



The Bird Box

Summer 2009

However You Get to Your Trail

As expected, Dana Miller stopped by Team Leader Sarah McDade's home on June 7 to pick up the trail notebook and important tools from the team monitoring bucket. The only thing that surprised Sarah was that Dana arrived on her Harley Davidson Sportster! Dana went on to monitor the five-box Eakin Park trail in Fairfax.



Dana Miller, heading for the trail
(Photo: Sarah McDade)

VBS Needs You!

Are you interested in being more involved with VBS? We need your help. We are looking for volunteers to serve on the board of directors, as officers, or as county coordinators. No experience is necessary, and the hours are very flexible. If you are interested and need more information, please contact Carmen Bishop at 703- 764-9268 or cjbish@aol.com.

Albemarle County Is Growing!

In 1986, Dr. Bob Hammond, a retired veterinarian, began construction of a bluebird trail in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area. Twenty years later it had grown to 350 nestboxes located at multiple sites throughout our area. Until well into the second decade he single-handedly constructed, monitored, and maintained them all, but in more recent years gradually recruited a core of monitors to assist. In 2008 Bob was ready to retire from active duty. With his blessings, Janet Paisley and I joined Mary Janet Fowler in her efforts to carry on Bob's good work.

Our first task was to begin restoring the trail. Over this past winter we installed over 50 new nest boxes, 50 baffles, and 30 Noel guards. We held work parties for major refurbishing of four sites within the Hammond Trail: Darden Towe Park, Piedmont Virginia Community College, McIntire, and Meadowcreek Golf Courses. The Meadowcreek trail, which had been neglected for a number of years, now has 30 active boxes. We worked with individual monitors at smaller sites, replacing boxes and installing baffles and Noel guards where needed. We also established two new sites, one at Fontaine Research Park by the State Forestry Department (the foresters did their own installations), the other at Greenbrier Elementary School, where an enthusiastic 4H Club put together boxes from pre-cut pieces and installed them on the playground.

All of this was accomplished with the support of VBS, which gave us 25 nestbox units (boxes, baffles, and Noel guards) that had been built and donated by two Boy Scouts. VBS also provided training and funds for the construction of additional baffles. A grant from the Monticello Bird Club funded more boxes and equipment. Our hardworking winter crew included both seasoned monitors and new recruits. This year we welcomed nine new monitors, increasing our ranks to 22, who watch over our 23 sites.

As a newcomer to bluebirding (this is only my second season), I've certainly learned a lot these past few months – about bluebirds and their predators and about hands-on construction and installation. Thanks to the pole-pounder, my upper body strength has never been better. In addition I've met a number of nice bluebirders and extend special thanks to Ron Kingston (my predecessor as Albemarle County Coordinator), who has been a tremendous help and generous with his time and information.

– Ann Dunn,
Albemarle County
Coordinator



4H member installs a box at Greenbrier Elementary School, Charlottesville
(Photo: Ann Dunn)

The Bird Box

Issue 11.1

Newsletter of the
Virginia Bluebird Society
www.virginiabluebirds.org

Our **e-mail address** is:
vbs@virginiabluebirds.org
If you have a new e-mail address, or have recently changed it, please let us know.

Anne Little, President
(h) 540-373-4594
e-mail: thegate@cox.net

Beth Elkins, Vice President
(h) 540-374-5053
e-mail: beth_elkins@yahoo.com

Carmen Bishop, Vice President
(h) 703-764-9268
e-mail: cjbish@aol.com

David Mitchell, Treasurer
(h) 540-822-4553
e-mail: mitchelldf@dontaptheglass.com

Janet Locklear, Secretary
(h) 540-338-5283
e-mail: jlocklear@starmail.com

Directors

Helen Ellis, (h) 703-743-1642
e-mail: hedi143@aol.com

Julie Kutruff, (h) 703-339-5218
e-mail: JKutruff@aol.com

Nan LaRue, (h) 757-877-9415
e-mail: nan.larue@cox.net

Steve Living, (h) 757-465-6868
e-mail: Stephen.Living@dgif.virginia.gov

Earl Morris, (h) 540-776-1640
e-mail: emorris@ntelos.net

Brian Swanson, (h) 703-743-5220
e-mail: bcswanon@comcast.net

State County Coordinator

Barbara Chambers, (h) 703-978-6609
e-mail: bj.chambers@cox.net

Data Collector

Charlie Chambers, (h) 703-978-6609
e-mail: ce.chambers@cox.net

Bird Box Interim Editor

Anne Little

Bird Box Layout

Bob Sindermann

We welcome your written items and artwork
(photos and drawings) for *The Bird Box*!
E-mail your materials to Anne Little.

NABS Affiliate Message

The plans are in place, the speakers are set, and the field trips are planned. The Pennsylvania Affiliate has been hard at work making all of the arrangements for a memorable 2009 NABS Convention this September. Hosted by the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania, the 2009 NABS Convention will be held September 9 - 13. The home base for the meeting will be the Holiday Inn at Harrisburg/Hershey, which is actually in Grantville, halfway between the two cities. The price is right for the rooms at \$83 per night. All of the convention details, including the registration form, are on the NABS Web site at www.nabluebirdsociety.org.

Registration begins late afternoon on Wednesday, September 9, and the first tours leave early the next morning. One of those first tours is to Hawk Mountain, about an hour away from the hotel. The committee has lined up an array of great speakers. Clay and Pat Sutton from Cape May, New Jersey, will present "How to Spot Hawks and Eagles: Raptors in Time and Space." This well-known team of birder/naturalists is a popular attraction wherever they appear. NABS director Dick Tuttle is also on the program and will present "The Beaver Hypothesis: Blue-birding Before the 17th Century." The formal program continues through the banquet on Saturday evening. There will be one more tour on Sunday morning to close out the conference.

Looking ahead to 2010: Plan to see Niagara Falls, one of the "The Seven Forgotten Natural Wonders of the World" in September 2010 when the Ontario Affiliate will be hosting the NABS convention.

— *Brian Swanson, NABS Vice President for Affiliate Relations*

Educators Corner on VBS Web Site

Allison Davis-Holland, the County Coordinator in Arlington County, is setting up an Educator's Corner on the VBS Web site that will provide resources for educators as well as links to programs at other schools and environmental education facilities that have VBS trails. She is currently gathering information for this site.

Please contact her at adavisholland@gmail.com if you are affiliated with a school or environmental education facility with a bluebird trail. Provide your name, e-mail address, school name, county, Web site, any resources that you find helpful, and any information on how your school's program incorporates its bluebird trail into its curriculum. Alison hopes to post these resources online for all to share.

To give you an idea of what to share about your school, here is her blurb as a sample: "Alison Davis-Holland, adavisholland@gmail.com, Taylor Elementary School, Arlington, VA.

We set up our trail in 2008 and the 4th graders monitor the trail as part of their science units on lifecycles, ecosystems, food chains, habitats, and adaptations. This year the PTA purchased a wireless solar nestcam to allow the students to observe the action inside the box. You can see photos and student comments online at:

arlingtonbluebird.googlepages.com."



Allison Davis-Holland with falcon

Nominations for 2009 VBS Awards

The VBS awards for 2009 will be presented at the annual VBS State Conference on Saturday, November 7. If you wish to nominate someone for an award, please contact Anne Little at thegate@cox.net or 540-373-4594. **All nominations must be received by October 1.** The categories for awards are:

County Coordinator of the Year. The responsibility of any county coordinator is to collect the data for the county and pass that data on to VBS. This annual award is for the county coordinator who has gone the extra mile by submitting articles to the local papers, done speaking engagements within the county and possibly even more. That is the county coordinator who deserves special recognition.

Bluebirder of the Year. This annual award is for the individual who promotes bluebirds in Virginia by their example. Who do you know who does outreach to schools, community groups and others? We want to honor the person who promotes good bluebird management techniques in the field and helps others learn to love and care for the bluebirder.

Volunteer of the Year. This annual award is for the individual who helps promote and enhance the Virginia Bluebird Society by giving of their time and energy. This award is for the person who has helped VBS grow and flourish which has helped the Bluebirds in Virginia to grow and flourish.

The VBS "Heritage Award." This special award is not always given every year by this organization. This award recognizes an individual who has been a long time Bluebirder. This is a special person who lives and breathes bluebirds, and has spent many years promoting bluebirds and the love of bluebirds.

Your Dues at Work

At the spring board meeting, the VBS Board of Directors voted to increase the amount of VBS funds allocated for grant requests, for new or refurbished trails, and youth and scout projects. If you are interested in starting a new blue bird trail or refurbishing an existing trail (including adding predator guards) please visit our Web site (www.virginiabluebirds.org) for more information on requesting grant funds to help with nest boxes on public lands.

Virginia Bluebirder's Handbook

This fall, VBS members can expect to receive a free copy of the Virginia Bluebirder's Handbook in the mail. This new VBS publication has been in preparation for several years. Its purpose is to provide a broad source of information and reference for new as well as experienced bluebirders. It gives information on building, installing, and monitoring nest boxes, as well as on attracting bluebirds and helping them build new generations.

When new members join VBS, they will receive a free copy of the handbook with a welcoming letter. VBS members can also purchase additional copies at \$6.00 each (postage paid). The Handbook will also appear on the VBS Web site in a full-page (8-1/2 x 11) format.



Bluebird chicks (Photo: Tom Howarth)

Q & A Column

Are Ants in a Bird Box Dangerous?

Question: Why are ants invading my bird box and are they dangerous to the chicks?

Answer: Yes, ants are very dangerous to the chicks of any species. It is very important to get them out of the nest ASAP. Ants are coming up into our boxes because of all the rain we have had. The ground is saturated, and the ants are being flooded out of their homes. So they are looking for a dark, dry, warm place to take all of their household belongings, namely their eggs! Ant eggs are all the little white things you see in the box with the ants. They will swarm the chicks and the adults, too.

While the adults can get out of the box, the chicks can't. When you discover this mess in your bird box, remove the nest, chicks, eggs, and anything else, and brush out the entire colony of ants.

Be patient. It takes awhile to get them all out. **Do not use any chemicals or insect sprays!** Just use a dry paint brush and persistence. Then settle the chicks and eggs into another, human-made nest of dry grass and all will be well – **if** you remember to coat the pole with grease, wax, soap, or Vaseline. You may have to re-soap or re-wax the pole occasionally, but these are the most environmentally friendly products and are not lethal to other animals that might try to climb your nest box pole.

Coating the pole with any of these products (including under the snake guard which keeps other animals out of the box) will keep the ants from coming back.

Do you have a question for the Q&A Column? Send it to Barb Chambers at bj.chambers@cox.net, or call 703-978-6609.



Eleven Carolina Chickadee eggs in one nest
(Photo: Vickie Fuquay)

Seeing Is Believing in Danville

When Vickie Fuquay, the County Coordinator of Pittsylvania County, received a call on April 9 reporting ten Carolina Chickadee eggs in one box, she had to check it out for herself (see photo, above). When the caller, a gentleman from the assisted living home in Danville, opened the box to show her, she told him he did not have 10 eggs, he had 11! The most eggs Vickie ever had was eight.

2008 Data? It's Not Too Late!

It is not too late to submit your data for 2008. If you procrastinated and still have not sent it in - please go ahead and mail your info to Charlie Chambers at 8911 Moreland Lane, Annandale, VA 22003 or via e-mail at ce.chambers@cox.net. If you need the forms for your reports please go to our Web site and click on "forms."

In Memoriam

Alvin Temple Dale, 73, passed away on Thursday, May 14, at his residence in Troy, Virginia. Alvin loved nature and photographing and providing for wildlife. He built and donated bluebird and squirrel houses and was very instrumental in the forming the Fluvanna County SPCA. Alvin was a true humanitarian who did home repairs for shut-ins and others in need.

It's in the Water in Danville

We have the best bunch of monitors working the trails in Danville! They are so enthusiastic. We now have 22 people, several who are new monitors, who turn in exciting weekly reports. I'm really proud of the work they've done. In our first year, we had 106 chicks and raised that number to 230 chicks in 2008. On just our cemetery trails we had 122 chicks after the first fledging. So many cool stories to share.

First we had 11 chickadee eggs in one nest (see left column). Then we had a Tree Swallow nest with 11 eggs! We believe there were two mothers for the Tree Swallow nest because only half of the 11 eggs had a pinkish cast, but all were swallow eggs (see photo, below).

A teacher from a County school came by yesterday. She had been reading about our "Adopt-a-Box for Schools" program and wanted to put a bluebird house up at her school. When her husband made the box, she took it to school, showed it to her students, and then placed it on a post on the porch outside her classroom until her husband could get a pole for it. Before he got the pole the kids told the teacher some birds were on her box. When they checked it they found it already had a nest and two blue eggs. The eager bluebirds built right on the porch in the house before they could get it mounted. I advised her to mount it on a post with a snake baffle as quick as she could and move it just off the porch to an open area.

Another woman told me that she bought a bluebird house and pole with baffle. They had it under the carport waiting for her son to come over to put it up, but the bluebirds found it and built a nest in it! We have the most eager bluebirds, in Danville, I have ever seen. So many of our houses have 6 eggs and repeat 6 eggs the second nesting!

Lastly, we have a Mallard sitting on eight eggs in a flower pot by the back door at Raywood (where I work). We named her Roxy, and she has settled into our routine. We hung a large flowering basket over her to give her shade after we noticed her panting in the afternoon sun. Today, when I watered the basket, she lapped up the water dripping from the basket without moving off her eggs!

– Vickie Fuquay



Eleven Tree Swallow eggs (Photo: Vickie Fuquay)

Nothing Got Watered

In early summer, Corrine Frassa of Fairfax Station was happily tending to her lovely hanging basket of geraniums, which was thriving under her care. One morning, Corrine went out with her watering can, and as she got ready to pour the water onto the flowers, a little Carolina Wren with a big voice got very close to the basket and gave her a terrible scolding! This wren vocalized non-stop, and definitely caught Corrine's attention. Corrine put down her watering can and peered into the flowers. Cozied into a grassy nest camouflaged by the flowers was a clutch of four young Carolina Wren hatchlings.

Corrine, who is familiar with cavity nesters because her husband Ken monitors a bluebird trail in Fairfax, never thought her hanging basket with flowers qualified as a cavity. Recognizing that the hatchlings didn't need to be watered, Corinne held back on tending her flowers. The geraniums suffered from the lack of water but the hatchlings didn't, and were on their way before she realized it.

– Sarah McDade, Fairfax

The Carolina Chickadee

Most of us have a chickadee nest in a box on one of our trails or in our backyards. This little black, white, and gray bird is around all year and seeks out the same habitat as that of the bluebird, Tree Swallow or House Wren. Chickadees lay eggs very early in April in Virginia, often before the bluebird does. They prefer to lay their eggs in a cavity they have excavated in an old rotting stump, but will use secondary cavities as well.

Did you know there are two species of chickadees in the eastern U.S.? The one we see in our nest boxes on the coast and the Piedmont is the Carolina Chickadee. The other, the Black-capped, lives just north of our region and west in the mountains of Virginia. The Carolina is a bird of the valleys, coasts, and riparian foothills, while the Black-capped is found at higher elevations and farther north and west. These two species are very much alike; where their ranges meet, they compete and even interbreed. Their needs are similar, and they are difficult to tell apart by even the best birders. Geography is the best indicator, but their songs, calls, and subtle plumage differences are telling.

The female chickadee relentlessly pursues the male to begin the pair bonding, and he responds by attacking her! If she persists and endures, they eventually become a pair. They will then select a territory together and begin to defend it. This could happen even in the winter. If the pair can find a tree stump with soft enough wood, they will excavate their own cavity. It can take them up to two weeks of gouging and dumping chips away from the hole, but they prefer to build if a site is available. They look together to find a nest site, but the female has the final say, and she builds the cup nest. It is a masterpiece built on a moss base with a cup of plant down, grass, and/or feathers. The final touch is the fur or hair she places all around the edge of the cup. The fur of a dead squirrel is perfect for the job, but she will pluck from a living animal if it becomes necessary!

During the one-egg-a-day laying period, she covers the incomplete clutch with the fur or feathers every time she leaves the nest. She will begin to brood her 5-8 (usually 6) eggs after laying the next to last egg! The male will then feed her, since the female is reluctant to leave the nest during incubation and brooding. She will hiss at you if you disturb her, and will scold you from the nearby branches as you attempt to count eggs or young.

Once the young fledge, around two weeks after the eggs are laid, they remain dependent on the adults for food for the next two to four weeks. It is commonly thought that the Carolina Chickadee lays only one brood of eggs a year, but this is not known for sure. In 2002 VBS received a report of two pairs of Carolina Chickadees having two separate clutches in one back yard. If there is predation (and the House Wren and House Sparrow are notorious for this) she will relay her clutch of eggs.

The chickadee needs a hole opening of only 1-1/8th inches in diameter, but they are not fussy. The 1-1/2-inch diameter holes for standard bluebird houses will do fine, thank you! The box affords them the protection they need from predators. Although the competition is fierce, they manage to raise their families, and we welcome them.

– *Barbara Chambers*

Good Samaritan Report

We were walking on the Greenway Trail at the Moyer Park in Salem, Virginia one evening and noticed that the door on Box # 9 was open. Then we saw that there were five baby birds on the ground in front of the box, and they were all still alive! We placed them back into their nest and then fashioned a wire pin to hold the door closed because the screw which holds the door closed could not be located. The baby birds' parents were watching us closely and seemed to be really glad when we walked away. We are animal and bird lovers and just wanted to help out.

– *Don and Dorothy Dye*

Vital Facts

Carolina Chickadee
(*Poecile carolinensis*)

Length: 4-3/4 to 5 in. (from tip of bill to tip of tail)

Nest construction: Both sexes excavate deep in soft wood of rotting stumps. It will take up to 2 weeks to complete as they also carry the chips far away from the hole. They are also secondary cavity nesters, using our boxes and abandoned woodpecker holes.:

Number of eggs: Usually 6 small, white, strongly brown flecked (5-8 possible).

Incubation: By female for 11-12 days. Begins at second to last egg laid.

Incubation: By female for 11-12 days. Begins at second to last egg laid.

Fledging: Between the 13th to 17th day. Adults feed young for 2-4 weeks more.

Broods per season: Probably one [two broods were reported in 2002].

Food: Insects: moths and caterpillars; spiders; berries, and seeds including poison ivy.

Habitat: Wooded areas, especially in wet swampy places, parks, and suburban backyards.

Housing: Natural cavities and nest boxes. The perfect box would need only a 1-1/8-inch hole, which would eliminate the House Sparrow but not the House Wren.

[From The Backyard Birdhouse Book by René and Christyna M. Laubach]

The Results Are In

We received a total of 143 responses from our member survey. The results indicated that our members do not want to reduce VBS funds allocated for trails and 86 members want to switch to an electronic newsletter.

NABS Award Nominations Sought

Greetings from Anne Sturm and the rest of the NABS Grants/Awards Committee, which includes Greg Beavers, Sherry Linn, Dan Sparks, David Smith and Stan Fisher. We are asking for your help in submitting nominations for our annual awards which recognize individuals and groups who have made major contributions to Bluebird conservation.

It would be most helpful if you would visit the NABS Web site, www.nabluebirdsociety.org, and click on "Award Nomination" and then on "2008 Awards." There you will get a good idea of all the award classifications and what good deeds individuals and businesses have done to merit this special recognition. Then think about your own bluebird organization and its collective experience. If you feel there is someone you would like to nominate, just fill out the form and send it along by June 30th. Don't worry if you miss this year's deadline, as we look forward to recognizing outstanding bluebird work annually.

We also would like your help in spreading the word that NABS is awarding grants for worthy proposals studying bluebirds and other native cavity nesting birds. The next grant application deadline is December 1, 2009. We are receiving grant applications twice a year, June 1 and December 1. The grants are reviewed by the Grants Committee and awards are made by August 1 and February 1, respectively. Please encourage interested individuals to write me at annets1@aol.com.

Thanks you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anne Sturm

Saturday, November 7

VBS State Conference

The 2009 Virginia Bluebird Society State Conference will be held on **Saturday, November 7**, near Bedford, Virginia. Every other year, VBS holds a statewide conference in different locations around the state, in an effort to connect with all of our members. This year, the Conference will be held at the **Claytor Nature Study Center in Bedford**, and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, and all programs for the entire day.

All are welcome! It is not necessary to be a member of VBS to attend this conference. The 2009 speakers are Nanette Mickle "Purple Martins 101" and Allyson Jackson "Survival in a Created Landscape: Radio-Tracking Fledgling Bluebirds on Golf Courses."

If you are interested in helping with the conference, please contact Stephen Living at Stephen.Living@dgif.virginia.gov.

Agenda

8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration & continental breakfast
9:00 - 9:50 a.m.	VBS Board Meeting (all welcome to attend)
9:50-10:00 a.m.	Annual VBS meeting (election of new board and officers)
10:00 -10:30 a.m.	Break and further registration
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Nanette Mickel - Purple Martins 101
11:30 -11:45 a.m.	Award ceremony
11:45 -1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Allyson Jackson, William & Mary Center for Conservation Biology
2:00 -2:30 p.m.	Break
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Birding - Claytor Nature Study Center

Location: Claytor Nature Study Program Conference Center, 1844 Woods Rd., Bedford, VA 24523

Registration: \$20, including continental breakfast, lunch and all programs.

Accommodations: Discounted rooms are being held at Super 8 Motel in Bedford, VA until October 1st, 842 Sword Beach Lane, Bedford, VA 24523, (540) 587-0100. The rate is \$68 king or 2 queen beds/per night/ plus tax. The hotel is located 23 miles from Claytor Nature Study Program. To obtain the discounted rate, mention "Virginia Bluebird Society."

Directions from the Richmond area: (About 2 hours, 57 minutes) Take US-360 West toward Amelia. Turn onto VA-307/US-460 West, and continue to follow US-460 West past Lynchburg to the east side of Bedford. Approaching Bedford, take the US-460 Business exit into Bedford, going to the right on US-460 Business/East Main Street/VA-714 and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn right on North Bridge Str/US-221/VA-43, and go 0.3 miles. Next turn left on Peaks Street/VA-43 and go 4.3 miles. Turn right at Woods Road/Rt. 682, which is just past the Big Otter River crossing. Follow Woods Road for about 0.8 mile to the Education & Research Center entrance on the right. Follow the gravel drive down to parking area adjacent to the building.

From the Charlottesville area: (About 1 hour, 97 minutes) Take US-29 South. Exit onto Jerry Falwell Parkway/US-29/US-460 toward Lynchburg/Danville, and continue for 25.6 miles past Lynchburg to the east side of Bedford. Approaching Bedford, take the US-460 Business exit into Bedford, going to the right on US-460 Business/East Main Street/VA-714 and continue for 1.3 miles. Turn right onto North Bridge Street/US-221/VA-43, and go 0.3 miles. Next, turn left on Peaks Street/VA-43 and go 4.3 miles. Turn right at Woods Road/Rt. 682, which is just past the Big Otter River crossing. Follow Woods Road for about 0.8 mile to the Education & Research Center entrance on the right. Follow the gravel drive down to parking area adjacent to the building.

From the Washington DC area: (About 3 hours, 57 minutes) Take I-66 West to I-81, then turn south on I-81 toward Roanoke for 133 miles. Take exit 167 for US-11 toward Buchanan; proceed 1.4 miles. Just after crossing the river, turn left onto Parkway Drive/VA-43, and go 4.7 miles, where you will merge left onto the Blue Ridge Parkway/VA-43 North, and go 4.9 miles. Turn right onto Peaks Road/VA-43, and follow it for 5.9 miles. Turn left onto Woods Road/Rt. 682. Follow Woods Road for about 0.8 mile to the Education & Research Center entrance on the right. Follow the gravel drive down to parking area adjacent to the building.

From the Roanoke area: (About 50 minutes) Take US-221 North/US-460 East. Follow US-221/US-460 Business/Blue Ridge Ave into Bedford. Turn left at North Bridge Street/US-221/VA-43. Next, turn left on Peaks Street/VA-43 and go 4.3 miles. Turn right at Woods Road/Rt. 682, which is just past the Big Otter River crossing. Follow Woods Road for about 0.8 mile to the Education & Research Center entrance on the right. Follow the gravel drive down to parking area adjacent to the building.

Claytor Education & Research Web Page: www.lyncburg.edu/x15950.xml

Board and Officer Elections

The proposed slate for board of directors and officers for 2009-2011 is presented below. The election will be held at the VBS Conference on Saturday, November 7. In addition to the proposed slate, nominations for all positions can be made from the floor. All members in good standing are eligible to vote. We are still seeking nominees for Secretary and one Board position.

- President* - Anne Little, Fredericksburg
- Vice President* - Beth Elkins, King George County
- Vice President* - Carmen Bishop, Fairfax County
- Secretary* - [open]
- Treasurer* - David Mitchell, Loudoun County
- Board Member* - Patricia Wilczek, Greene County
- Board Member* - Paul Davis, Nelson County
- Board Member* - Stephen Living, York County
- Board Member* - Nan LaRue, Newport News
- Board Member* - [open]



(Photo: Ayuko Kimura-Fay)

2009 VBS State Conference, Saturday, November 7 Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Phone Number _____

Number Attending: _____

Registration fees: \$20 (includes lunch)

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please indicate your preference for lunch

Sandwiches: Chicken Salad _____ Ham _____ Vegetarian _____ Turkey with Cheese _____

(Please indicate how many of each sandwich you prefer, if there is more than one registrant.)

For further information:

Contact Stephen Living at 757-465-6868 or Stephen.Living@dgif.virginia.gov

Mail this form (with check payable to VBS) to:

VBS 2009 State Conference
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Reservations for lunch must be received by Friday, October 31st

Additional registration forms can be found on our Web site: www.virginiabluebirds.org

How to Join

Send your name, address, phone number, and/or e-mail address along with a check for \$10 for an individual or \$15 for a family to:

Virginia Bluebird Society
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Membership forms can be downloaded from the VBS Web site:
www.virginiabluebirds.org.

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.

Mark Your Calendar

Today: It is not too late! Turn in your data for 2008 to Charlie Chambers at ce.chambers@cox.net or 703 978-6609

September 1-31: Tally your 2009 trail totals and send them to your county coordinator or Charlie Chambers

September 9 -11: NABS Convention, Harrisburg, PA

September 17-20: Virginia Eastern Shore Birding and Wildlife Festival at Kiptopeake State Park, Cape Charles, VA

September 19: VBS workshop. 10:00 am to 1:pm, Carl Little's house, downtown Fredericksburg. We will assemble nest boxes and guards on poles. Call if you can join us and help 540 373-4594

September 24 - October 4: Virginia State Fair, Meadow Event Park, Doswell, Virginia Caroline County

October 10: 9:00 am Bluebird presentation by Anne Little, Ginter botanical Gardens, Richmond, VA

November 7: VBS Bi-Annual Convention & Board Meeting, Bedford, VA. Claytor Nature Study Center, Lynchburg College. \$20 includes Breakfast & Lunch



Virginia Bluebird Society
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**DATED
MATERIAL**