



An Affiliate of NABS
 Mission:
 To increase the
 population of bluebirds
 and other native
 cavity-nesting birds
 through the promotion
 of bluebird awareness
 among concerned
 citizens.



Bluebirds *Across Nebraska*



www.bbne.org

Volume 15
 Number 4
 Winter 2008/09

The BANNER

President's Message from Sandy Seibert

Children are the future

Introducing BAN's TAK-Along Project

Thanks to the dedication of so many members of Bluebirds Across Nebraska, bluebirds are now flourishing in the state. For each of the past seven years, we have fledged more than 20,000 birds. Have you ever considered who will carry on these efforts when the current generation is gone? Will our children or grandchildren, who spend so much time watching television, working on the computer, or playing computer games, take up our crusade? Conditions for bluebirds are not going to get any better and, unfortunately, they will probably get worse. There is a continual loss of habitat and the problems house sparrows and starlings inflict on bluebirds will not stop. Without the continued efforts of humans, the chances of bluebirds surviving are slim.

I feel one of the responsibilities we have as members of a conservation organization, is to pass on to the children in our lives a love and respect for nature. I am very pleased to announce that BAN is starting a new project called TAK-Along: Take A Kid Along. By becoming a participant in the TAK-Along project, you will be passing on a legacy of love for bluebirds and nature in general.

Participation in the project is quite simple. We are asking each participant to take a child; a son, daughter, grandchild, niece, nephew, friend's or neighbor's child along at least once this summer while monitoring their bluebird trail. Hopefully, the experience will be so rewarding that the child will want to go again and again. While walking the trail, we are asking that the adult explain to the child the importance and value of monitoring a bluebird trail. Children will love learning about the lives of bluebirds while being taught how to monitor a trail. We want you to plant and nurture a seed of love for bluebirds in the mind of your child in the hopes that they will someday follow in your footsteps.

One of the great things about monitoring a bluebird trail

is that nature is all around. Participating in this project will give you a wonderful opportunity to teach a child about all kinds of nature-related topics. Most children love to look at bugs, birds, frogs, and fish. They are curious about the buds, flowers, leaves, berries and nuts that grow on plants, trees and shrubs. TAK-Along will give you the opportunity to help a child develop a love for all things in nature.

BAN's goal for 2009 is to have 100 members participate in this project. A registration form will be included in the next issue of the BANNER. If you choose, you may include \$10.00 with your application for monitoring supplies for the child. These include Bluebird Rescue, a child's book on bluebirds; The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of Eastern North America, child's field guide; a fanny pack to carry trail supplies; a spiral notebook for trail records and a pen to record notes. The retail value of these items is about \$30. BAN will cover the additional expense. It is not necessary to purchase these supplies to participate in TAK-Along, but it is suggested to make the activity more successful.

If you are interested in participating in the TAK-Along project and plan to attend the April 18 conference in Beatrice, bring your application along. The trail supplies will be available at that time. Supplies can also be mailed for an additional \$6.00 to cover the cost of mailing.

I hope that many of you will be excited about this project. I think that it will be a wonderful way to share quality time with a child you love plus help instill in them a life-long love of nature.



February Meetings Include Potluck Lunch

Joint Winter Quarterly Meeting and Eastern County Coordinator Meeting - Feb. 15, noon

All members and friends are invited to attend the Winter Quarterly POTLUCK meeting to be held Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Women's Club Building in Raymond, Neb. The Women's Club is located on main street in Raymond; you can't miss it. The potluck will begin at noon. For those of you who regularly attend the meetings, please note that due to the combined meeting, the start time has been moved up to noon.

BAN will provide chicken and drinks for those attending. Please bring a side

dish or desert to share, along with your own table service.

After lunch, the general meeting will precede the county coordinator meeting. All are welcome to attend both. Although there are separate agendas for each meeting, members will find the discussions held in both meetings to be informative but casual; and the officers and board members are always looking for input, feedback, and ideas from our members.

Western County Coordinator Meeting - Feb. 8, noon

The annual Western County Coordinator Meeting scheduled for

Sunday, Feb. 8, is again being held at the Mitzi Pavilion at Yanney Park in Kearney, Nebraska.

We hope the more central location and second meeting date enable the majority of our coordinators to find a location and date they can attend.

The meeting will begin with a potluck lunch at noon. BAN will provide chicken for those attending and ask that you bring a side dish or desert to share, along with your own table service.

In addition to the annual distribution of nest boxes, County Coordinator Chairman Bill Seibert has a number of items and ideas to discuss.

NOTE: Anyone needing bluebird boxes can purchase them at either of the above meetings. See page 3.

Quarterly meeting minutes

BAN Quarterly Meeting - Nov. 16, 2008
by Joanie Cradick, Secretary

The meeting was held at the Roca Community Center. Following the potluck lunch, President Sandy Seibert called the meeting was called to order and the following committee reports were given:

Treasurer's Report: Elva Osten reported 77 renewals, including four life memberships, and 68 new memberships. The current membership is 1,928. That number includes 261 on grace status.

Box Production: Sanford Downs reported he has 125 boxes in production. Steve Eno reported that the cost of conduit had increased and BAN now charges \$4 per pole. BAN will, however, continue to offer new members our package deal of a three-year membership, two nest boxes and two conduit/rebar mounting systems for \$20.

New County Coordinators: Bill Seibert reported Bob Peterson will be county coordinator for Logan, McPherson and Thomas Counties. Also, Richardson County Coordinator Cliff Elwonger has relinquished his position but he has identified a successor -- Jan McMullen of Stella. Many thanks to Cliff for his good work all these years.

Directory Reports: Sandy reported that the bluebird numbers are down this year. As of November, our numbers totaled 15,845 bluebirds fledged, but there are many members who

have not yet turned in their report forms. County coordinators were asked to remind members in their counties to please turn in their forms as every bluebird counts.

Newsletter: Cheryl Eno requested articles, notes and other materials for the newsletter. On another matter, Cheryl reported that the first step in creating an educational display of nests and eggs has been accomplished. BAN now has a state permit allowing the salvage of inactive native bird nests, unhatched eggs, and feathers. A federal permit, validating the state permit, is in the works.

Spring Conference: The 2009 conference will be held April 18 in Beatrice and all the speakers will be from Nebraska.

TAK-Along Project: To introduce this new project, Sandy Seibert is asking for pictures which show children in nature—examples could include a child holding a walking stick, examining an oak leaf, planting a seed or gazing at a spider's web. She asks that the pictures be sent to her digitally.

Opportunities in BAN:

- BAN needs someone to create or revitalize our current educational exhibit which we display in booths, at fairs and conferences.

- BAN has purchased a digital picture display which county coordinators can borrow for their programs and workshops. The display frame utilizes a SanDisk card or flash stick. Contact a BAN officer if you would like to use it.

Welcome our newest members

Nebraska: Naomi Armstrong, Papillion; Mary Avery, Lincoln; Steve Dey, Gresham; Richard Donovan, Wymore; Janice Faulkner, Omaha; Susan Fithian, Elkhorn; Kevin & Ashley Holliday, Shubert; Sidney, Josephine & Katelynn Holliday, Lincoln; Norman Johnson, York; Jim Mayfield, Louisville; Theresa McMorro, Omaha; Scott Raasch, Norfolk; Roseann Schiffern, Atkinson; William Shonka, Gresha. **Iowa:** Clara McKee, Emerson. **Missouri:** Ivan & Anna Miller, Jamesport.

Have you had a change of address?

If you have moved or had a change of address due to rural 911 address requirements, please let us know. Under bulk mailing restrictions, the Postal Service does not forward mail to an addressee's new address, but returns it to BAN's post office box with postage due. BAN then sends your newsletter to the correct address with additional postage required.

Anyone with a change of address should contact Membership Chair, Sandy Seibert, 2115 S. 114th St., Omaha, NE 68144-3035 or e-mail us at info@bbne.org. Your help in keeping our costs down is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Is it time to renew?

Take a moment to check the date above your name and address. If your membership has expired, please renew today. Your continued support is appreciated.



The North American Bluebird Society A Plus

Because your bluebird organization is an affiliate member, the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) created the "A+" membership just for you.

Single membership A+ price: \$15.00 (\$5 savings)
Household membership A+ price: \$15.00 (\$15 savings)

Membership includes a subscription to "Bluebird," NABS' quarterly journal. Your membership will support bluebird conservation, education and research.

Go to www.nabluebirdsociety.org/APlus to sign up today. If you prefer, you may mail payment and contact information to NABS, P.O. Box 43, Miamiville, OH 45147 with a notation "A+."

The NABS Board approved the "A+" offer for 2007 and 2008 designates \$5.00 of each "A+" membership for the Zeleny Endowment Fund. "A+" Membership is available to individuals with membership in a NABS affiliate organization.

BAN Membership Renewal Form



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ County _____

Please check if you have had a change of address or phone

Please mail this membership form and your tax-deductible contribution to:

Membership, BAN
P.O. Box 67157
Lincoln, NE 68506-7157

- Individual - 1 year \$7.00
- Individual - 3 years \$15.00
- Family - 1 year \$10.00
- Family - 3 years \$25.00
- Business, Corporation,
or Civic Organization - 1 year \$50.00
- Lifetime Individual \$70.00
- Lifetime Family \$100.00
- Additional Tax-Deductible
Donation \$ _____

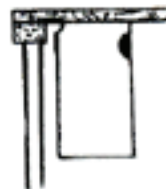
You can now renew your membership online with PayPal at www.bbne.org!



Boxes and poles for sale

Are you planning to expand or replace boxes on your trail next season? We often receive calls wondering where people can buy more boxes and mounting poles. Boxes can normally be purchased through a BAN county coordinator or by calling Steve Eno and arranging to pick them up at his home near Raymond. This year, BAN will have boxes and poles available for sale at both of the county coordinator meetings. Anyone wanting to buy additional boxes or poles can stop in at the meeting locations and pick them up — no meeting attendance required!

BAN's mission is to increase the population of bluebirds and we can't do that without getting monitored boxes out there. Therefore, BAN sells its bluebird boxes for less than you can find them ANYWHERE else.



**PVC Box
w/mounting
system**

\$11.00



**Gilwood
Box w/
mounting
system**

\$12.00



**Troyer Box
w/mounting
system**

\$11.00

Mark your calendar

15th Annual Bluebird Conference Beatrice, Nebraska Saturday, April 18

Bluebirds Across Nebraska's 15th Annual Conference will be held Saturday, April 18, at the beautiful Beatrice Country Club in Beatrice, Neb. This year's conference will highlight speakers from within the organization who will share their expertise, experiences, and ideas on a variety of topics which will inform, inspire, and entertain you. In addition to bluebird-related topics, the National Homestead Monument will be among the slated topics of the day. Saturday's keynote speaker is Nebraska's own Dick Turpin. We will have a little "Turpin time" of our own when Dick shares an assortment of his nature-related adventures.

In addition and prior to the conference program on Saturday a special guided tour of the Homestead National Monument and Heritage Center is being arranged for BAN members on Friday, April 17. BAN's traditional pre-conference banquet will follow Friday evening at the Country Club.

Look for more information along with the conference registration form in the next newsletter!

Contact us

You can always contact us with questions, comments, concerns, or "error advisories" via e-mail at info@bbne.org. We will respond to all e-mails received! Or write to us at P.O. Box 67157, Lincoln, NE 68506-7157.



Bluebirds Across Nebraska
P.O. Box 67157
Lincoln, NE 68506-7157

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
Permit No. 1231

Calendar of Events

- March 6** Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2009 Issue of the BANner Newsletter. Share YOUR experience, stories and/or photos with fellow bluebirders.
- Feb. 8** Western County Coordinator Potluck Meeting. Kearney - Yanney Heritage Park; Mitzi Pavilion — Noon. See page 2.
- Feb. 15** BAN Winter Potluck Meeting AND Eastern County Coordinator Meeting. Raymond - Women's Club — Noon. See page 2.
- April 18** BAN Annual Statewide Bluebird Conference — Beatrice Country Club! 13th & Oak Streets. Homestead National Monument Guided Tour & Pre-conference Banquet — Friday, April 17.
- June 7** BAN Spring Potluck Meeting - lunch at 1:00, meeting at 2:00. Platte River State Park.
- June 12-14** Mountain Bluebird Trails 35th Anniversary Celebration - Great Falls, Montana -with Al Batt, Julie Zickefoose, & Bill Thompson, III. More information to follow.
- Aug. 16** BAN Summer Potluck Meeting — Niebuhr Acreage, Crete, Nebraska, 1:00.
- Sept. 9-13** 2009 North American Bluebird Society Convention -- Grantville, Pennsylvania. More information coming in Spring 2009 BANner

Nominations sought for Bluebirder of the Year

Bluebirds Across Nebraska is now accepting nominations for BAN's 2008 Bluebirder of the Year. The annual award is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to bluebird conservation.

A nominee can be an individual who has contributed to the bluebird recovery effort in a variety of ways -- from putting up trails, monitoring boxes, putting on workshops, building boxes, getting others started in bluebirding, or other ways you feel have helped to increase bluebirds or bluebird

awareness. The deadline for submitting nominations is March 25, 2009.

If you would like to nominate someone you feel is deserving of this special recognition, please send their name and the reasons you feel they qualify to:

Bluebirds Across Nebraska, P. O. Box 67157,
Lincoln, NE 68506

The award will be presented Saturday, April 18, at BAN's conference in Beatrice.