



Presentation Highlights

2026 Missouri Bluebird Conference

Saturday, July 18th Jamesport, MO

More info at
www.missouribluebird.org
573-638-2473



Ivan Ray Miller to present
“Magical Martins: More than just Purple!”



Ron Darling presents: Prothonotary Partnership in Southwest Michigan. This presentation will describe a unique activity started in 2020 by the Two Rivers Coalition on the Paw Paw River. It has now expanded to the Black River. By monitoring prothonotary warblers in the 733 square mile watersheds, Ebird observations from water (kayaks/canoes) and land are recorded. Data is then used as indicators of floodplain and wetland ecological health. **Half of twelve installed boxes on the Paw Paw were successful in 2025.**

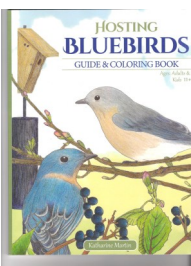
Ron was born and raised in Michigan and made frequent trips "Up North". He has degrees in Microbiology and Environmental Health. He is retired from the City of St. Peters and is/has volunteered in several organizations including St. Louis Audubon, MoGreenFuture, St. Louis County Waste Management Commission, and Hazelwood Green Committee. He is a lifetime member of MOBS and loves to talk bluebirds and recycling.

Conference speaker chair Note.....Ron is also the 2021 recipient of MOBS' True Blue Service Award!

Katharine Martin presents: Eurasian Tree Sparrows. Katharine has spent years managing native songbirds and studying the challenges facing backyard bird populations. With degrees in biology and business from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, she brings both scientific training and practical experience to her work in bird conservation.



She has more than a decade of experience in science writing, research, and communication, including writing and editing for a life science company. Her work focuses on translating peer-reviewed research into clear, responsible guidance for everyday birders.



Conference speaker chair Note.....Katharine is also the author and illustrator of the wonderful book Hosting Bluebirds!



Jack Corrigan presents: Bluebird Basics.

Jack is originally from Pennsylvania but after a short stay in Virginia, his wife Amy's job brought them out to Kansas City. He was a State Park Ranger in Virginia. He and Amy have been "north of the river" now for almost 12 years. Nest box monitoring citizen science focus is on Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Black – capped Chickadees and most recently Prothonotary Warblers.

Jack would like to add American Kestrels in the future! He currently monitoring around 50 nest boxes on MDC conservation areas in Platte/Clay Counties, and says he would definitely classify himself as an intermediate birder but a hobbyist woodworker for over 30 years. Nest boxes have become “his thing”, whether building the classic designs, trying new styles or working to improve predator control. Conservation volunteer for MDC at Burr Oak Woods Nature Center, certified Missouri Master Naturalist, co-coordinator for Osage Trails Chapter Project NestWatch Team, Nest Box Grant Program Ambassador for Missouri Bluebird Society, webmaster for Missouri Birding Society and Burroughs Audubon board member.



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Marlee Malmberg presents: *MRBO American Kestrel Project*



Marlee Malmberg is originally from north-central Illinois and now calls Moberly, Missouri, home. Her passion for the outdoors began at an early age through bird-watching, foraging for wild mushrooms, hunting, fishing, and camping with her father. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2016.

Prior to joining the Missouri River Bird Observatory (MRBO), Marlee spent seven years with the United States Geological Survey, contributing to the conservation and recovery of the endangered pallid sturgeon. Since joining MRBO in 2022, she has become an integral member of the organization, helping oversee and coordinate a wide range of programs, operations, outreach efforts, events, and conservation initiatives that support MRBO's mission across Missouri.

Marlee leads MRBO's American Kestrel Nest Box Monitoring Project, working with volunteers, landowners, and conservation partners to expand nest box networks, monitor nesting success, and collect data that helps inform the conservation of North America's smallest falcon. Her work combines community engagement with hands-on conservation, creating opportunities for people to contribute directly to bird research and stewardship.

When she is not working, Marlee can usually be found outdoors—birding, hunting, foraging, fishing, or exploring Missouri's diverse natural landscapes.”



Steve Garr, Missouri Bluebird Society President, presents: *“Who Started that Nest?”*

Need help identifying nest “starts” in your nest boxes in your yard or trail? This is the program for you! Steve will present some ID clues to help you discern who's building in your nest box during the early stages of construction.

