125**

**Wood Duck**

**183**

**Screech Owl**

**3**

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

**20**

**Tree Swallow**

**18**

**House Wren**

**15**

**Kestrel**

**2**



**GRAND TOTAL**

**5,453**



**\*statistics compiled by Glen Hendry**



**Like us on Facebook! For answers to your questions and membership information to the South Carolina Bluebird Society and the North American Bluebird Society go to:**

<http://www.southcarolinabluebirds.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SouthCarolinaBluebirdSociety>



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**TO:**