



Nest Box News

WINTER 2021

www.southcarolinabluebirds.org

Volume 10 Issue 1

An Affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society



There's birdwatching...and there's bird cam watching. With the restrictions still in place, take a moment to tune into the soap opera that is the Bird Cams plus sunsets, beaches, penguins, eagles, osprey and bears—Oh my! Will the President & First Lady have eggs this year? After 18 broken eggs, will the Sauces eagles finally bring an egg to fledge? Go to explore.org/livecams, and open the curtains and take a peek of how the other half live!

<https://explore.org/livecams/owl-research-institute/charlo-montana-osprey-nest>

<https://explore.org/livecams/bald-eagles/decorah-eagles-north-nest>

<https://explore.org/livecams/condors/california-condor-sanctuary>

...and many more!

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"Refuse to be average. Let your heart soar as high it will."

A.W. Tozer



President's Perspective by Mike DeBruhl

Dare I say HAPPY NEW YEAR? I am sure we are all happy to see 2020 in the rear view mirror. But, 2021 is really here and heralds the 11th Anniversary of the founding of our South Carolina Bluebird Society!!

We can all attest that it has been challenging over the past few months with Masking, Distancing, limited travel, etc. But for a saving grace was a walk on our BB Trails. YOU, our members, remained active and *achieved a record year*. Without your activities to keep us moving forward, we could not have been successful.

A recap of 2020 shows that our trails (103 in 2020 vs. 90 in 2019) produced a TOTAL of 6,099 cavity dweller fledges vs. 4,879 in 2019. When we add in the Backyard boxes we monitor it becomes 6,557 for 2020 vs. 5,335 in 2019. Impressive numbers, and includes increases in fledging of Chickadees, Carolina Wrens and Wood Ducks. WELL DONE folks. We are making a difference for our feathered friends.

2021 has indicators of being a promising year for SCBS. We remain fiscally stable and hope to restart our meetings and education presentations across the State and Georgia. Plus, with nesting season just around the proverbial corner, our Trail Committee is advising us to maintain our trails and nest boxes. So be sure to get out now to repair and spruce up those nest boxes.

SCBS has been assisting other North American Bluebird Society (NABS) affiliates as part of a fledge data standardization initiative. This includes devising easier reporting methodology to Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. We are also partnering with USC – Aiken and the Savannah River Ecology Lab on a field study to develop better snake predation protection (baffles) for nest boxes. We will keep you posted as these projects progress. We can all take pride in our accomplishments and we have received very positive recognition from NABS and our fellow affiliates.

By the way, If you are not currently a NABS member, we encourage you to join and get a glimpse of Bluebird and Native Cavity Dweller activity across the continent. Annual dues are modest and you receive a wonderful quarterly magazine, "Bluebird", loaded with informative, educational information. Well worth it. Check it out at: www.nabluebirdsociety.org.

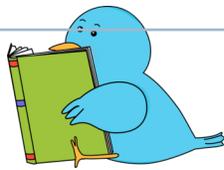
In 2021 we plan to build on our success, continue to add new members, new trails and trail monitors, and expand merchandise sales to help our feathered friends. We hope to start up meetings and education programs soon (?) - - but will not do so until clear of this health crises. Our primary concern is always the safety and health of our members and we will not do anything to jeopardize such. So, let's be patient.....this too shall pass!!

*Cheers and see you on the
Mike*

Trails



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

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

!!! 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 A GIFT!

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



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>



2021

Until further notice all presentations and meetings have been suspended. We feel it is best to have a "different" schedule to keep all of us safe and healthy! However, some of the Board members are considering holding a Zoom meeting for Surfside Beach Wild Birds Unlimited shop. The details are as follows:

We will have a Bluebird Zoom Presentation on Saturday, 2/20/21 at 11:00 a.m. Glen and Gail Hendry (our guest presenters), are active members of the South Carolina Bluebird Society. Glen is the club's statistician. The Hendry's monitor over 150 Bluebird nest boxes each week during nesting season. Their presentations are always enlightening.

Seating is limited to 100 participants. If we surpass that number, We will schedule another presentation on the same day.

Contact Diane DuLoft at Diane DuLoft <grandstrandwbu@gmail.com> for an invitation and code to the presentation.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 948 0319 1072

Passcode: 033348

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,94803191072#,,,,*033348# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,94803191072#,,,,*033348# US (New York)

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



SAVE THE DATE Keep checking our FB page and website for more info on upcoming zoom meetings, etc.

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Some of our "wise" Board members...

Photo by: Terry McGrath

FROM THE ARCHIVES ...

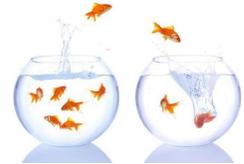
Volume 21, Number 1

Winter 1999



Odds and ends shared from Grace Storch of the Bluebird Recovery Program of JoDavies County in Illinois:

1. Rethink and relocate your box if not successful for two seasons.



2. A little Sulphur powder in the bottom of the box deters bird mites and possibly blow-fly larvae. Small birds find shelter from elements (in some boxes) during the winter, but if you resent mice harboring there, leave the box



open.

3. Apple juice and steel wool make a natural stain for the exterior of boxes.



4. Aluminum foil on top of a box well reflect heat.



Editors' note: Not much difference in 22 years...just a little refinement! I wonder if snacks came with the apple juice!?

Pine Siskin and Salmonella

By: Terry McGrath

A plethora of birds have taken over my feeders! They arrive in large numbers—a frantic flurry of beaks and bodies. Feeders can be emptied within minutes; jockeying for a spot to grab that tasty morsel and a sip of water. An invasion this year of the gregarious Pine Siskins are the cause for this feeder frenzy! While this bird, commonly considered a “winter finch”, frequents North and South Carolina, their visitation to our feeders does not come without drama. Because of the group travel, feeding and nesting, especially in close quarters, these Pine Siskins find themselves subject to salmonella. Spread to others through their fecal waste it’s important to keep a keen eye on the bird acting very lethargic and perching all fluffed out. This could be a sign you have an ill bird at your feeders. Very contagious to other birds, all is not lost. Remove the feeders and clean with a solution of 90% water and 10% bleach. Clean the seed waste from under the feeders. Let the feeders soak, rinse well, dry and after 1-2 weeks, fill and rehang. Some recommend spacing the feeders further apart, and others recommend removing the feeders altogether until Spring. With proper cleaning every month or so, the birds visiting your feeders will be healthy and hopefully, frequent fliers to your habitat.



Healthy male Pine Siskin



Multi feeding at the feeder



Pine Siskin with salmonella

Editors note-if you find dead or diseased birds at your feeders or on the ground, please notify the local Wildlife Rescue. The Pine Siskin is a bird in decline, up to 80%, due to habitat loss and salmonella.

**Ask
Your
Friends**



A member introduces a new puzzle and asks: How knowledgeable are you in this Bluebird Quiz???

T_T_O_S_

_W_L_O_

E_S_E_N

_E_T_R_

B_U_B_R_

_U_H_T_H

K_S_R_L

_R_N

S_A_R_W

_A_T_N

W_O_P_C_E_

1. To what family of birds do bluebirds belong?

Sparrow

Wren

Thrush

Blackbird

2. How many species of thrushes have been recorded in North America?

6

16

26

36

3. Which of our three species of bluebirds have been known to nest in holes in cliffs or dirt banks?

Eastern Bluebird

Western Bluebird

Mountain Bluebird

**answers on page 9*

Answers from page 8:

Puzzle

Titmouse



Swallow



Eastern



Western



Bluebird



Nuthatch

Kestrel



Wren

Sparrow



Martin

Woodpeckers



Quiz Answers

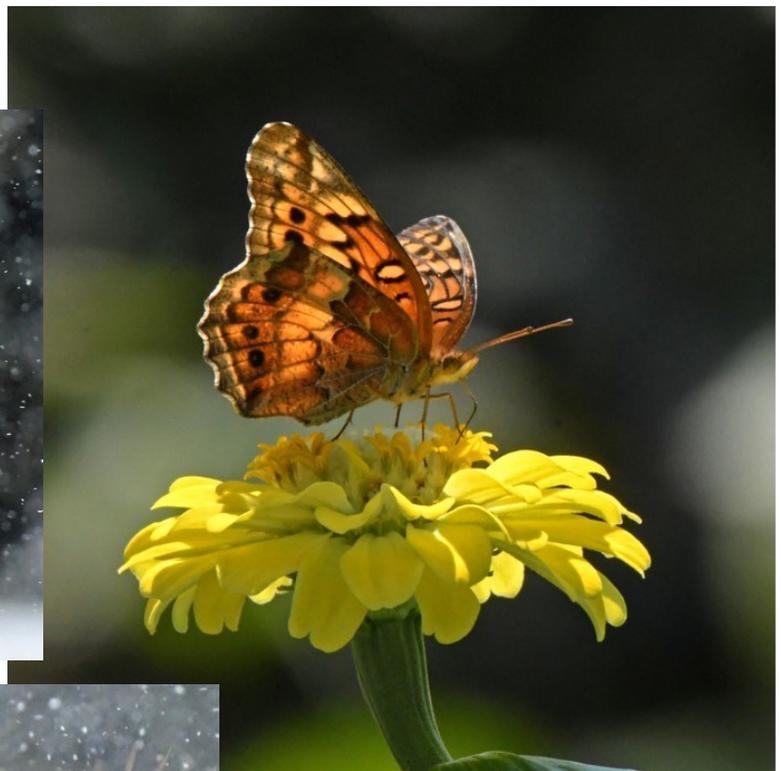
1. Thrush

2. Twenty-six species of thrushes have been recorded in North America, including the Aleutian Islands. They are Siberian Rubythroat, Bluethroat, Siberian Blue Robin, Red-Flanked Bluetail, Northern Wheatear, Stonechat, Eastern, Western, and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Veery, Gray-Cheeked, Bicknell's, Swainson's, Hermits, Wood, Eyebrowed, Varied, Aztec and Dusky thrushes, Fieldfare, Redwing, Clay-colored, White-throated, Rufous-backed, and American robins

3. Mountain Bluebird

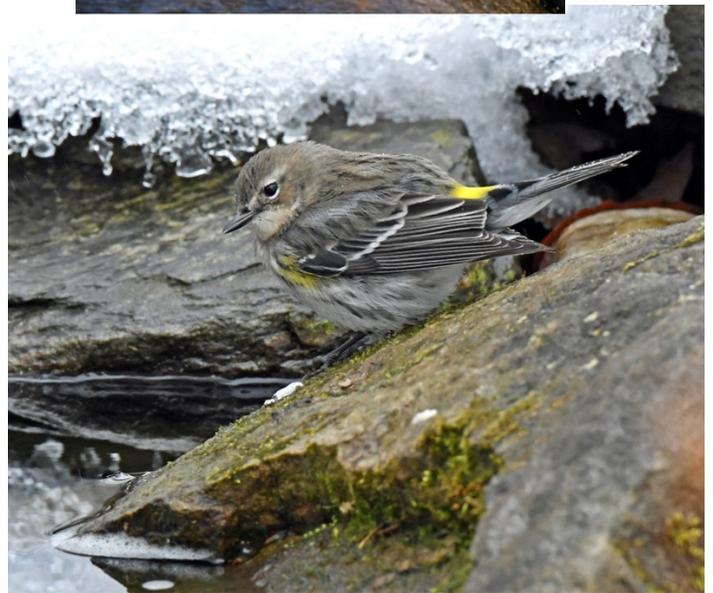


Photographer Bill Bender takes us to a simpler day....



Beauty...

Trust...



Innocence...



Faith...

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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