Letter from the President:
Dear MOBS Members,
Merry Christmas everyone! I hope you all have a wonderful time with family and friends. The majority of us in Missouri are blessed to be able to enjoy our Bluebirds all winter long and I hope you find time to do that this winter. Pictured below is a “Bluebird Sled” Feeder I built a few years ago as a Christmas gift for “my” bluebirds—just something fun to do to add to the enjoyment of having bluebirds out my window during the winter months. Even if you are not fortunate to get to see bluebirds in the winter, be thinking of things you can do now that would help bluebirds when nesting season does arrive. I know Regina and I will continue our New Year’s Day tradition of adding at least one nest box to one of our trails... regardless of the weather! We’ve placed boxes on snowy days, in below zero weather, and every now and then on a nice, sunny New Year’s Day.
Please consider joining us Jan. 4th for some baffle-building for the bluebirds. Read more about it on page 6 and then call or email and let me know if you can help.
Do what you can to help the Bluebirds,
Steve Garr
MOBS, President

A Note from the Editor.....
Dear MOBS Members,
I thank all of you for your patience this quarter and apologize for getting the Fall issue of The Fledgling out to you nearly eight weeks late! Normally this issue would mail to you mid October, however between the first of October and December 8th, my husband Steve and I made three trips to middle Tennessee; first to visit Steve’s brother Joe in the hospital, then in hospice care, and finally to attend Joe’s memorial service this past weekend. I just ran out of time to get it all done. I should have everything back on track now and the Winter 2015 issue should go out between the end of January and mid February. (submissions GRATEFULLY accepted!!)
Thank you for your understanding,
Regina Garr, Editor, The Fledgling
Bluebirds in Winter in Missouri!
Time to consider “winter care”

Left:
Tis the season to provide fresh, available water!

Shelter: Good protection in all types of weather conditions

Have you checked the roof overhang on your nest boxes lately? Is it long enough to block blowing snow? And long enough to prevent icicles from trapping a bird inside? Is the entrance hole high enough?

Natural Food for Bluebirds in Winter:

**Winter Fruit**
- hackberry
- winterberry holly
- American holly
- eastern red-cedar
- red chokeberry
- wax myrtle
- bayberry
- mistletoe
- dwarf sumac
- staghorn sumac
- smooth sumac
- blackhaw viburnum
- Virginia creeper
- poison ivy
- coral honeysuckle

**Fall/Winter Fruit**
(if still available!)
- flowering dogwood
- spicebush
- serviceberry
- wild grape

*Photo by Joyce Tarbet* (Bluebirds eating sunflower hearts)
Unique individuals among familiar Birds!

by Regina Garr

Every year in every season it seems we get reports of albino or leucistic birds at feeders or nest boxes. Steve has taken pictures of such birds for years—above are a few examples. Note the difference between the true albino Purple Martin nestling on the far right above (red eye, colorless bill, all white feathers) compared to the other three images in this section.

The other birds pictured here would be designated either partial albinos or leucistic, depending on the scientific paper or resource you choose. Many of the bird banders Steve and I have worked with over the years tended to drop all birds that had any aberrant white or light plumage into the category of “leucistic”. Increasingly though, we have seen a distinction drawn between albino, partial albino, and leucistic. One can still find vastly differing definitions for these terms, (the Birder’s Dictionary by Randall Cox for instance defines leucism as “a condition of paleness of plumage due to environmental factors instead of genetic abnormality”...a definition I have not seen elsewhere). Here is how the MDC Website distinguishes between the terms:

**Pure albinism:** Pure albinos usually have pink eyes, nails, scales and skin. They are pink because without coloration the blood vessels show through. (lack of melanin pigment)

**Partial albino:** have some colorations typical of their species, but parts of their body appear white.

**Leucistic:** have mostly white skin, hair or scales, but will have some dark pigmentation in their eyes and nails.

I have to admit, I do prefer David Allen Sibley’s January 2014 definition, since he bluntly stated then that partial albino and leucistic mean the same thing! (check out: http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/blog/2014/01/28/david-sibley-explains-look-next-time-see-partial-albino-bird/)

Often, from a distance and against a backdrop of the great “green outdoors”, leucistic/ partial albino birds can look much more white than they do up close.

Sometimes it can be difficult to determine what species a bird is due to the lack of plumage color. It is very helpful if the bird is nesting or feeding with other birds of the same species, however when a “lone”, oddly white bird shows up at a feeder it can take some special detective work to deduce its true identity. For example, the “white” American Goldfinch (left, photographed by Don Story) showed up at the Story’s suet feeder only one day during a snowy day in November. There were no other bird feeders at this location, so the Goldfinch was just taking advantage of an available food source, even though normally it would be less likely to visit a suet feeder than it would a feeder stocked with SEED.

Want to learn more about albinism and leucism in birds? Check out these sources:
- www.mdc.mo.gov/conmag
- www.Sialis.org
- sibleyguides.com
- www.audubon.org
MOBS gratefully acknowledges our Life Members:

- Ann Early & Bob Seimer  Chesterfield, MO
- Steve & Cheryl Eno  Raymond, NE
- David & Anita Hartwig  Kingsville, MO
- Arvil & Jean Kappelmann  Washington, MO
- Keith & Sandy Kridler  Mt. Pleasant, TX
- Bob & Judy Peak  Henderson, KY
- Bill & Sandy Seibert  Omaha, NE
- Bet Zimmerman Smith  South Woodstock, CT

The Missouri Bluebird Society also welcomes the following NEW members:

- Barbara Brown  Manchester, MO
- Donald Dick  Independence, MO
- Kristie Hertzog  Pleasant Hill, MO

Donations were made by the following individuals in Memory of Joe Garr

- Sam and Gloria Overfelt
- Steve and Regina Garr
- Pat Wood

MOBS received other donations recently from the following individuals and groups:

- PEO Sisterhood Chapter JZ (Lee’s Summit) in honor of Larry Dodson
- Steve and Regina Garr (via Missouri Baptists “Harvesters”)


Providing Cavities for Woodpeckers: The Time is Now!

Thanks to Keith Kridler for a recent post and REMINDER on the Bluebird Monitor’s Group about preparing now for Woodpecker nesting season! I have provided here some brief reference info on individual species, but please take time to research more thoroughly and invest yourself in providing some nesting sites for woodpeckers.

Granted, these birds are primary cavity nesters....however many woodpeckers have been enticed into “excavating” cavities in nest boxes. With continually shrinking habitat, providing those opportunities surely is a good thing!

Below info taken from *A Guide to Bird Homes* by Scott Shalaway (pg 32):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Entrance Hole Diameter</th>
<th>Interior Floor size of Box</th>
<th>Interior Height of Box</th>
<th>Mount Box this High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northern Flicker</td>
<td>2.5 inch</td>
<td>7x7 inch</td>
<td>16-24 inch</td>
<td>10-20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-headed Woodpecker</td>
<td>2 inch</td>
<td>6 x 6 inch</td>
<td>14 inch</td>
<td>8-20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-bellied Woodpecker</td>
<td>2 inch</td>
<td>6 x 6 inch</td>
<td>14 inch</td>
<td>8-20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downy Woodpecker</td>
<td>1.5 inch</td>
<td>4 x 4 inch</td>
<td>12 inch</td>
<td>5-20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>1.5 inches</td>
<td>6x6 inch</td>
<td>14 inch</td>
<td>8-20 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pileated Woodpecker</td>
<td>4 inch</td>
<td>12 x 12 inch</td>
<td>24 inch</td>
<td>15-25 feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tips for providing Woodpecker houses (Quote from Keith Kridler):**

*Today if you wanted to create a “soft, moist filler” for...... woodpecker house(s) you could put in blocks of those green foam blocks that florists use to arrange flowers for various occasions....We have filled/packed “woodpecker” houses in the past with composted sawdust, composted shredded leaves and or finely chipped pine bark “mulch” allowing the woodpeckers to “excavate” this loose material.*

*It is now time to prepare nesting boxes for these woodpeckers and the various species of owls if you expect to have success this coming year“*

*Quoted from Keith’s post to the Bluebird Monitors Group, Dec 3rd, 2014*
Sunday, January 4th, 2015.....Baffle Building for MOBS

“How can I help MOBS?” It is a question we hear frequently! Well, Sunday, January 4th from 1 – 3 pm in Jefferson City we will be assembling Baffles for nest box poles for the MOBS Nest Box Grant program ...we could use your help! MOBS has purchased all of the materials and all that is left to do is assemble the parts into completed, useful predator baffles. Please contact Steve Garr at 573-638-2473 or steve@birds-i-view.biz if you can help.

January 24th—31st, 2015..... MOBS members participate in The 25th Annual Wilderness Wildlife Week....come join us! Held in Pigeon Forge, TN, the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, this event features hundreds of FREE presentations and workshops on Wildlife and at least three on Bluebirds and cavity nesters by MOBS’ president Steve Garr. Steve will also be leading four “Owl Prowls” into the Park. MOBS members Dana Ripper and Ethan Duke (of the Missouri River Bird Observatory) will be presenting eight programs at this event. Hikes, History, Music, Photography workshops and more...this educational event has won numerous National and International Awards– Come see why! Read all about it at www.mypigeonforge.org (go to “events” and then Wilderness Wildlife Week)

February 13th– 15th, 2015... The Great Backyard Bird Count! The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world!

Is it time to Renew your MOBS Membership? Memberships expire on December 31st of the year of expiration.

Check your mailing label to see if you need to renew.
Please mail your renewal form, along with your check or money order (payable to MOBS) to:
Missouri Bluebird Society/ P.O. Box 105830/ Jefferson City, MO 65110

Name:_____________________________ Phone:_____________________________
Address:_________________________ city/state___________________Zip_____
County:_________________________ Email:_______________________________

Membership Levels:

- Individual one year membership $9.00
- Individual two year membership $16.00
- *Family one year membership $15.00
- *Family two year membership $28.00
- **For individuals residing at the same address

*Family LIFE Membership $175.00

DONOR (Annual) $50.00
SUPPORTER (Annual) $100.00

How many nest boxes do you monitor?________
How long have you been a Bluebirder?_______
Order great items from the Missouri Bluebird Society!
FYI: These items and more will also be available for purchase at the MOBS Booth at the Bluebird Conference.

**Important ordering info:** When ordering product from MOBS, please remember to enclose these completed order forms, and include your NAME, shipping address, and phone number with your order. Thank You!

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**The MOBS Logo Mug**
by Jim Rathert Photography

11 ounce white ceramic Mug with blue interior featuring the beautiful Logo of the Missouri Bluebird Society (designed by Jim Rathert).

Mugs @ $13.00 each = $
Shipping $6.00 (for up to 2 mugs)
Shipping $10.50 (for 3-4 mugs)

Shipping $________
TOTAL$

**Please note your mugs will arrive via PRIORITY MAIL**
Please make checks out to: “MOBS” or the “Missouri Bluebird Society”
(Checks or money orders only– PLEASE do not send cash)

Mail to:
MOBS product sales
P.O. Box 105830
Jefferson City, MO 65110

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**Order your MOBS Nest Box Signs**
(Order Form left)

Nest Box Signs are $3.50 each, or buy FIVE, get ONE FREE!

____ signs x $3.50 each =

____ 5 Signs get ONE FREE = $17.50

____ 10 Signs get TWO FREE = $35.00

Shipping & Handling + $2.00

TOTAL$

Make Checks to the MO Bluebird Society
Mail to:
MOBS Nest Box Signs
P.O. BOX 105830
Jefferson City, Mo 65110

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**MOBS Window Decals**
4 inch diameter circle

____ Decals x $1.00 each =

____ 5 Decals get ONE FREE = $5.00

Shipping & Handling + $1.50

TOTAL$

Make Checks to the MO Bluebird Society
Mail to:
MOBS Product sales
P.O. BOX 105830
Jefferson City, Mo 65110

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**Important ordering info:** When ordering product from MOBS, please remember to enclose these completed order forms, and include your NAME, shipping address, and phone number with your order. Thank You!
The Fledgling 2014 Fall/Winter Issue

- Bluebirds in Winter!
- Unique Individuals among familiar species
- Prepare now for Woodpecker Nesting Season
- Your Chance to do something for MOBS’ Nest Box Grant Program!
- Upcoming Events