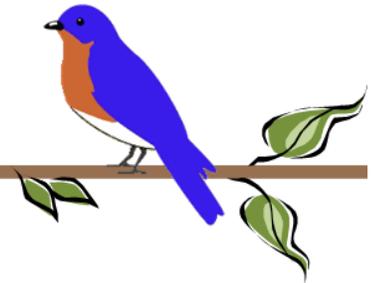


TEXAS Blues



The Newsletter of the Texas Bluebird Society Volume 8, Issue 2

In This Issue

Planning the Future.....	1
Happy Bluebird Trails.....	2
New Members.....	3
In Memorium.....	6
Classifieds.....	8
Upcoming Events.....	8
Silent Auction.....	10
Gratitudes & Applause.....	11
Blues News.....	12

Look for “**TXblues.org**” in this issue. It is a shortcut to texasbluebirdsocty.org, which often gets hyphenated in print. Use 11 characters vs. 24 characters. Try it! Visit www.TXblues.org. Substitute “@TXBlues.org” with any of our custom email addresses.

Planning the Future

(adapted from post on Bluebird-L, 6/19/08)

Keith Kridler, Mt. Pleasant, Texas (Keith is our Technical Consultant, and author of “Bluebird Monitor’s Guide.” He was also our keynote speaker for our 2009 Symposium in Waxahachie, on August 8th).

In life we must always plan on unexpected hardships but also plan on the future. Bluebirding is the same. Where will YOUR baby bluebirds try to nest next spring? Who will be there to protect them and put up nestboxes?

In the south we have non-migrating Eastern Bluebirds. Harry Krueger had one 6-year-old female Eastern Bluebird that nested in the same nestbox that she was born in for six years in a row! She had three different mates over these six years but she stayed with that nestbox. Every nesting attempt for six years Harry live trapped her and also trapped and banded each of the males with her helping her feed her young!

One year, in the next five or six closest nestboxes to her, Harry live-trapped FIVE of her daughters from the previous season that he had banded that successfully fledged and LIVED to reproduce the following year! He OFTEN found females that he had previously banded as nestlings in prior years but seldom found males that he had banded as nestlings.

Harry could only trap and color band the adults in 60 different nestboxes but he banded every year between 350-500 nestlings that went on to fledge each year. He banded nearly 3,000 bluebirds as I recall. WHERE did these young disperse to nest in later years?

His whole purpose for banding was to research nest site fidelity to see if the males or females were more prone to return to the same nestbox at the same location year after year. He was also researching mate fidelity to see if the same pairs would stay together year after year, one nesting attempt after another!

(Continued on page 9)

Happy Bluebird Trails

Nancy Nichols

It was still dark at 7:00 on the morning of January 24 as I drove east from Dallas on Interstate 20 towards Lake Tawakoni State Park. The temperature was 34 degrees and the wind was blowing in hard from the north. Some of the gusts were 30 miles per hour. Trash and tree branches blew across the deserted highway. Out of nowhere a lone coyote appeared in my headlights only to disappear quickly, like a hallucination.



Texas Parks and Wildlife kept the project running with hot coffee

Why would any sane person be up this early on a Saturday morning in the cold of winter? Better yet, why would any sane person be headed to the wilderness of a state park to rebuild a Bluebird trail. Outdoor projects, like creating safe housing for Bluebirds, should be done on a cool crisp spring morning with the sun on your back.

The project wasn't cancelled because it was planned by Eagle Scout, Matthew Duerr. And Eagle Scouts don't let a little thing like foul weather get in their way. Troop 332 has a long history of being prepared—it is the oldest troop in Texas. It was originally chartered in 1927 by the late Mr. Madrin Bankston. From 1999 to 2004, the troop was headed by David Shiels; then by Mike Sherman from 2004 until 2006. Today Jim Duerr, Mat-

thew's father, is the Scout Master and they are sponsored by St. Ann Catholic Church in Kaufman, Texas.

Eight years ago Mathew was involved in building the



*Susan Duerr, David Shiels, Jake Stiltz, Jim Duerr & Peter B**

original trail at Lake Tawakoni State Park. It was installed just before the park opened. "We all camped that weekend," says David Shiels, "It rained 13 inches but we have a policy to never quit so we stayed the entire time and got the job done. Some of us had 4 inches of water standing in our tents. I told the boys that it's weekends like that builds character."

So with character and Bluebird nesting box building ahead of us, we set out. Most of the old wooden houses were in sad shape—the once tiny holes had been pecked wider and used by larger birds. The roofs of many were split open. As we approached one of



Completed nesting box with heat shields and faux holes designed and built by Troop 332 in Kaufman, Texas.

(Continued on page 5)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

This list welcomes new members who joined between the last newsletter and August 31st. The membership form asks, "May we welcome you in our on-line newsletter?" If the question is answered "yes", we welcome by name. Otherwise, we welcome with initials and city.

JA, Austin
Eleanor Allen
Norie Alvarez
Cindy Amburgey
Anita Anderson
PA, Flint
DA, The Woodlands
Barbara Atkins
KA, Village Mills
Debbie Attaway
JA, Austin
LeeAnn Badum
JB, Mineola
Karen Baribeau
Scherle Barth
Annie Bates
JB, Spring
Bob & Kathy Beaird
Phyllis Bearden
Ruth Beaver
Nasim Bell
LB, Midlothian
Fred Bilbo
Patti Blanchet
JB, Duncanville
AB, Montgomery
Lavada Borden
Dorthy Bostic
RB, Canton
BB, Hemphill
Martha Bowen
Jim Braden
JB, The Woodlands
Joel Braswell
Sandy Brent
EB, Rusk
Ken & Leah Burkhalter
CB, Midlothian
Jimmie Bush
DB, Midlothian
WB, Marshall

JC, Magnolia
Anne Cassidy
BC, Tenaha
BC, The Woodlands
LC, Corpus Christi
WC, Wills Point
Lou Ann Chapman
Chris & Richard Clark
SC, Hideaway
Julie Clay
David Cluck
Wynelle Coats
NC, Humble
Charles Coffey
Susan Cohagan
MC, Willis
AC, Spring Branch
BC, DeQuincy
J.D. Corley
FC, The Woodlands
BC, Dallas
KC, Waxahachie
KC, Red Oak
Josie Cuellar
Deborah Dalton
BD, The Woodlands
RD, Midlothian
DD, Conroe
MD, Austin
TD, Kerrville
Prambert deMaan
Bernadette DeShields
Helen Devine
Jo & George Dolengowski
Harvey & Nancy Dominy
Judy Dunavant
Phil Eby
Ross & Pamela Edwards
EE, Magnolia
Janet Eshleman
NE, Houston

Billie Jo Evans
LF, Point
Pat Fengler
MF, Cypress
SF, Pineland
Cherry Fessenden
BF, Crowley
Janet Fitzsimon
DF, Canton
AF, Waxahachie
Nancy Fox
AF, Waxahachie
J Frye
LeeAnn Gabor
MG, Houston
JG, Fairfield
DG, Montgomery
Carl & Dixon Glaze
Linda Goller
CG, Midlothian
Axel Green
AG, Houston
Yvonne Grouls
Martin Gump
Ethan Gurley
Carolyn Guy
JH, Waxahachie
DH,
Marilyn Harrell
Charlie Harris
JH, Dallas
Linda Harrison
Jon & Kathy Hayden
Laura Hebert
RH, Utopia
SH, Kerrville
Barbara Hibits
Deborah Higgins
Edena Hintze

(Continued on page 4)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(Continued from page 3)

Matthew Hoag
TH, Zavalla
PH, Grandview
JoAnn Honeycut
MH, San Antonio
Rick & Donna Huff
Peggy Hugonin
Barbara Hunter
MH, Tomball
Susan Hustace
Carol Hyde
Donna Jackson
Thomas D Jefferson
Jan Jewell
MJ, Kerrville
Sandra Jones
MJ, Bandera
PK, Kountze
KK, Wills Point
Peggy Kellen
CK, Tomball
Myrlene Kelnhofer
DK, Houston
James King
Paula Kinnear
James & Melinda Kocian
MK, Magnolia
Ann Lackey
Phoebe Lake
William & Brenda Lange
ML, Comfort
RL, Kerrville
Matthew Lawrence
SL, Cedar Hill
John Leatherwood
Cheryl & Bill Ledbetter
Christine Leinweber
PL, The Woodlands
Florence Lewis
Carolyn Leyendecker
DL, Midlothian
DL, Milford
Richard & Julie Luhring, Jr

Barry Mace
MM, San Antonio
SM, Spring
Kathy Marney
CM, Ferris
Doris Matthews
Nancy & Jack McClanahan
Mary McCorkle
Mary McCrummen
VM, The Woodlands
David McGlathery
David M McKinnon
DM, Kerrville
Robert & Gayle McMullen
MM, Willis
Sandra Merrell
WM, Fredericksburg
DM, Waxahachie
Diana Moore
Danny Morchat
Amanda Morris
BM, Hempstead
Christine Moss
Karen Mullins
Paul R. Nester
KN, Kerens
Judy Nunn
Jim & Lori O'Malley
JO, Canton
Brian Overgoner
Michael Owens
PP, Buna
Linda Paul
Brenda Payne
MP, Mansfield
JP, Columbus
Kere Post
RP, Hockley
PP, Buna
Nancy Prikryl
Paula Purcell
MR, Magnolia
PR, Burleson
AR, Harper
Tammy Riess

Paul Riggs
SR, Houston
JR, Hideaway
JR, Highland Village
Patricia Rinn
Marlene Rios
Shron Rodriquez
AR, Austin
Karen Rozier
SR, Wills Point
WR, Wills Point
Dianne Russell
Vickie Russell
Sally Schroeder
CS, Fairview
ES, Midlothian
Renay Shaddock
Jessica Sheldon
Mary Shepherd
BS, Nacogdoches
Donna Shults
Melda Siebe
Kay Simmons
J.D. Simpson
JS, Vidor
Nancy Slade
KS, Bandera
BS, Mineola
Carol Smith
BS, Lufkin
Ann C. Soop
AS, Dallas
Ina Sprapling
Carol Stansbury
Mary K Stayton
Barbara Stidham
Shannon Stoneham
Jim & Kathleen Street
Minnie Stucker
LS, Grand Saline
Gayla Taylor
ET, Conroe
John Thornhill
LT, Hideaway
ST, Mevina

Bluebird Trails

(Continued from page 2)

the old nesting boxes near a clump of trees, a male Bluebird flew out and landed on the wire above our



A female Bluebird decides to make the new nesting box her home.

heads. If he could have spoken I'm sure he would have said, "It's about time."



Eagle Scout Mathew Duerr and his father Jim install new Bluebird nesting box. A frost-bitten Peter B looks on.*



Jim Duerr and Jake Stiltz custom fit the PVC baffle to each nesting box pole.

Our goal for the day was to install 21 new boxes which had been preassembled by the troop in Matthew's garage. The boys took a Texas Bluebird Society standard nestbox and added plastic heat shields to protect the nesting birds from the hot Texas heat. Besides be-



Mathew Duerr adheres nesting box to pole.

In Memorium

Skipper Miller honored Texas Bluebird Society by selecting TBS for memorial donations for his wife, Carole Ann Laird Miller. Two days after Carole Ann's death, he wrote, "She loved her bluebirds. We plan to ask for a donation to your society in lieu of flowers when we write her obituary." Linda Crum, Treasurer, notified Skip of these donations.



Carol Ann Laird Miller

Laura Grey Hejl Packer was a true bird enthusiast and dedicated conservationist. She shared her love of bluebirds with us at the 2007 TBS Summer Symposium held in Wichita Falls, where she presented her trail monitoring experiences at the Dyess AFB. In memory of Laura, TBS has sent a "True Blue Friend" plaque with the inscription; *her enthusiasm and diligence provided a future for "her" bluebirds that we all may share,* to the Packer family to attach to one of the nestboxes on the Dyess AFB bluebird trail. A gifted photographer, Laura's photos can be seen from the Photo Gallery tab on the TBS website.



Laura Grey Hejl Packer



Bluebird Facts At-A-Glance

-  All three species of bluebird can be found in Texas, especially during the winter months.
-  Eastern Bluebirds nest through the eastern 2/3 of the state. These birds are making a strong comeback since people began placing and maintaining nestboxes to replace lost cavities the birds traditionally used.
-  Western Bluebirds will nest in the Trans Pecos area of far west Texas, especially in the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains.
-  Bluebirds are members of the thrush family. Their musical song is very entertaining. They feed on insects most of the year, but will revert to fruit as a food source during winter months.
-  In winter months, you might plug nestbox side vents. Bluebirds sometimes use nestboxes as roost sites on cold nights. However, by leaving at least one side vent open, you may provide a safe winter roost for a bat.

Bluebird Trails

(Continued from page 5)

ing a former Scout Master, David Shiels is a geologist. He got the idea of adding the heat shields to all sides and top of the nesting boxes by watching the Space Shuttle. "I thought if NASA could re-enter the atmosphere without burning up because of the heat shields on the space shuttle then surely we can come up with a



Eagle Scout Mathew Duerr puts the finishing touches on a new Bluebird nesting box at Lake Tawakoni State Park. .

way to protect the birds," said Shiels. "One thing led to another and now we have the HDPE heat shield."

The bundled up team of home builders consisted of Scouts Jake Mendoza, Matthew Duerr, Jake Stiltz, and Peter B* plus Duerr's parents Susan and Jim, and David Shiels. Instead of walking from pole to pole, we jumped into three trucks, one loaded with tools (hey, they're Boy Scouts and they came prepared), and headed to our first pole. As the boys disassembled the old, David and Jim started measuring the height of the existing poles so that they could cut the PVC baffles to fit. Once the poles were covered with the baffle, the boys fitted the house on the top portion of the pole and then secured them to the pole with an electric drill.

Susan was armed with her compass and notebook and recorded the latitude, longitude, and direction the box was facing. The information goes on Netwatch.com. Once the trail is up and monitored, the notes will also



Susan Duerr uses her compass to record the exact location of each nesting box.

include courting time, number of eggs, broods, and any other information noted by monitors.

Highly motivated by the cold, we moved quickly down the trail pulling down the old and constructing the new. And all along the way we noticed Bluebirds watching our progress. We took the project seriously as we felt we had a reputation to help uphold—the 376.3-acre



Jake Stiltz, Jake Mendoza, Jim Duerr, David Shiels, Peter B, and Matthew Duerr*

(Continued on page 11)

CLASSIFIEDS

CPA - Review TBS 2008 financial records in Quick Books and give occasional pro bono advice to the Treasurer or Board.

Writers – Need individuals to write articles for the newsletter or for our home page on the TBS website. Articles must be submitted in a Word compatible file. One article, or a hundred, we can use your help!

Excel Skills – We need an individual familiar with filtering and sorting large spreadsheets to meet our ad-hoc needs to facilitate many of the administrative requirements of the organization

Event Program Coordinator - Responsible for managing staffing and nestbox inventory and for all “One Nestbox” events. We have many events coming up next year and need your help!

Event Booth Coordinator - Work with Event Program Coordinator to be responsible for all coordinating activities for a *specific* event. A little work but a lot of fun! Lots of events to choose from next year!

Booth Staffer – Help out for a few hours working in a booth at an event. You are supporting TBS and get a chance to check out the festival. Volunteer for a festival near you!

Interested in one of these volunteer opportunities? Contact Pauline Tom, pauline@TXblues.org or 512.268.5678.

TBS Annual Membership Meeting

WHEN: Saturday, October 3rd from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

WHERE: Montgomery County Agriculture Ext. Agency
Master Gardener Education Building
9020 FM 1484, Conroe, Texas 77303

Join us for an afternoon of a little business and a lot of fun!

Presentations * Awards * Board Elections

Door Prizes * Snacks

Purchase unlimited number of Nestboxes
(to members only on 10/3)

RSVP Requested
debbiep@texasbluebirdsociety.org

or call **409.287.4020**

Upcoming Events

October							November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

Saturday, October 3, 1pm-3pm

Annual Membership Meeting

Montgomery County Agriculture Extension Agency
Master Gardener Education Bldg
9020 FM 1484, Conroe, TX, 77303

Saturday, October 10th, 10am-10pm

Celebrate Roanoke!

Downtown Roanoke, Texas

Saturday, October 10th, 9am-7pm

50th Anniversary of Birding at Hornsby Bend

Center for Environmental Research [CER]
2210 South FM 973, Austin, Texas 78725

Saturday, October 27th, 10am

Presentation at Arbor Gate Nursery

Tomball, Texas

Saturday, November 14th, 9am-5pm

Heritage Syrup Festival

Downtown Henderson, Texas

Visit “Events” on our website at texasbluebirdsociety.org for more event details.



Planning the Future

(Continued from page 1)

I only lived 45 miles from Harry by road. As the crow or bluebirds fly I was only about 32 miles away! My nearest nestboxes to his trail were only 20 miles away and I NEVER recovered a single bird that he banded on my trail. Of all of these banded bluebirds only one was ever recovered by someone other than Harry, recapturing the adults on his trail. One female bluebird was found dead in a Purple Martin House about 15 miles from his trail. *(In Oct. 1984 Sandy and I took a back road on our way to our first NABS meeting in Jackson, Mississippi. We saw a few of Harry's REALLY nice nestboxes; he only had 12 boxes back then. We left a note in an empty bluebird box along the highway and he contacted us. I became his bluebird mentor for a couple of years, got him up to about 160 nestboxes, and then the rolls reversed. I became the "student" till his death in 1993. He removed about 100 nestboxes to concentrate on his research.)*

Don Hutchings was fledging about 200 bluebirds a year on the western edge of my bluebird trails and he was 12 miles further west from Harry's banded bluebirds. Robert McKinney was checking about 160 nestboxes north and west of my trails, due north of Don's trails. *(Robert worked as production editor for the local newspaper. I wrote a bluebird article about Don and his young son Jeffery checking the bluebird nestboxes on their trail. This article inspired Robert to start bluebirding! He pushed me to write a weekly newspaper article for over five years and he produced a monthly Bluebird News until his health and finances failed him in 1995.)*

Between the three of us we were checking upwards of 700 nestboxes, building and giving away about that many more nestboxes a year. Each of us was mentoring dozens more new people each year. We were finding (and other people were bringing us) more dead adult bluebirds than I really care to tell you about and we NEVER found a single banded bird from the thousands banded just 40 or 50 miles away! *(I met Don in 1982 after I wrote a note on the side of a really nicely made nestbox I found on a back county road. 25 years later we still work the bluebird programs together. He was REALLY afraid that I was going to be*

mad about his copying one of my nestbox styles. He got his first Texas Bluebird nestbox from my brother in a give-away program. Buy a fruit or shade tree at Kridler Gardens and get a Keith Kridler made free nestbox.)

Dr. Shirl Brunnell, author of *I Hear Bluebirds* (a book about baby bluebirds rescued after a House Sparrow attack), lived 60 miles east of Sandy and I and we later connected my bluebird trail with hers there in Arkansas with about 60 nestboxes (one per mile) checking these once a month. Again, no dead adult bluebirds ever showed up on this trail with one of Harry's bands and none of the bluebirders in Dr. Brunnell's group ever found one of Harry's banded bluebirds even though they were only about 40 miles away from Harry. *(We met Dr. Brunnell at NABS 1985 in Wagner Oklahoma and got together about 8 times a year with them to help build nestboxes and give programs until her death a couple of years ago.)*

About this time Harry Holman owner of Holman Furniture manufacturing bought 800+ nestbox kits from the North American Bluebird Society and gave ALL of these away to local people and his customers in Pittsburg Texas just 17 miles due south of my house. He shut down the furniture business once a year and he and his employee's built several thousand nestboxes from culled lumber collected during the year and printed thousands of information sheets for give away nestboxes each year. *(His wife attended a 20 minute garden club meeting I gave on bluebirds and cavity nesters about 1980 and took NABS information home to her husband and he went nuts over bluebirds! He passed away in the late 1980s but I gave a program to her garden club just a couple of years ago. There were dozens of bluebirds in her yard the day of the last program.)*

Talk with neighbors about putting up better nestboxes. Teach them about better mounting poles and guards. Some of these meetings will develop over the years into lifelong friendships. Others, many others, will "pay it forward," and the knowledge you share will continue to spread like the wind across the prairie grass. I am just one of the many youngsters who were taught by Dr. Zeleny and William G. Duncan and all the great bluebirds since! —KK

2009 Summer Symposium Silent Auction Donations

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation to the following contributors to our 2009 Silent Auction. Their generosity helped to make this event a resounding success!

Belk Department Store (Waxahachie)

Betty Reuscher

Boyce "The Feed Store" (Waxahachie)

Carino's Italian Restaurant (Waxahachie)

Carolyn Gritzmaker

Carolyn Trego

Caryn Brewer

Chili's Grill & Bar (Waxahachie)

Deborah Rayfield

Dra. Foster & Smith

Greenery (Waxahachie)

Harry Evans

Hill Country Nature Center (near Utopia)

Home Depot (Waxahachie)

HomeSweetBird.com

Howard Williams

Jane Wilemon

Jeanette's Custom Embroidery (Waxahachie)

Lowe's

Texas Ornithological Society

Lysle Mockler

Mark Klym

Mary Rabien

Nancy Krosley

Olive Garden (Waxahachie)

R. David Shiels

REI (Farmer's Branch)

Rio Frio Lodging (near Garner State Park)

Ron & Pauline Tom

The Heard Natural Science Museum

Toy Allison

Unipeck USA

Wild Bird Center (Wataugua)

Wild Birds Unlimited (Lover Ln. Dallas)

Wild Birds Unlimited (Carmel IN)

New Members *(Continued)*

Carolyn Trego

Walter & Catherine Tucker

Gail Tully

JT, The Woodlands

Theresa Turner

DT, Kerrville

BT, Hideaway

GV, Spring

KV, Mexia

Barbara VonAhn

Sharon Walker

SW, The Woodlands

Mary Frances Watson

Jim Weatherly

BW, Hemphill

Larry W Wilhoite

CW, Cypress

BW, Lufkin

Lisa Wolfe

PW, San Augustine

Cathy Wright

TY, Hempstead

GZ, Austin

CZ, Magnolia

Jenifer Zipp

Debie Zumwalt

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GAVE A DONATION SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER.

*Per Board decision, all
undesignated donations in
2009 will go towards the
purchase of lumber for TBS
nestboxes.*

Dr. Michael Amsden

Bastrop Co. Audubon

Dorothy Borders

Edra Bogucki

Martha Carlson

Barbara Coldwell

Harry Evans

Jo Ann Graves

Bill Griffith

R. L. Langley

Cathie Lehman

Marijane Lipscomb

Ed Melson

Barb Ohlman

Jeri Porter

Charles & Jackie Post

Larry Rankin

Jo & Ruth Reeves

Robson Ranch

Paula Santagata

Melinda Walker

Ricky Walker

K. & Melanie Welch

Mike Whelan

Special Thanks to Volunteers!

Nestbox Construction in Conroe

Jack and Nancy McClanahan for providing a construction location at Storage 105, Inc. **Montgomery County Master Gardener Association** for the loan of tables. **Bill Griffith**, Team Captain, and the Many hands that were needed in the construction all those Nestboxes! **Gene Prejean, Bill & Patti Marshall, Don & Caryn Brewer, Sheryl Noble, Meg Scamman, Pete Fusco, Carol Palmer, Eva Berger, and Fred & Linda Crum. Patti Guyton** who came by and took photos. **Caryn Brewer, Meg Scamman** and **Patti Marshall** for helping Linda Crum with her April presentation. **Bill Griffith, Larry LeGrand, Susan Stull and her husband and son** who transported Nestboxes to storage.

TBS “One Nestbox” Booth at Festivals(offering free nestbox with membership and discounted nestbox with renewal)

Red Bud Festival, *2nd Saturday in March, Buna*: **John & Debbie Park**

Bluebird Festival, *4th Saturday in April, Wills Point*: **Barb Ohlman** (co-ordinator); **Evelyn Thomason; David & Nita Allen; Lysle Mockler; Scott Strickland; Glenn & Gwenda Vinkler**. A special thanks to Evelyn, who stored “festival stuff” until the week before the Blueberry Festival.

Blueberry Festival, *2nd Saturday in June, Nacogdoches*: **Barb Ohlman** (last minute coordinator); **Virginia & Bob Knibb; Maxey Kirkley**. Also, thanks to **Norm Shoemaker**, who provided truck and know-how at set-up and take-down.

Pace Creek Blooms, *1st Saturday in April, Hemphill*: **Ron & Pauline Tom**

Nestbox Installation at Crane’s Mill Park on Canyon Lake

Barbara Vinson (coordinator); **Bruce Jones; Christy Richards**

Newsletter Layout

Char Diehm, Graphic Designer, Illuminated Designs (*illuminatedesigns.com*), Newark, DE (through *VolunteerMatch.org*)

Bluebird Trails

(Continued from page 7)

Lake Tawakoni State Park is located just outside of Wills Point, the Bluebird Capitol of Texas.

Thanks to the Scouts dedication to conservation and protection of the local Bluebird population, Lake Tawakoni State Park has a new trail of low-cost highly efficient housing—Shiels figures the heat shields will keep the temperature inside the nesting box 10 degrees cooler which could extend the nesting season and mating pairs can still fledge birds into September.

With efforts like Troop 332’s, Wills Point could become the Bluebird Capital of the World.

**Surname withheld at parents’ request.*



*Photo by Byron Stone, M.D.
Austin, TX*

Dr. Byron Stone, TBS Life Member, funded a project he suggested – a nestbox trail at Crane’s Mill Park on Canyon Lake where a flock of Western Bluebirds wintered from late January well into March. In early

March, Byron sent word, “Some of the females appeared to me to be prospecting for cavities” and asked if we would consider a trail there. We did! Through our “Start With Five” initiative, 5 nestboxes were installed at the end of March – just after the Western Bluebirds left. The park is also good habitat for Eastern Bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting birds.

BLUES NEWS

We inadvertently published the wrong credit for this picture:



Photo by Howard Williams, Dripping Springs.

Our sincere apologies to the photographer, Howard Williams.

How dedicated are Eagle Scouts? Very! Read how inclement weather does not get in the way of their dedication in "Happy Bluebird Trails" by Nancy Nichols. Page 3.

Bluebirds fledged, House Sparrows moved in and built a nest, Bluebirds evicted the House Sparrows and laid eggs. When the young Bluebirds fledged, the nest was filled with Choke Cherry or Black Cherry seeds.



Photo by Keith Kridler

Texas Bluebird Society
PO Box 40868
Austin TX 78704



Remember to RSVP for
the Annual Membership
Meeting October 3rd!
(See page 11)

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #444
Buda TX 78610

RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED



TBS Board of Directors

Pauline Tom, Mountain City, President
LeAnn Sharp, Utopia, Vice President
David Smith, San Antonio, Secretary
Linda Crum, Treasurer, The Woodlands
Norm Shoemaker, Woden
Jennifer Fleming, Orange
Caryn Brewer, Conroe
John Park, Sour Lake
Debbie Bradshaw Park, Sour Lake

TEXAS BLUES

This newsletter of Texas Bluebird Society
is published about 4 times a year

P O Box 40868
Austin TX 78704
www.TXblues.org

Pauline Tom, 512.268.5678 (home)
LeAnn Sharp, 830.966.2320 (work)