



**Virginia
Bluebird
Society**

The Bird Box

July 2006

Calendar

September 1: Begin compiling your data from the 2006 nesting season.

September 1: Deadline for your articles and photos for the October *Bird Box*.

September 15 - 17: Clinch Mountain Trails Birding Festival. See www.clinchmountaintrails.com.

September 30: Complete your trail summary data forms. Blank forms are posted on the VBS Web site, www.virginiabluebirds.org. Send completed forms to your County Coordinator or Charlie Chambers. See page 2.

October 6 - 8: Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival, Kiptopeke. Contact Jeff Trollinger or Marci and Brian Swanson (see page 2).

November 4: Join fellow VBS members at the General Meeting in Winchester during the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society Birding Festival. See photo contest details, page 4. For more details about the Festival, contact Marci Swanson (see page 2) and see the October *Bird Box*.

Visit Our Web Site

The VBS Web site offers nest box plans, trail monitoring protocol, trail data forms, news, and links to other useful sites:

www.virginiabluebirds.org.

Keeping Up with 'Team Bluebird'

For almost a half dozen years, two labs at the College of William and Mary have maintained an ever-growing network of bird boxes around Williamsburg, Virginia. We have begun to refer to all participants in our project as "Team Bluebird," although to be more accurate we probably should say "Team Cavity-Nester," since we deal also with chickadees, titmice, and wrens. To be really accurate, we'd have to use a more encompassing name such as "Team Nature" or "Team Outdoors," given the incredible variety of organisms, situations, and events to which our field work exposes us.

Our forays along the box trails are for two specific purposes: to check in on active nests and measure and band chicks, and to observe parent birds as they raise their young in different environments. For the former, this involves taking wing-length and weight measurements twice during the two-week growth period; for the latter, we sit for 90 minutes and take notes on what the parents are doing and what sorts of disturbance they experience.

In general, a typical day in the field is uneventful, with nothing more exciting than a wasp nest in the box or a surprise thunderstorm. Although fewer than half our sites are golf courses, I catch a lot of flack from "real" biologists for being able to use a golf cart to do much of my field research. Now, I admit that on many of those typical Virginia summer days, I am unbelievably grateful to motor along paved golf course paths, in the shade, with the wind on my face. But that doesn't mean that all our field work is a breeze.

In fact, my two seasons here at William and Mary have given me more unusual stories than all of my previous years of field experience combined. I find that most of my stories involve one of the following: strange occurrences at field sites, bizarre events, animal tales, and interesting people I have encountered.

Field Conditions

Our sites have anywhere from 20 to 60 boxes, which can take 1-4 hours to check, depending on how many nests are occupied. The length of each visit also depends on field conditions. If we visit a golf course with a fair number of active golfers, a 45-minute visit can take twice as long, since we have to wait for people to tee off and finish putting on the green. During one observation, the only place I could find with a view of my box was the same distance most golfers could hit from the tee. When I heard the crack of a ball being struck, I would duck behind the steering wheel of my golf cart, because the balls kept heading toward me, bouncing off trees and rolling just in front of me. I have come within inches of being hit in the head, and several balls have bounced off bird boxes or hit trees with perched bluebirds.

[See page 4]



Photo © Helen Ellis, Backyard Boutique Photography

Promoting bluebirds and other cavity nesters

The Bird Box

Issue 8.1

Newsletter of the
Virginia Bluebird Society
www.virginiabluebirds.org

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We welcome your written items and artwork (photos and drawings) for *The Bird Box*! Send your materials by e-mail or on diskette to Sarah or Bob.

VBS News

Final Nesting Tally for 2005

In the March *Bird Box*, I reported that we had received data from 2,320 bluebird boxes statewide. The total has since increased to 2,848, which is a record, more than 400 boxes over our previous record in 2003. As always, the credit goes to those members around the state who have conscientiously kept the records and sent in the data, as well as those who have built new trails. **Good for y'all!**

Altogether we fledged 6,778 bluebirds, 593 chickadees, 3,028 Tree Swallows, 1,131 House Wrens, and 221 other species, mostly Tufted Titmice, for a total of 11,751 birds. While this is a good record, the conclusions from my previous report do not change: after the major decline (nearly 50 percent) in bluebirds fledged in 2003, the bluebirds are making halting progress, but we aren't back to the pre-2003 level of productivity. The statewide summary is posted on the VBS Web site.

Predation Analysis? Also in March, I promised to present an analysis of the effectiveness of the various predator protection measures we use. I compared protection measures with rates of predation for all of the data forms that reported both kinds of information (about a quarter of all the data), but I was unable to find any useful results.
– **Charlie Chambers**

What Does a County Coordinator Do?

There are about 95 counties in Virginia and many cities and towns. So far, 27 counties have VBS County Coordinators. As State County Coordinator, I communicate with them about VBS news and needs such as last year's offer of funds for developing new trails. These folks gather the trail data from the bluebirders in their counties for VBS and make sure it gets to **Charlie Chambers** in a timely fashion.

We could use more of them. You will find a complete list of County Coordinators and the counties they represent on the VBS Web site, www.virginiabluebirds.org. If you don't own a computer and need a copy of the list, please contact me (703-978-6609 or bj.chambers@verizon.net).

If your county is not represented, consider offering your time and energy and enthusiasm for the bluebird and other cavity nesters. It is a good way to be actively involved in our organization at a level that is comfortable for you. We have some very creative coordinators who contribute a lot to our knowledge and to our newsletter. We also have many who simply do a terrific job gathering the trail data from their county and sending it in to Charlie. We need you all. Everyone brings to any organization their interests and strengths. That is all the commitment you need to make.

Becoming a County Coordinator adds a VBS contact in your area whom other, newer bluebirders can turn to with their questions and problems. You just need to be knowledgeable about bluebirds and the VBS protocol for boxes and monitoring. You are the member close enough to go "take a look" if needed. I may not always be able to do that, but I certainly will come out and get you started with a slide program and the gift of a Stokes video you can lend out or use for your own programs.

The more members we attract, the more trails we can put up, and the more bluebirds we can raise in safe, healthy boxes – and the more successful we become as an environmental educational force in Virginia. You can help us do that by volunteering. I will help train anyone interested! There are some written guidelines I can send you. Give me a call.
– **Barbara Chambers**

VSO Meeting Brings Birds, Knowledge

The 76th Annual Meeting of the Virginia Society of Ornithology (VSO), of which VBS is a member, was held at the Breaks Interstate Park and hosted by the Buchanan County Bird Club. It got off to a flying start on Friday, May 5, with Early Birding on Enoch's Branch and Compton Mountain. Birders saw 64 species including Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers in these two locations. Birders also toured parts of the bluebird trail on Compton Mountain and heard from my husband, **Roger**, about how the boxes are set up and how they are checked each week. That evening the Breaks Park offered more great birding opportunities, as birds came to the trees near the balconies of the birders' rooms and seemed to pose to be identified and counted.

On Saturday morning many birders were "complaining" about the noisy Whip-poor-wills outside their rooms. After the Business Session, the owling began, and local birder David Raines enhanced his owl-calling reputation not only by having a Barred Owl answer him but also by bringing out three, possibly four. Birders then set off to nine different locations. One of the highlights of the day was when the FRS radios came to life with the news that Ed Caudill's group had a Sora on the Lake Trail. Swainson's Warblers were seen in several locations. Other warbler species were in abundance.

As one of many Buchanan County residents interested in bluebirds and bluebird trails, I was pleased that Caitlin Kight would present her paper, "Effects of Human Disturbance on the Breeding Success of Eastern Bluebirds," later on Saturday. [See *Caitlin Kight's article, page 1.*] Roger and I monitor the bluebird trail on Compton Mountain and in the Breaks Park. We have 27 bluebird boxes on our mountain, so the chance that we could be harming the birds was of great interest to me.

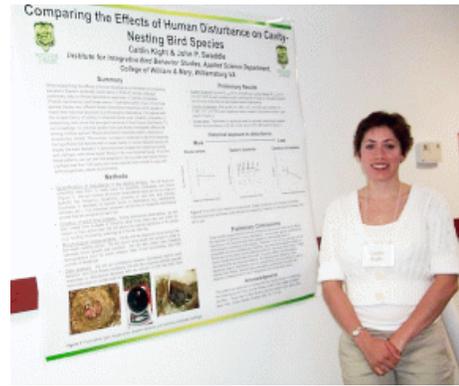
I was first in line to hear Caitlin's paper. Her research gave us all some second thoughts. Are we harming bluebirds by monitoring our trails, or are we gathering useful research data for students like Caitlin? I came away from her program with a great deal of respect for adult bluebirds, which often neglect their own needs to check on their young after each disturbance.

A second paper, presented by Rebecka Brasso, discussed mercury levels in Tree Swallows and gave rise to much discussion in the hallways afterward about the need to monitor our waterways and airways and clean up our environment. [See *Rebecka Brasso's article, page 5.*] Many birders expressed an interest in a follow up program to learn the results of the survival rate of the Tree Swallows being studied.

Other papers presented to a standing-room-only crowd included Clair Mellinger's Saw-whet Owl presentation and Terry Smith's study of the Prothonotary Warbler's mate choices.

Saturday evening we enjoyed a fantastic program by author Don Kroodsmma. We were spellbound as he presented bird sounds and sonograms of bird songs with hidden trills – notes and tidbits from other birds' songs mixing together to form a song that even though we were listening, we had not really heard. Mr. Kroodsmma opened a new world to all of us and we are ready to enjoying the birds in our world in a new way.

As clouds moved in on Sunday morning, birders braved the threat of rain to attend a workshop with Don Kroodsmma and came away vowing to listen to the birds more closely and promising to study their neighborhood birds by learning their particular songs. The rains came, but the field trips continued with many birders adding to their life lists before leaving for home. – *Lynda Mayhorn*



Caitlin Kight and her presentation poster at VSO
Photo: Lynda Mayhorn

2006 Data Forms On Web Site

– Due by September –

Please use the revised VBS Trail Annual Summary Form when you send your data to your County Coordinator or to me. It is available on the VBS Web site, www.virginiabluebirds.org. If you cannot download it, I will send you a copy; please e-mail or write me (bj.chambers@verizon.net or 8911 Moreland Lane, Annandale, VA 22003-3915). Please compile the forms in September and send them in.

I have one other request. Several of our trail leaders sent me their 2005 data on a pre-1999 data form called the VBS Individual Trail Summary Worksheet. In 2000, we transitioned to a much more friendly (and more useful) form called the Trail Annual Summary Form. So **please** help us by using this form and not the old one!

– *Charlie Chambers, VBS Nest Box Data Compiler*

VBS Board Meeting

VBS Directors from around the state met in Richmond for the spring Board meeting on March 18. **November 4** was chosen as the date for the VBS General Meeting in Winchester, during the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society Birding Festival. Subsidizing the establishment of new trails and publishing the *Bird Box* electronically as well as in hard copy were among the topics discussed.

Second Annual Photo Contest

Sponsored by the Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (www.audubon-nsvas.org)

Who May Enter

Amateur photographers may enter in one of three age groups:

- T** Elementary: up to age 12 years
- T** High School: ages 13 to 17 years
- T** Adult: ages 18 and over

What to Enter

Any photograph that is bird related.

How to Enter

Please mail your photograph with entry information to:

Judy Hagan
199 Canter Court
Winchester, VA 22602
540-667-6778

You may enter up to three photographs. They may be of any size, black and white or color. No slides will be accepted. By entering the contest, you grant NSVAS the right to use the photograph in its newsletter and ads. No photographs will be returned unless you pick them up at the Birding Festival on November 4, 2006, after 1 p.m. Put name, address, age level, phone number, title, where and when taken on the back of the photo.

Entry Deadline

Must be postmarked by October 1.

Judging

By three members of NSVAS.

The winners will be announced at noon at the Birding Festival, held in Winchester's Jim Barnett Park at the War Memorial building on November 4.

Prizes

Grand prize: Nikon Monarch Binoculars (a \$300 value). The grand prize winner will be chosen from all entries.

Group prize: A National Geographic Bird Guide

Age group prizes, too.

Grand NABS Convention in Texas

The Texas Bluebird Society welcomed guests from over 25 states and two Canadian provinces for the 2006 North American Bluebird Society (NABS) convention in San Antonio during the last week of April. Participants were awed by David Luneau's story of his trip into the Arkansas swamps where he took the famous video of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (whom he calls "King of the Cavity Nesters"), and listened with fascination to Paul and Georgean Kyle's adventures in building towers for and then raising abandoned Chimney Swifts (a declining cavity nester). Attendees found out how to build a Web cam for their own bluebird box at home and were offered a huge variety of field trips into the Texas Hill Country.

VBS was represented at NABS by **Priscilla and Ron Kingston** from Charlottesville. This was Ron's 29th consecutive annual convention; he is chairman of the NABS Speaker's Bureau. **Marci and Brian Swanson** from Gainesville also attended, and Brian was elected to the NABS Board of Directors, following in the footsteps of Ron, and of VBS's Julie Kutruff and Anne Little. Special thanks go to Ron and Priscilla for donating a Virginia flag for the Parade of Flags, which opened the convention.

— *Marci Swanson*

Team Bluebird (from page 1)

Because of the flat landscape in our region, many of our sites have a tendency to flood during rainy weather. During one season we had three boxes that were almost permanently inundated with several feet of water. Of course this prevented birds from nesting there, but the tree frogs had a field day (no pun intended). According to my advisor, who had to check the site, the boxes served as wooden lily pads and were bustling with amphibian activity.

Some locations are nasty whether wet or dry. Two of our sites are mowed only twice a year—early spring and late summer—in order to allow grass-nesting birds to safely breed. This means that by the middle of June, the grasses have grown chest- or head-high, so that we practically have to swim through a sea of sticky, prickly plants and their endless supply of ticks and other biting insects. One of these sites also has large groundhog dens, so that in the process of parting grass, searching for the boxes, and walking forward, you can easily stick a foot knee-deep into a woodchuck burrow. I know from personal experience that the bruises from this last for weeks!

Unexpected Occurrences

Last summer while I checked boxes along the Colonial Parkway, I was approached by a park ranger (the Parkway is owned by the National Park Service) who wanted to know what I was doing. We have a permit for working along the Parkway, and most of the officers recognize my car because I am there so often. But this particular day, the ranger had been sent to investigate all cars that were parked along the edge of the road near one of the beaches close to Jamestown.

Apparently a bomb had washed up from one of the old military ships sunk in the James River, and people who had heard this over the police scanner had come to partake in the excitement. Within minutes two Navy bomb squads, along with a number of other emergency vehicles, had come to take care of the situation. This is perhaps my favorite field story of all time, and one that I find quite useful in hushing the people who make fun of my time on golf courses—after all, when is the last time they risked explosion, all in the name of science?

— *Caitlin Kight*

[*Caitlin Kight is a graduate student at William and Mary. She presented her research at this year's VSO Annual Meeting (see page 3). This article continues in the October Bird Box.*]

Tree Swallows and Mercury

A year and a half ago I created a nest box trail in the Shenandoah River Valley to study the effects of mercury contamination on the local avian community in collaboration with my advisor, Dan Cristol. From 1929 to 1950, mercury was released from an industrial source into the South River, a tributary of the South Fork Shenandoah River. My main objective was to determine whether mercury was making its way into the terrestrial ecosystem, using Tree Swallows as bioindicators.

Tree Swallows are commonly used in studies on environmental contaminants as they are secondary cavity nesters who readily use nest boxes and allow easy access to the adult birds and their young. In addition, Tree Swallows are insectivores feeding on prey with fully aquatic larval stages. This is important because as the Tree Swallows consume these emerging insects they accumulate any contaminants, in this case mercury, absorbed by the insect during its larval stage in the contaminated system. At high levels, mercury is a potent neurotoxin, but even very small amounts of mercury can cause decreased reproductive success in birds. My study focused on the mercury levels present in Tree Swallows nesting along contaminated sites and compared their reproductive success with birds nesting in reference (mercury-free) areas.

Beginning in February 2005, I placed 200 Tree Swallow nest boxes along the South, Middle, and North Rivers. Approximately 100 of the nest boxes were placed along the contaminated South River, and 100 boxes were placed at reference sites along the Middle and North Rivers as well as upstream of the contamination source on the South River. In design, a Tree Swallow nest box is identical to a bluebird box, with the addition of a roughened interior to help the short-legged adults and nestlings climb out of the box. Each box was fitted with a metal baffle, or predator guard, to reduce predation. The nest boxes were placed 20-25 meters apart in open areas within 50 meters of the river to encourage use by Tree Swallows. Unlike bluebirds, Tree Swallows do not defend feeding territories around their nest boxes. So they nest at higher densities, which allowed a large number of boxes to be erected at each study site. Mercury levels were assessed by taking small blood and feather samples from the adults and chicks during the nesting period. The Tree Swallow nests were monitored to assess basic reproductive parameters such as clutch size, hatching success, and nestling survivorship to detect any effects of mercury contamination.

In all, 186 of 200 nest boxes were used last season. I had 125 Tree Swallow nests, which exceeded my expectations because this was the first year the boxes were present in this area. I was able to band 604 Tree Swallows, of which 99 were adult birds. While 56 of the breeding females were second-year birds, I had only 19 after-second-year females. Female Tree Swallows maintain juvenile plumage through their first breeding season, while all after-second-year females look more similar to the blue-green iridescent males, so it is easy to tell them apart.

In addition to the Tree Swallows, there were at least 37 Eastern Bluebird nests. I was able to band approximately 126 bluebirds, both adults and chicks. Bluebirds feed on insects from within the flood plain and as a result were not a target species for our study as they were less likely to accumulate large amounts of mercury. However, since there were a number of nests, bluebirds were also sampled for mercury, but their nesting success was not as carefully monitored. In addition to the Tree Swallows and bluebirds, there were a few Carolina Chickadees, House Wrens, and pesky House Sparrow nests built in the boxes.

[See page 6]

Save the Date

Gather for a good time with your fellow VBS members at our annual General Meeting on **November 4** in Winchester, Virginia. This year's meeting is being held at the site of the Northern Shenandoah Audubon Society's (NSVAS) Birding Festival at Jim Barnett Park at the War Memorial Building.

Check the October *Bird Box* for more details on the VBS gathering. See page 4 for the NSVAS photo contest rules.

Banding in Northern Virginia

Two banding programs sponsored by the Virginia Bluebird Society and conducted by **David Mitchell** are in progress this summer in Loudoun County. One is the Eastern Bluebird color-banding project, and the other is MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding at Ban-shee Reeks. Look for more details in future editions of the *Bird Box*.

Remember to call David at 540-822-4553 if you see a color-banded bluebird.



Rebecka Brasso with 15-day-old Tree Swallow
Photo: Rebecka Brasso

Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire



Brian Swanson staffs VBS display at Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire
Photo: Marci Swanson

Brian Swanson was a guest speaker at the Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire in Abingdon, Virginia, and both Marci and Brian set up the Virginia Bluebird Society display for Faire participants on April 21 and 22. The Mid-Atlantic Faire is put on each spring by the Washington County Virginia Master Gardeners and is housed in the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center off of Interstate 81, Exit 14. There are educational programs, demonstrations, beautiful plants for sale, and door prizes galore. Inviting the Bluebird Society was an unusual move for Evelyn Goldston and Sandra Darden, this year's co-chairs, but they wanted to bring in something of interest to the many people in their part of Virginia who are interested in the birds. Marci said that they had over 700 people visiting their display with questions about birds and with many stories about Bluebirds. Peggy Spiegel from VBS had spoken at the Faire last year, and, as a result, nest boxes have been set up along the Virginia

Creepers Trail outside Abingdon. Without guards, the bluebirds nesting there are still vulnerable, so Marci and Brian emphasized the importance of Noel guards and snake guards on each box. Brian's seminar on "Keeping Nuisance Birds Out of Your Garden" drew many interested local gardeners and resulted in an invitation to VBS to return another year.

Bluebird Film Available

The highly recommended "Bluebirds, Inside the Nest Box" is now available directly from the North Carolina Bluebird Society (NCBS). Created in cooperation with the Cornell Birdhouse Network, this colorful account of Eastern Bluebirds box habits from nest building to fledging is available in DVD and VHS for \$13.85 a copy. Visit the NCBS Web site, www.ncbluebird.com, for more information or send a check to: NCBS, c/o Christine Ammons, 670 Nanneytown Rd., Union Mills, NC 28167-8762.



Clutch of 15-day-old Tree Swallows
Photo: Rebecka Brasso

Tree Swallows and Mercury (from page 5)

Mercury levels found in Tree Swallows and bluebirds in the contaminated areas were an order of magnitude higher than the levels in birds nesting in reference areas. Despite extremely high levels of mercury in the Tree Swallows nesting in contaminated areas, their nesting attempts were as successful as the birds nesting in reference areas. By the end of the summer, over 627 Tree Swallows had fledged from all of the sites combined. Two females successfully raised two broods in one season. Both of these second clutches were from second-year birds. There were approximately 70 bluebirds that fledged; however, I did not monitor a number of second clutches and had completed my field work before the third clutches fledged. Overall, I was not able to detect any impacts of mercury on the nesting success of Tree Swallows. However, it is possible that the effects of mercury contamination may become apparent post-fledging, though I would not have detected them since I measured only pre-fledging nesting parameters.

I will continue my research this summer by comparing the return rates of birds banded in mercury contaminated areas to those banded in reference areas. I have erected 150 additional nest boxes to recruit returning, banded birds as a number of bluebirds have begun to nest in boxes previously occupied by Tree Swallows. House Sparrows have also been quite a nuisance this year! I appreciate the opportunity to share my research with the Virginia Bluebird Society and wish all of you the best of luck with your nest boxes this season!

— Rebecka Brasso

[Rebecka Brasso is a graduate student at William and Mary. She presented her research at this year's VSO Annual Meeting. See page 3.]

Juniperus virginiana: Protection And Food Source

[Editor's note: This is the first installment in a series of articles focusing on enhancing the habitat of your backyard to attract bluebirds and other wildlife.]

Thirty years ago we planted a group of Eastern Red Cedars, *Juniperus virginiana*, in the yard. We dug them out of an old field when they were a few feet high and transplanted them. They are now 40-50 feet tall and quite bushy, and they provide the best wildlife habitat on my family's two-acre property. On a cold evening late this winter, my nephew Paul and I watched bird after bird fly into the cedar trees. As we crept closer, we could hear them moving around and twittering in the early evening darkness as they settled in for the night. In one cedar there were easily 50 or more small birds, ranging from cardinals and chickadees to titmice and juncos. The thick branches concealed the birds from predators like owls and provided a perfect overnight shelter.

In addition, the female Eastern Red Cedar produces a small, blue berry that contains a cluster of 3-4 seeds inside the waxy coat. The berries persist on the tree into the winter and are an excellent food source for wintering bluebirds, Cedar Waxwings, migrating robins, and other birds. Juniper berries are often lifesavers for birds in snowy weather because they commonly grow above the snow-line and remain accessible when other food sources are covered.

Cedars are native to Virginia and are a common successional species that colonizes old fields as they gradually revert to forest. This evergreen is commonly grown in full-sun but can also tolerate some shade. Cedars tolerate a wide range of soil and moisture conditions, making them hardy choices for backyard gardeners. Plant more than one cedar to increase your chances of having a female tree for berries and a male tree for pollination. Large commercial growers often sell only male trees. They select males trees since males do not drop seeds that can result in new trees sprouting in the yard, and males do not produce fruits, which are thought to be messy for homeowners to clean up. (Actually, cedars will not result in messy fruit that requires clean-up.) So do your "homework" when buying trees to find eco-minded growers who sell both male and female. Another option is to ask other property owners if you can transplant cedars growing on their property. Select small trees because cedars' deep tap-root makes them hard to dig after they have grown large.

See the next *Bird Box* for information on another native evergreen that can produce cover and food for wintering birds, the American Holly, *Ilex opaca*.

– Julie Kutruff

[President of VBS from 1999 to 2005, Julie Kutruff is Deputy Superintendent of Parks for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.]

Chickadee Question

Dear *Bird Box*,

I've had chickadees in this box for the past two seasons, but this year it appears they're using the box as a silo for storing moss. [See photo, right.] Last week I took-off the top of the nest to see if there were any signs of a nest inside. Come back this week and it's again filled to the very tippy-tippy top of the box again.

What appears as an entrance hole in the moss is nothing more than an indentation from pressing my finger into the box entrance hole to open it. There's no sign of activity in it. Maybe chickadees do the same as wrens and fill dummy nests inside of nest boxes to keep others away. But I've never seen this type activity before. What do you think?

– Earl Morris

Dummy House Wren Nests May Be Removed

The *Bird Box* will carry a feature story on the House Wren in a future issue. It is important at this time of year, however, to let readers know that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that monitors may remove the sticks of "dummy" nests created by House Wrens. The real nest will have a cup, perhaps with a feather, in a back bottom corner of a box. A flashlight and mirror can help locate the small brown eggs. The House Wren is protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Act, and its real nest may not be removed.

Thoughtful Donation

Earlier this year **Linda Adams** of Lottsburg sent a generous donation to the Virginia Bluebird Society in memory of James Appleton of Annandale, who at the age of 17 died of cancer in November. James had become very interested in birds during 2005 and especially delighted in tours of the Adams' and other bluebird trails.



Join Us!

Become a member of VBS and receive:

- T All the information you need to start and maintain a successful bluebird trail.
- T Access to working trails, workshops, and educational programs.
- T Our newsletter, *The Bird Box*, in July, October, and March.

Annual membership is \$10 Individual, \$15 Family.

Download the membership form from the VBS Web site and send it with your check, payable to VBS, to:

Virginia Bluebird Society
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



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Virginia Bluebird Society
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