



Mad Bluebird Junior  
photographed by Michael L. Smith

## Conversations with Michael

by Kathy Kremnitzer

I recently had the pleasure of chatting with well-known wildlife photographer and MBS founding Board member Michael L. Smith. Though Michael has photographed many birds in many different settings, most of us know him as a result of his amazing photograph, *The Mad Bluebird*.

Our conversation ran the gamut from bluebirds and woodpeckers to winter bird feeding, from politics to future communication with birds and other animals, but we continued to circle back around to bluebirds. Over the years, Michael has shared several of his photos exclusively with MBS for the enjoyment of our members. The photo above, entitled *Mad Bluebird Junior*, is being shared with our readers for its first public appearance. The photo was taken in September, 2015, approximately 40 years after the publication of *The Mad Bluebird*.

Read about how Michael became interested in bluebirds in the article, *Once Upon a Time*, in this issue.

Thanks for sharing, Michael!

## The President' Perch

Greetings from Bluebird Hill. Maryland's bluebirds have had an easy time of it so far this fall/winter. Mild weather has been good for our feathered friends and I think the berry crop looks good for the late winter. I am seeing bluebirds occasionally on Bluebird Hill, some of them checking out nest boxes. We saw a few in the Montgomery and Frederick County Christmas counts. I am hopeful of a continuing mild winter and good nesting season in 2017.

Looking back on 2016, it was a good year for Maryland's bluebirds. 2016 was a fairly successful breeding season, as you will read in Kathy's report. We had lots of activities and presentations that promoted our bluebirds throughout Maryland. Some of us got a chance to attend the North American Bluebird Society Annual Meeting in Alberta, Canada. We added two counties to our Maryland MBS coordinators team. I reported about these in the Fall Chatter.

Our popular Bluebirds Forever Festival will not take place at Black Hill Regional Park as it has for the past several years. In 2016, the event was renamed "Flocks and Fields Festival" and the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve was also invited to participate. Although we had the usual number of visitors that day, Black Hill staff decided to hold a different event this coming May, one that would not involve us. So, we are in search of a new venue, perhaps another Montgomery County park, or Nature Center, or possibly Linden Farm in Dickerson. What do you think? We would welcome your suggestions.

We are grateful to Black Hill for their long-term collaboration with us and look forward to more in the future.

I am still requesting help in our effort to identify bluebird and other bird deaths as a result of empty tree-planting sleeves. There was an article in the

(continued on page 2)

## 2017 is an MBS Election Year

MBS will hold the election of its officers at the 2017 spring board meeting in April. Officers are elected for a term of 2 years.

Stan Fisher has agreed to serve another term as President and Jodi Hewitt will continue as Vice President. Bonnie Bell will become Treasurer as Diane Seward steps down. Diane has served as Treasurer for the last 11 years and her dedication and expertise have been very much appreciated. However, Diane will continue to serve as Membership Committee Chair. New Board member Beth Fisher will assume the responsibilities of Secretary.

As you know, MBS is a volunteer organization. We would love to have more members assume a more active role. If you are interested in joining a committee or becoming a part of our board, please visit the Contact Us page on our web site so that we can give you information on upcoming meetings. We will also be posting them on our Events page, once meetings are scheduled.

### Coordinator's Corner

Our County Coordinator program is essential to the mission of the Maryland Bluebird Society, specifically to the portion which states "to assist in monitoring and increasing the population of the Eastern Bluebirds . . . by educating and informing our members and the public about Bluebirds . . ." Coordinators are located in most, but not all, of the Maryland counties and are the go-tos for information and assistance. They will come to your nesting site and provide advice and suggestions on location of nestboxes and trails and will provide hands-on assistance from setting up a nestbox to providing support on house sparrow problems. To contact the coordinator nearest you, visit our web site at [www.mdbluebirdsociety.org](http://www.mdbluebirdsociety.org) and click on the County Coordinator page.

An example of the assistance provided by coordinators comes from Carroll County Coordinator, Jodi Hewitt. Jodi writes: Margie from Ellicott City needed some help with sparrow control. One bluebird was found dead in her nestbox and there was constant battling between sparrows and bluebirds. I explained to her that aggressive measures are the only way to keep her bluebirds safe. She had two successful nestings in 2015.

Jodi spoke with Margie via email a few times. At one point, Margie had taken all her feeders down, as well as the nestbox. She couldn't stand to watch the birds fighting all day. She visited a birding store close to her home and was told how to use streamers on the front of the box as a sparrow spooker. Well, it worked! Jodi stopped by a week later with a Van Ert in-box sparrow trap and explained to Margie and her husband how to mount and use it. The bluebirds went on to build a new nest and lay five eggs. Five bluebird young fledged successfully.

### MBS Officers, Directors and Coordinators for 2016

#### Officers

President: Stan Fisher  
Vice President: Jodi Hewitt  
Secretary: Bonnie Bell  
Treasurer: Diane Seward  
Immediate Past President: Kathy Kremnitzer

#### Directors

Fawzi Emad	Ed Escalante
Anne Sturm	Matt Storms
Jenny Hendershot	Bill Roberts
Michael L. Smith	Beth Fisher

#### Coordinators:

David Gillum	Matt Storms
Jodi Hewitt	Felicia Lovelett
Lori Sampson	Maryanne Dolan
Kathy Kremnitzer	Pam Ford
Karen Unruh	Ed Escalante
Jenny Hendershot	Marcia Van Horn
Janice Ward	George Radcliffe

#### MBS Members:

Please check with MBS Treasurer Diane Seward [trina65@verizon.net](mailto:trina65@verizon.net) to be certain you are current with your membership. You can renew using the form at the end of this newsletter or online at [www.mdbluebirdsociety.org](http://www.mdbluebirdsociety.org)  
If you know of someone who is interested in bluebirds, please feel free to pass this newsletter on to them.

(President's Perch, continued from page 1)  
Winter Bluebird, the NABS quarterly magazine, about similar sleeves in the Midwest. Thousands of dead birds were found in very similar hollow poles used to mark mining claims (as many as 30 birds in a single pole). Very similar sleeves are used by the thousands in reforestation plantings across Maryland. I think if we look at our sleeves, that our death rates could be large too. The help I am requesting is, if you see an area reforestation with multiple tree sleeves, please look at the bottom of the sleeve and determine if there are remains of bluebirds or other birds there. Look only at the open-top sleeves where the planted tree did not prosper. Please let me know, at [sfisher44@verizon.net](mailto:sfisher44@verizon.net), how many dead birds were found and how many sleeves were inspected. This information is vital to our seeking protective legislation like that passed in the west.

Good luck with your winter trails, keep hoping and watching out for our blue friends.

Stan Fisher  
MBS President

## Once Upon a Time, on the Bluebird Trail

*Have you ever met one of our Board members or volunteers and wanted to ask them how they started with bluebirds? Let's see what stories a few of these folks have to tell!*

**MBS founding Board member and Montgomery County Coordinator, Ed Escalante**, began his bluebirding career as a volunteer with Montgomery County parks. Naturalist Denise Gibbs asked if Ed would help with monitoring a bluebird trail of 3 nestboxes in Little Bennett Regional Park. Ed agreed, even though he didn't know what a bluebird looked like. Denise described Ed's duties, especially that he should monitor the boxes once a week and keep notes on his observations. He didn't realize that this step would result in many changes in his view of nature.

Ed writes, "The boxes were in serious disrepair, so I replaced them with Larry Zeleny's top-opening boxes that I built. No sooner had I put up the first box, when three bluebirds appeared nearby. They had to be bluebirds because they were blue with a rusty chest and a white tummy. I was thrilled! I installed the next two boxes without bluebird spectators. This occurred at the end of February 1997, and it wasn't until the beginning of April that I found a bluebird nest in one of the boxes, and in a few days, I discovered four bluebird eggs in the nest. Before the end of the first year, I installed three more boxes in the park, for a total of six boxes. That first year I had 19 bluebirds and four tree swallows fledge from this trail, and I had found a new calling!"

After nearly 21 years, the trail has grown to 32 boxes, 15 of which are paired boxes (2 nestboxes, placed about 15 feet apart), scattered around the park. As of last year, 2016, a total of 1,469 bluebirds and 848 tree swallows have fledged from the trail. "I can't begin to describe the pleasure I have had in taking care of these boxes," Ed says. "Coming out in the early morning, it's not uncommon to spot a fox nearby, hunting its prey, or a red-tailed hawk soaring overhead, or the white-tailed deer in the fields." For Ed, however, the biggest pleasure is seeing a bluebird egg beginning to hatch, and then watching this tiny bundle of helpless life rapidly grow into a fully developed bluebird. "It is this cycle that those of us that take on the task of monitoring a bluebird trail can observe with amazement during nesting season," Ed reports. "The renewal of life is a wonder to behold!"

**MBS Board member and Baltimore County Coordinator, Matt Storms**, tells us "It all started in 2004. I had been feeding birds seed and suet from hanging feeders off the rear deck of my home. I had the common birds visiting: goldfinches, chickadees, house finches, house sparrows, etc., but my favorites were the woodpeckers- the Red-bellied and the Downy. One day I noticed the Downy bringing fledglings to the feeder and feeding them suet. I thought that was great! I started researching them online and came across some nest box plans for them. I began construction, built a box and attached it to a tree in the backyard, close to my feeders. I thought that since they were coming to the feeders, they were sure to see it and use it. Well, that's what I thought anyway. The box sat empty until the following spring and by this time I had given up on the Downies. I noticed a little brown bird had moved in and I was thrilled that my box was being used! But, yep, you guessed it, it was a House Sparrow. At that time, I knew no better.

Fast forward one year. I decided to remove the box from the tree because it was too high which made it difficult to see any action. I built a new and improved box and decided to mount this one on a tree at my job, back beyond the parking lot. There was a nice field surrounded by trees and I thought it was perfect! I could check it on my breaks and at lunch time. After a few weeks, I checked it and there was a wasp nest inside. I closed the box and

kind of gave up. In the meantime, I had been visiting Marshy Point Nature center in Baltimore County on weekends. I noticed a posting for a Bluebird presentation and decided to attend. Though there were few people in attendance (only a handful), I listened to the gentleman very closely. He talked about predator guards, box types, etc., and especially about House Sparrows. This was when I first learned they weren't native birds. He really stressed the importance of monitoring boxes. After the presentation, everyone left except me. I began to ask him lots of questions and he was thrilled with the interest I was showing. He even took me out to show me some active Bluebird nests. I was about as excited as I could be! I was really enjoying it. I told him about the wasp nest in my box and he said you will never get a bird to use your box unless you remove the wasps, because the birds won't go inside. The next Monday when I returned to work, I opened the box to remove the wasp nest and to my surprise, the wasp nest was gone. Not only that, but the box was full of twigs and a bird flew out, scaring the heck out of me! I just let them be.

The next April, I was out on break at work and I caught movement out of the corner of my eye. I thought I was seeing things, but there they were! The Bluebirds had found my box! I was so excited! It was a small flock of about 4 birds in the tree branches and they were taking turns checking out the box. I was in awe. I began heavily researching Bluebirds online and found the web site [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org). Within a few days I began building more boxes and I placed two more around the parking lot. This time the boxes were mounted on metal poles with predator baffles. I noticed there was a lot of Bluebird action at the nest boxes early in the morning, but because I was at work, I had very little time to watch the happenings. I made a plan to drive to my job early on Saturday. Sure enough, they showed up and I watched them for a few hours as they checked out my boxes, going from box to box. They did finally decide on a box and a few weeks later they began to build a nest. The bluebird pair fledged 9 babies that year. After that first year, I was completely hooked. I began searching for new locations, and building more boxes. So far, I'm up to 17!

**MBS founding Board member Michael L. Smith** has had an eye for wildlife since he was a child. The Pileated woodpecker was his first bird fascination. He would watch a pair nesting near his home and remembers his mother telling him how rare they were. Michael delivered newspapers as a boy and saw bluebirds for the first time in the yard of one of his customers. He got to know that customer well as he spent time observing and becoming familiar with the habits of the bluebirds.

In the 1970's, Michael began photographing birds and wildlife. His famous photograph, The Mad Bluebird, was taken in 1978. He says that he enjoyed photographing bluebirds the most, but also loved capturing the images of osprey. He describes time spent in the cold, in the heat, in water, in blinds, all the while hauling his heavy photography equipment, trying to keep it dry and protected from the elements. He says that digital photography has made the job a whole lot easier for today's photographers to capture those special images.

While health issues keep Michael from the bluebird trail these days, he enthusiastically feeds the birds in his yard. He began feeding mealworms in 2006 and has purchased over 80,000 in the years since. He feeds dried mealworms, not live ones, and also feeds Pine Tree Farms suet cakes.

*Stay tuned for the next installment of Once Upon a Time in the Spring edition of Chatter!*

## Feeder Fare

by Kathy Kremnitzer

As I began to gather articles and information for this edition of our newsletter, I sent out a request to our membership and to our Facebook followers for nesting data from 2016. The response was wonderful and I wound up with not only nesting data, but also some beautiful photographs, which are shared throughout the pages of this edition. Viewing the many photos sent by MBS Life Member Rosemary Ritler of Long Green, MD, led to an exchange about winter bird feeding. Some of the recipes and ideas are shared here.



Rosemary has bluebirds visiting her feeders daily. She feeds Bark Butter Bits, Peanut Nuggets and Mighty Mealworms, along with a meal mix she makes herself. Photo by Rosemary Ritler

Rosemary feeds her visiting bluebirds Might Mealworms along with Bark Butter Bits, Peanut Nuggets and a meal mix that she makes which has currants in the recipe. She has tried putting out cranberries, blueberries and sunflower chips which the blues do not eat. Occasionally, she will substitute dried mealworms for the live ones but says that the live mealworms are the most favored food. She has been feeding bluebirds for over 35 years and loves to see them come swooping to her feeders when she calls out “where are the bluebirds?”

MBS Board member, Anne Sturm says it took her 35 years to get bluebirds to come to her feeders. She spoke with Jack Finch at several North American Bluebird Society conferences and he encouraged her to keep trying. Anne is glad that she did! She feeds live mealworms, dried mealworms, commercial “suet to go”, Bark Butter Bits and homemade suet, when she has the time to make it. She appreciates that the Bark Butter Bits has added calcium, which is difficult for birds to obtain in the colder months when insects are scarce.

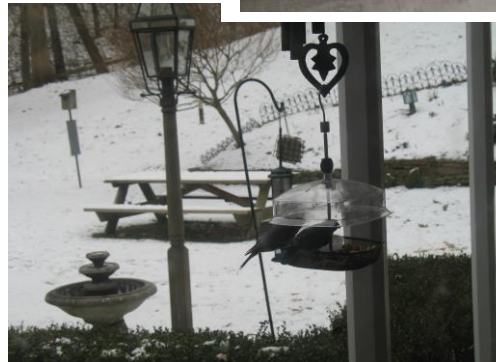
MBS Treasurer, Diane Seward, shared the following recipe, which originally appeared in the Bluebird Monitor’s Guide:

Blend 3 cups yellow corn meal with 1 cup flour  
Add and blend well, 1 cup creamy peanut butter (no salt added, if you can find it)  
Mix in: 1 cup ground peanuts, 1 cup sunflower hearts, ½ cup zante dried currants.  
Slowly blend in 1 cup melted lard (Smithfield) and mix well.

Diane has an enclosed bluebird feeder with a 1.5-inch metal grid on the wide sides and 1.5-inch entrance holes on each of the narrow sides, permitting easy access and egress. The feeder makes it difficult for the larger songbirds to feast on the suet. Her bluebirds love it in the cold weather.

Right: A Carolina Wren feasts on mealworms and Bark Butter Bits.

Photo by Rosemary Ritler



Left: A bluebird wonderland! Full feeders, baffled nestbox and a birdbath!

Photo by Rosemary Ritler

MBS member Ellen Blackwell shared this recipe for the mixture she feeds to her visiting birds:

### Winter Suet for Birds

1 cup crunchy peanut butter      1 cup regular Crisco  
2 cups quick oats                    1 cup flour  
2 cups cornmeal (yellow or white, or even part regular grits-not instant)  
1 cup raisins/currants, nuts or some combination of both, chopped  
1/3 cup sugar  
\*1 T calcium powder  
½ to 1 cup dry dog food (increases fat content)  
(other options include chopped sunflower seeds, peanut hearts, dried apples, prunes, cherries)

Put peanut butter and Crisco in glass bowl and microwave for 30 seconds. Reheat until easily blended. In food processor, chop nuts, dogfood, etc. until finely chopped. Set aside. Add cornmeal and raisins/currants to food processor and blend until finely chopped. Add remaining dry ingredients and continue blending. Combine all ingredients into peanut butter/Crisco mixture and mix well. Adjust ingredients as needed to obtain desired texture—drier for crumbles, moister for suet balls. Refrigerate or freeze in serving-sized portions.

Ellen also recommends making suet squares out of the mixture by warming in the microwave and then pressing into a greased rectangular pan, shaping the mixture to size and thickness desired. Slice while warm, then refrigerate or freeze until needed.

\*Powdered calcium can be ordered on-line or can be purchased at a health food store. Crushed, baked egg shells can be substituted as well. Wash shells of several eggs, bake at 275 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes, crush and add to suet mixture.

## Nesting News from Around the State



Bluebird Brigade member Shawn checks the "Golden" box on the Harford Glen trail.

Photo by Ruth Bergstrom

**Ruth Bergstrom** reports that the Bluebird Brigade had a successful year at Harford Glen (**Harford County**). "The number of Eastern Bluebirds fledged came in first with 26, although we lost one nest to a snake (even with a baffle)", Ruth says. "Tree Swallows came in second with 20 fledged, followed by House Wrens (7), Carolina Wrens (5), and Carolina Chickadees (4)." Awesome Brigade helpers include Shawn, Arthur, Erin, Michael, and Kassie. I want to especially thank Shawn (pictured) who only missed one week because of a swim lesson," Ruth informed us. "We have a nickname for all the boxes at the Glen -- here Shawn is opening the 'Golden' box because every year it hosts at least one successful brood of bluebirds or tree swallows."

**Debby Moone** of **Frederick** reports that one of her nests had 4 bluebird eggs which eventually turned into 4 baby bluebirds. While she did not see them fledge, she is hopeful that they made it out of the nestbox safely. The box is equipped with a stovepipe predator baffle. Her second box was used by a pair of tree swallows who successfully raised some little ones. She was unable to tell exactly how many tree swallow babies were in the nest since it was so full of feathers! Debby also reports having trapped at least 6 male house sparrows before the bluebirds and tree swallows were able to nest. She used sparrow spookers on both nestboxes.



Debby asks that everyone please remember the dangers of not keeping "bird netting" on top of tree sapling tubes in order to prevent cavity nesters from entering the tubes (to look for a place to build their nest) and getting trapped inside. During the spring of 2016 her father found the

dead body of a bluebird in one of our tree sapling tubes (that was missing its netting). The poor bluebird had obviously entered the tube cavity to look for a place to build a nest, was subsequently trapped inside and died.

**MBS President Stan Fisher** and **Board member Anne Sturm** cooperatively fledged 230 bluebirds, 209 tree swallows and 26 house wrens from the 101 nestboxes on their trails throughout **Montgomery County**.

**Kathy Kremnitzer** reports fledging 137 bluebirds and 90 tree swallows from the 48 nestboxes she monitors in **Frederick** and **Washington** Counties. Kathy is also part of the trail monitoring team at Antietam National Battlefield and those totals are included in the Antietam trail report.

**MBS Board member Anne Sturm** reports the following from her trails in **Montgomery County**:

**Home Trail**, 6 boxes: 1 Chickadee nest suffered wren predation, Tree swallows nested in 2 boxes and fledged 12 young, Bluebirds had 4 nestings and fledged 19.

**4 Streams Trail**, 10 paired sets of boxes, 20 total: 1 unhatched clutch of Bluebird eggs, 1 Bluebird nest suffered predation, 47 Bluebirds fledged. 2 Tree swallow nests suffered predation, 3 eggs failed to hatch, 31 Tree swallows fledged. House sparrows continue to be a problem on this trail. One box will be relocated due to House wrens.

**Linden Farm Trail**, 5 paired sets of boxes, 10 total: Bluebirds had 7 nestings and fledged 32, Tree swallows had 4 nestings with 15 fledged. Anne noticed clutch size for Tree swallows was down this year.



**Dick Arnold** of **Anne Arundel County** reports fledging 4 Bluebirds from his nestbox in 2016. The photo above (left) of the 4 eggs was taken on June 25<sup>th</sup>. The photo of the nestlings (right) was taken on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MBS Treasurer, Diane Seward**, reports the following from her trails in **Montgomery County**:

**IWLA**, 4 locations (**Archery/Garden, Big Pond, Small Pond, Field**) on the 636-acre farm had two Tree swallow nests suffer from snake predation at the Big Pond location. Both boxes were mounted on EMT and were equipped with a 6" stovepipe baffle. It isn't known how the baffles were breached, but two clutches were lost. One of the 4 Bluebird pairs raised 3 clutches and the other 3 pair had 2 clutches each. One of the clutches was destroyed by a bear! 4 Chickadees, 7 Tree swallows and 40 Bluebirds were fledged from this trail in 2016. At the Rock Run trail, 7 Chickadees, 4 Tree swallows and 32 Bluebirds were fledged from the trail's 10 nestboxes.

**MBS Board member and Washington County Coordinator Jenny Hendershot** reports the following from her trail's 35 nestboxes in **Washington County**: 74 Bluebirds fledged, 33 Tree swallows fledged, 5 House wrens fledged, and 6 Chickadees fledged. Jenny is also a part of the trail monitoring team at Antietam National Battlefield. Her totals for those boxes are included with the Antietam trail report.

**MBS member Lou Soule** of **Montgomery County** reports the following results from his 2016 nesting season:

**Ovid Haven Wells Park** (Red Wiggler), 22 boxes, 73 bluebirds fledged.

**Little Bennet Regional Park**, 26 boxes, 73 bluebirds fledged.

**Home trail**, 6 boxes, 8 bluebirds fledged.

## Nesting News, continued

**Ed Escalante, MBS board member and Coordinator for Montgomery County**, fledged 65 bluebirds and 64 tree swallows from the 32 nestboxes he monitors at Little Bennett Regional Park. There are 15 paired boxes on the trail and all feature the 1.5 round entrance hole.

**Karen Unruh, MBS Coordinator for Kent County**, has 2 nestboxes at her home. One of the boxes had an active bluebird nest that fledged 4 bluebirds. The other nestbox had an active nest but the eggs were tossed by house wrens.

**MBS Coordinator Janice Ward, of Worcester, Somerset and Wicomico Counties** reports the following from her trails in **Worcester County**:

**Nassawango Trail** fledged 57 bluebirds, 32 tree swallows, 10 chickadees and 7 Carolina wrens (bluebird fledgings were slightly better than 2015).

**Cedartown Trail** fledged 78 bluebirds and 18 tree swallows. She was happy to add that both the Nassawango and the Cedartown trails each had a box that hosted 3 bluebird nestings

**MBS members John and Judy Lilga** submitted the following report for the bluebird trail at **Antietam National Battlefield in Washington County** for the 2016 nesting season:

Trail founders Mark and Jean Raabe retired from monitoring at Antietam after fledging their 10,000<sup>th</sup> bluebird in 2015. It was their wish that the Maryland Bluebird Society be involved in future monitoring of the trail. John and Judy had assisted the Raabes with trail monitoring and maintenance for 10 years prior to the Raabe's retirement and agreed to take over management of the 80+ box trail. MBS Past President and Frederick County Coordinator, Kathy Kremnitzer, along with Washington County Coordinator, Jenny Hendershot, joined the team and shared in the monitoring of the trail.

Nesting results for the 2016 season are as follows:

Bluebirds fledged: 372 (1 less than in 2015)

Tree swallows fledged: 130

The Lilgas added that house sparrows and black snakes were the primary predators for 2016. They write, "The sparrow predation was enhanced this past season by the demolition of the house that sat at the corner of Rt. 65 and Dunker Church Road. This house had a number of small out-buildings in which the sparrows had nested for years. When those out-buildings no longer provided nesting habitat, the sparrows took over the bluebird boxes all along Dunker Church Road, killing a number of bluebirds in the process. There were 65 instances of house sparrow vandalism in 2016, compared with 22 instances in 2015." A trapping strategy was implemented which lessened the instance of house sparrow nesting attempts and predation.

Black snake predation was also prominent throughout the battlefield with several boxes being vandalized repeatedly. Plans for 2017 include relocation of these boxes before nesting season begins.

**MBS Baltimore County Coordinator Matt Storms** reports fledging 45 bluebirds, 5 tree swallows and 4 chickadees from his trail in Baltimore.

Volunteers **Martha Johnston** and **Hank Russell** (with advice from **Paul Kilduff**) revived the nestbox trail program at Lake Roland in **Baltimore County**, including the first phase of a trail expansion and upgrade. The trail's 10 boxes fledged 17 bluebirds, 24 tree swallows and 7 house wrens.



Above is a side-opening nestbox photo of a 10 to 12-day old bluebird nestling at Lake Roland on one of the hottest days in July. Photo by Martha Johnston.

From her farm in Virginia  
a friend writes  
that bluebirds abound,  
nesting in battered boxes  
set on fence posts where  
the online information  
says they shouldn't be.  
She doesn't clear away old nests  
or try to keep the sparrows out.  
"Live and let live," is her guide.

Here in Maryland,  
I clean and monitor,  
feed my two blues  
daily mealworm treats.  
Twice I've found  
three fully-feathered babies  
dead inside their perfect house.  
I grieve as if mine were  
the only two left on this earth,  
and Noah's ark had just set sail.

Poem by Joyce Brown

## Maryland Bluebird Society's County Coordinators

MBS's County Coordinator Program is an important aspect of what our society is all about, helping bluebirders throughout the state when troubles arise. These volunteers accept phone calls and e-mails and are ready to assist with information and resources on the spur of the moment. Do you need help figuring out how to set up your nestbox? Maybe you have an abandoned nesting and don't know why. Perhaps house sparrows are plaguing your neighborhood and you don't know what to do. An MBS County Coordinator is always willing to listen and share whatever knowledge and experience they can with you.

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THE MARYLAND BLUEBIRD SOCIETY, INC.  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Maryland Bluebird Society  
10809 Rock Run Drive  
Potomac, MD 20854

Instructions: Print and complete this application and mail to the above address. Please remember to enclose your check payable to the Maryland Bluebird Society. Memberships and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

New Application     Renewal Application

Note: Membership is effective for the calendar year (s) in which the dues are paid, except that dues paid in the fourth calendar quarter are also effective for the year after which they are paid. Please check the appropriate membership category:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual:     One year - \$10.00     Three years - \$25.00

Household:     One year - \$15.00     Three years - \$40.00

Lifetime:     Individual - \$250.00     Household - \$300.00

Student – age 23 or under     One year - \$7.00     Three years - \$20.00

Corporate/non-profit     One year - \$30.00     Three years - \$85.00

Corporate sponsor (non-voting) One year - \$100.00

Make a tax deductible donation, amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please print:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No.:     home     cell     work    \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about MBS? \_\_\_\_\_