

# TEXAS Blues



Texas Bluebird Society Newsletter March 2014 • Volume 13. Issue 1

## Other Cavity Nesters: **Bewick's Wren**

By **Pauline Tom**, TBS President

*To read this article, you'll need the pronunciation of this issue's featured species. The pronunciation of Bewick's is "BUE icks," like the name of a car. When John James Audubon selected a name, he honored Thomas Bewick, an English engraver, famous for woodcuts of birds.*

The tiny brown Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) is extremely lively, extremely curious, extremely loud, and sports an extremely long, white eye stripe.

In Texas, the breeding territory for two little brown birds with a long tail overlaps. It's easy to distinguish the Carolina Wren and the Bewick's Wren (the gray-backed form, our resident), once you know two key differences. The chubby Carolina Wren has a buffy colored breast. The slender Bewick's Wren has a somewhat gray breast.

In winter, the eastern 1/3 of Texas has the red-backed form of the Bewick's Wren as a rare to locally uncommon migrant and winter resident.\*

With a close look (which I had when my dachshund, BoD, snapped a Bewick's Wren inside our house), the especially long Bewick's Wren tail is barred with black and tipped with white spots. And, from bird in hand, I know the light weight. The just over 5-inch bird weighs 8 – 12 grams, about the weight of a pair of nickels.

That's an interesting story from 2007. A Bewick's Wren came in through the French doors in our bedroom and flew all the way through the house to the breakfast window in our kitchen. The frantic mate hovered just outside the window. That's when the "dog kill" occurred, in an instant.

On an early April morning in 2008, with coffee in hand, my brain tried to take in what I was seeing in our closed garage. Seven short-tailed Bewick's Wren fledglings filled the garage with their flights. Suddenly, I saw the mom dart outside through a tiny opening in the doggie door flap. Within an hour, with the garage doors opened, she summoned them all outside. Unbeknownst to us, she had built a nest on a top shelf filled with flower pots, incubated her eggs, and raised the hatchlings.

Since then, a Bewick's Wren has nested most every year in the closed-at-night garage.

I must carefully watch my House Sparrow ground trap in order to quickly release trapped Bewick's Wrens. Even when it is not baited, the curious wrens manage to get trapped.

Most often, I see Bewick's Wrens nesting in a "bluebird-size" nestbox. The nests begin with a platform of many sticks (100's) with some leaves. For a nesting, the base is finished with a cup of soft materials that includes feathers, hair, and



## Bewick's Wren

(continued from page1)

downy plant material. This is often topped off with snakeskin or cellophane. When NestWatch'ing records show no nest cup after a couple weeks, I remove the "dummy" nest, built by a male.

The animations on [NestWatch.org](http://NestWatch.org) for continent-wide nestings show Bewick's Wren nestings beginning in Central Texas on February 21<sup>st</sup> and also finishing in Central Texas in July. For the most-part, Texas nestings occur in March and April.



Photo by Eric Isley

And, they occur in the western 2/3 of the state, where the Bewick's Wren is an uncommon to common resident.

Records for a portion of the nests I observe are safely stored in NestWatch and easily downloaded as Excel spreadsheets. With my reported nestings, I've "fledged" 210 Bewick's Wrens since 2006. I live in Central Texas on the Edwards Plateau, where the Bewick's Wren population is heaviest, and the population swells in the winter when the Bewick's Wren population in Oklahoma dwindles.

Usually, the clutch size is 5 or 6, with each egg laid before 7:00 a.m. The eggs are white with reddish brown spots, with a ring of heavily concentrated spots on the large end of the egg.

In Texas, the breeding territory for the Bewick's Wren and the breeding territory for the House Wren do not overlap, except for few and far between isolated instances. The House Wren summers in the top of the eastern edge of The Panhandle, along the Canadian River, and above 7,000 feet in the Davis Mountains (uncommon) and Guadalupe Mountains (rare).\*

Without overlap in breeding territory, Texas is spared the competition between House Wrens and Bewick's Wrens, where the House Wren wins. House Wrens enter cavities and peck eggs and nestlings of other species. The competition is so fierce, the Bewick's Wren has all but disappeared east of the Mississippi. The severe decline of the Bewick's Wren coincided with the range expansion of the House Wren. According to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the increased availability of nestboxes may have helped the spread of the House Wren.

Further southern expansion of the House Wren (into Texas) may be limited by high temperatures during egg-laying ([Odum and Johnston 1951](#)). House Wren eggs cannot withstand temperatures above 106 degrees. And, House Wrens are more sensitive to drought.

Bewick's Wren eggs hatch after 14 – 16 days of incubation, and the young fledge after another 14 – 16 days. For about 2 weeks, the young are fed by the parents.

Listen in summer months, and you may hear young males developing their song repertoire, not with their father, but with a neighboring male. This starts at initiation of dispersal (age 30 d) to territory acquisition (age 60 d). By November, a repertoire of 9 – 22 songs is retained for life. The primary song is territorial.\*\*

The female calls *teerrrrr* when soliciting male for copulation and *tee-ee-ee-ee-ee* during copulation. \*\*

Watch year-round to see the Bewick's Wren hopping about, gleaning and eating arthropod larvae and adults. Occasionally, they will eat vegetable matter. The nestlings are fed primarily caterpillars with some spiders, grasshoppers, and small arthropods. They make about one hop per second, constantly moving.

*Bottom line, they're extremely delightful!*

Resources: \* The Texas Ornithological Society Handbook of Texas Birds

\*\* Birds of North America



*If you come across a noisy, hyperactive little bird with bold white eyebrows, flicking its long tail as it hops from branch to branch, you may have spotted a Bewick's Wren. ©Photo by Brin L. Sullivan*

Next species in our series  
"Other Cavity Nesters"  
is *Thryothorus ludovicianus*

## TBS Supports Sara's Master's Thesis Research



*"My name is Sara Harrold. I am a graduate student at Texas State University, currently pursuing my Master's in Wildlife Ecology. The principal objectives of this study are twofold: (1.) To examine the influence of habitat (landscape) composition on the nesting success of cavity-nesting species in central Texas. (2.) To determine which habitat variables and landscape metrics predict the occupancy of nestboxes by specific cavity-nesting birds."*

*The Board of Directors definitely wanted to support Sara's thesis project. TBS provided an additional 20 nestboxes to expand her research data and provide additional housing for our Texas cavity-nesters.*

Article and photos submitted by **Sara Harrold**

Like many birders, my fascination with birds began at a fairly young age. At 16, I started working at Wild Birds Unlimited, where I began learning about bird identification, feeding, and nesting. After graduating from high school, I pursued an undergraduate degree in zoology at Texas A&M University; when I could, I continued birding and working at the store. I had no idea that in a few short years I would establish a bluebird trail consisting of 60 nestboxes.

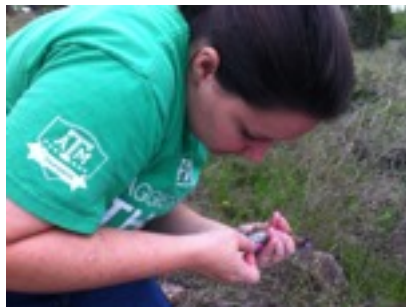
In August of 2012, I started my Master's program at Texas State University under the mentorship of Dr. Clay Green. While brainstorming ideas for my thesis, Dr. Green suggested working with Eastern Bluebirds. Prior to this, I had no first-hand experience with bluebirds, but I knew I wanted to study songbirds, and the bluebirds seemed interesting. I established an extensive bluebird trail in order to monitor the subsequent nesting activity. Using guidelines from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Texas Bluebird Society, a generous grant from the Texas Ornithological Society, and thanks in no small degree to my mother's amazing carpentry skills, 40 nestboxes were built. Dr. Green and I installed these boxes at the Freeman Center in San Marcos. Since I planned to study the nesting ecology of the bluebirds in response to habitat variables such as edge and habitat type, the boxes were placed in a variety of habitats ranging from open savannah grasslands to the edge of oak-juniper woodlands.

The first season of monitoring began in February of 2013 and continued through the end of July 2013. I visited each box and checked for signs of nesting activity at least once each week. I recorded the nest status, number of eggs, and bird species using the box. I also recorded any signs of predation, and defined a successful nest as having at least one chick survive to fledging. At 10 days of age, I weighed the bluebird chicks and banded them for future identification. I also tried to band both parents, but this was easier said than done! In all but one instance, I was only able to band the female. At the end of the season, I had banded 4 adults and 24 fledglings.

Four species utilized the boxes, including Eastern Bluebirds (6 pairs), Black-crested Titmice (5 pairs), Bewick's Wrens (31 pairs), and Ash-throated Flycatchers (2 pairs). Not surprisingly, bluebirds were specialized in their nesting choice and selected open grasslands. The wrens and titmice were generalist nesters and utilized grasslands, woodlands, and edge habitat. Because of the small number of bluebirds, Dr. Green and I expanded the project to include the other species as well, but the bluebirds still hold a special place for me. I am happy to report that although I only had 6 bluebird pairs this past season, 4 were successful in raising at least one brood (of the unsuccessful pairs, one nest failed due to predation, while the other was abandoned).

After the 2013 nesting season, I decided to add more boxes to my trail and place these in optimal bluebird habitat. I reached out to the President of the Texas Bluebird Society, Pauline Tom, who generously donated 20 more boxes to my project. In early December of this year, Dr. Green and I set-up these boxes alongside and within open savannah grassland at the Freeman Center. I won't start monitoring my boxes until February 2014, but I have high hopes for them. In less than 10 minutes after setting up a box, a pair of bluebirds arrived to inspect our work! I lost count of how many bluebirds we saw at this location, so I am very optimistic that I'll be seeing more bluebirds this coming season.

With the conclusion of the 2014 nesting season, I will be preparing to defend my thesis in either the fall of 2014 or the spring of 2015. After obtaining my Master's, I hope to continue on for a PhD, and eventually work as a wildlife biologist for the United States Geological Survey. (*Tagging and monitoring bluebird babies is an important step in Sara's research activities.*)





## Native Plants Of Texas For Bluebirds: **American Holly**

By **Linda Crum**, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist

Winter is often viewed as a drab time of year, but it is the season when the hollies shine in the landscape. The American holly is a broad-leafed evergreen with non-glossy, spine-tipped leaves. The female hollies make a statement with their bright red berries. The berries are technically four-seeded drupes and they only occur on the female plants. All members of the holly family are dioecious—male (staminate) and female (pistillate) flowers, similar in appearance, with four to six small white petals, produced on separate plants. Bloom occurs in April in the southern range and June in the northern range. Insects are the pollinators of hollies.

The American holly is the largest of our native hollies usually reaching 15 to 30 feet in height, but can reach 60 feet in its southern range. The "national champion" American holly is a 99 foot specimen in the Congaree Swamp of South Carolina.

American holly can be found in the eastern United States from New England, south to Florida and west to eastern Texas. Often found in the understory of the forest, the American holly has a pyramidal growth habit. Although it is shade tolerant, it is more fruitful in full sun. Slow growing, long-lived (more than 100 years), berry production of the American holly can take from five to 12 years.

The American holly is adaptable to a wide variety of soil types, but thrives best in moist, slightly acid, well-drained sites. It will not survive prolonged flooded sites. Chlorosis occurs in trees growing in alkaline soil.

Many songbirds, including robins, mockingbirds, cedar waxwings,



*American Holly thrives in Linda's backyard.*



*Photo courtesy of the Bluebird Monitors Guide Harry Krueger, photographer*

bluebirds and cardinals eat the berries of holly. One year I watch as a determined mockingbird successfully defended the American holly in my backyard from a flock of robins. One of the resident squirrels has taken a liking to the berries this year. American holly is also the larval host of Henrys Elfin butterfly.

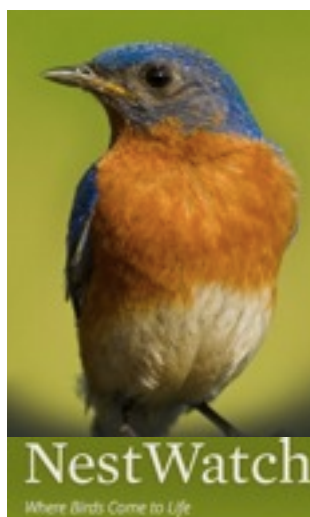
Numerous insects are known to attack hollies but none are serious pests. Pests of hollies include scale insects, southern red mite and holly leafminer. The trees are not tolerant to fire and can be killed in a forest fire. Man's overharvesting of the limbs for winter decorations can leave the trees mutilated or even dead.

Several cultivars of the American holly are available in the nursery trade including a natural selection that produces yellow berries.

## Texas Citizen-Scientists Remain Major NestWatch Contributors

Once again, TBS members, and other conscientious minded citizen-scientists, have kept Texas ranked #3 overall in the country for NestWatch reporting of all species, not just bluebird nestings. Although the total count of nesting attempts reported in 2013 is an impressive 5,182, it is slightly less than the 5,402 reported in 2012.

Of all of the species being monitored nationwide, the Eastern Bluebird is consistently ranked #1, followed by the Mountain Bluebirds at #4, and the Western Bluebirds ranks #5 as the "most monitored" bird. (Everyone thinks bluebirds are awesome to watch!)



In 2013 Texas Citizen Scientists reported a total of 554 Eastern Bluebird nesting attempts. NestWatch analysis of our nesting activity in Texas produced the following results:

- 1,799 eggs laid
- 557 unhatched eggs
- 1,113 nestlings
- 1072 fledglings

Help make 2014 a banner year for Texas by reporting all nesting activity to NestWatch.

[www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)

# David Pruitt Receives Prestigious Hornaday Award

## *Think of It as an Olympic Medal Bestowed by the Earth*

*Conservation and the Boy Scouts of America have been partners for a long time. Camping, hiking, and respect for the outdoors are a part of the Scouting heritage. Many of the requirements for advancement from Tenderfoot through Eagle Scout rank call for an increasing awareness and understanding of the natural sciences. Many former Scouts have become leaders in conserving our environment and protecting it from abuse. Right now Scouts are involved in learning about environmental problems and actively working to make a difference.*

*The fundamental purpose of the Hornaday Awards program is to encourage learning by the participants and to increase public awareness about natural resource conservation. (Boy Scouts Of America)*

Photo and article by **Paul Pruitt**

The Conservation Committee of the Alamo Area Council in San Antonio recently approved the award of the William T. Hornaday Badge to First Class Scout David Pruitt of Troop 118, La Vernia.

To earn this prestigious award, David worked for three years to install a 22 nestbox trail for Eastern Bluebirds at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center.

After David joined the Texas Bluebird Society in 2010, he installed the nestbox in his backyard and was quickly rewarded with a pair of nesting bluebirds. His instantly decided he wanted to install more nestboxes and set off to locate an appropriate area with adequate habitat. The staff at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center agreed to allow David and his Troop to survey the property and install the nestboxes.

After deciding on designs and locations, David rallied the Scouts in his unit and they quickly built 10 nestboxes, predator baffles and poles for his project. His conservation advisor, Mr. Charles Bartlett, donated an additional 12 nestboxes and baffles for David and his Troop to install. By early 2013, the nestbox trail was ready for the birds.

David monitored the nestboxes every weekend during the summer of 2013 and quickly learned the appropriate time to check the nestboxes, how to approach from different paths to confuse predators, how to identify the nests of other cavity nesting species, and, more importantly, how to report the results to the Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology. David followed the guidance of the Texas Bluebird Society and entered each visit to a nestbox into the database at <http://nestwatch.org>. David also trained several adults and Scouts in the proper procedures to check the nestboxes and report the findings to nestwatch. During the first year, 109 native cavity nesting birds, Bewick's Wrens and Ash-throated Flycatchers, fl

Since 1914, (100 years ago!) only 4,433 scouts have earned the William T. Hornaday Award, compared to the almost 58,000 boys who earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2012 alone. Prestigious indeed! TBS congratulates member David Pruitt on his impressive achievement.

Photos by Paul Pruitt



*(Left)*  
David monitors the 22 nestboxes he installed and reports activity to NestWatch as part of his Hornaday project activities.

*(Right)*  
David teaches fellow scouts how to install and monitor nestboxes so environmental efforts will continue into the future.



***“David Pruitt’s work on the Bluebird Nestbox project at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center has been both scientific and insightful. We are garnering excellent data on Bewicks Wren nesting as well as other species, and using adaptive management to try and better entice nesting by other species like Eastern Bluebirds. And the project will be an excellent citizen science opportunity in the future once David is finished with the project.”***  
– Jason St. Sauver, Interim Center Director and Education Manager, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center.

## President Pauline Presents: State Of The Organization

Texas Bluebird Society closed out 2013 with **Membership #4,314. 1,088 memberships** were current.

Most of you accept an email notification when the newsletter is posted online, so your entire (tax deductible) donation goes towards the work of the organization. **Over 30%** of 2013 expenses went towards the purchase of **cedar and supplies for constructed-by-volunteers nestboxes.**

Standards say that nonprofits should spend no more than 25 – 50 percent of contributions on fundraising. **Texas Bluebird Society spends 0.00% on fundraising.**

Almost all of the **work of the organization is done by volunteers**, and there is **\$0.00 budget for travel and entertainment.** Board Members pay their own way to events and even donate the door prizes so every donated item goes into the FUNdraising auction.

To very minimal administrative expenses, in 2013, Texas Bluebird Society **contracted for professional web services.** It was no longer feasible to conduct business with a volunteer's spare time.

Likewise, this year, Texas Bluebird Society has contracted with a TBS member (at a special TBS rate) for **bookkeeping services.** Due to family commitments, Linda Crum is stepping down from her 6+ years as Treasurer and Board of Directors member. Linda's contributions to TBS have been extraordinary! Proven by the fact it is now taking two individuals to perform all of her previous duties. Linda will volunteer/presenter at our two yearly events and continue as a popular presenter at local clubs, shipping nestboxes, and promoting bluebirds in Texas.

Because Texas Bluebird Society has a "nest egg" saved for a time like this, when it is no longer be feasible to operate solely with volunteers, we do not need to raise dues or launch a major fundraising campaign.

At this point in TBS history, we have distributed almost 10,000 nestboxes. Pair this quantity with the 10,000's additional nestboxes installed through the influence of Texas Bluebird Society since 2001. We are, indeed, spreading "bluebirds (and other native cavity-nesting birds) across Texas...one nestbox at a time."


These nestboxes result in the production of bluebirds, many in vicinities where bluebirds had not previously been observed. Bluebirds add to the quality of life for humans. As bluebirds are now a "species of least concern" (according to ornithologists), our species needs them more than their species needs us. What a difference our efforts make in the lives of humans.

I've taken great joy in seeing young members spur other young members on as "bluebirders." In March 2011, "Texas Blues" featured an article by Luke Hoag, Eagle Scout, (then 17 years old) which told of his great involvement with bluebirds, to the extent of presentations and nestbox installations for friends and family. He mentioned the Hornaday badge (which he subsequently earned). Luke joined TBS at a presentation at Arbor Gate Nursery when he was 12-years-old. Luke, a junior at Concordia University, still installs nestboxes for interested friends and family.

David Pruitt, now 15, also joined TBS when he was 12 years old. He joined at our booth at the Mitchell Lake Fall Festival. His free nestbox attracted bluebirds. He read about Luke and determined that he would work towards the Hornaday badge. He undertook a major 3-year NestWatch'd nestbox project at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Read the exciting details in this newsletter.

How proud we are of these two young men who have given presentations at our events. I notice Kenny Munoz, who will turn 13 at the Summer Symposium on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, taking notice and becoming more involved with bluebirds. Kenny devotes hours of volunteer hours for our events. Kenny joined when he was 11.

Each of us has a bluebird story and a sphere of influence. Even if you have no bluebirds, your support of the organization through your membership makes a difference in bluebird conservation and in the lives of those who see and experience bluebirds because of Texas Bluebird Society.

Thank you. Peace, hope, and love — 

## Thank You Lifetime Members For Your Support!

- Sue Abernathy
- Angela Austin
- Edra Bogucki
- Mark Byrd
- Cathy Gero
- Greg Grant
- Diane & Eric Hale
- Annette Harbaugh
- Carey & Constance Hardesty
- Brian & Judy Hetherington
- Highland Shores Garden Club
- Bob Houck
- Charlene Johnston
- Kirkley, Maxey
- Mark and Nancy Klym
- Keith, Sandy & Shawn Kridler
- Ainsley Lewis
- Greg & Glenda Marsh
- Leonard May
- Donna Parker
- Chuck Peterson
- Kathy & Billy Pinkerton
- Charles & Jackie Post
- Randy Reddemann
- Doug and Karen Rohde
- Ronny Rolf
- Jason A. Seale
- William & Linda Stevens
- Byron Stone
- Ron and Pauline Tom
- Jack Vick
- Kathy P. Weinhold
- Dr. Thomas M Wheeler
- Marsha Winfield

(\$250 for Lifetime Membership)



## Volunteers are APPRECIATED!



Caryn Brewer	Debbie Park
Katy Couvillion	John Park
Jennifer Flemming	Meg Scamman
Brian Hetherington	Jimmy Shipp
Judy Hetherington	Drew Sykes
Bob Houck	Pauline Tom
Rodger Lister	Ron Tom
Deb Lutten	Vanessa Voisinnet
Patti Marshal	Bob Houc



*Spring is here! Assembling one nestbox is easy!  
Thanks to our friends from **The Big Country  
Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist,**  
1000+ nestboxes are assembled every year,  
ready for installation.!*

## Thanks For Your Financial \$upport!

Martha Barton  
Doug Boyd  
Lana Callan  
Martha Carlson  
Anne Cassidy  
Linda & Fred Crum  
Beverly Davis  
Kathy Denison  
Patrick Blaise Falcon  
Fekete Three  
Diane & Eric Hale  
Bob Herrell  
Brian & Judy Hetherington  
Judy Hill

Lynn Hill  
Dub Hirst  
Alison Ivins  
Carolyn L Kohls  
Jamie Light  
Chris Liles  
Kay Lowery  
Charles & Joanne Peterson  
Cal & Hobby Porcher  
Debbie Powers  
Larry Ritchie  
Susie Roberson  
Phyllis Ross  
Luis Rugaard

Theresa Sandberg  
Ed & Kay Sones  
Jackie Spears  
Julienne Sugare  
Jon Swaffield  
Nelda & Michael Tandy  
Kay Tyner  
Jenny Wherry  
Cory Wise  
Charles & Sue Wiseman  
Appealing Gardens Landscape

All donations are used to support Texas  
Bluebirds Society's mission.

## Welcome New Members!

*New members who give us print permission on Membership Form*

- Martha Barton
- Michael Paul Bean
- Lana Callan
- Teresa Conrad
- Betsy Cross
- Bryan Desjardins
- Marybeth Donaldson
- Lynda Dowson
- Polly Dunlap
- Jeanie Dunnihoo
- Louise Ernst?
- Patrick Blaise Falcon
- Betty Falk

- Ryan Fleming
- Connie Garcia
- Debbie Granberry
- Glenda Grissom
- Louise Hansen
- Karen Harris
- Joseph Henley
- Marian Higgins
- Judy Hill
- Kathe Holley
- Gloria Holt
- Jan & James Hudnall
- Alison Ivins

- Jane Jackson
- Lynn Johnston
- Amy Jones
- Karan Kuykendall
- Paulette Lapham
- Rosemary Lyday
- Patricia Magyari
- Donna McFarland
- Betty McNeel
- Mary O. Parker
- Lucy Peacock
- Elise Puente
- Kim Richardson

- Pam Richcreek
- Elizabeth Robbins
- Luis Rugaard
- Mary C. Rusek
- James T. Russell
- Martha Rutherford
- Linda Sorgini
- Kim Stautner
- Durae Willard
- Terri Wood

- AM, New Braunfels
- AD, San Antonio
- KB, San Antonio
- LB, San Antonio
- AD, San Antonio
- KB, San Antonio
- LB, San Antonio
- JB, San Antonio
- JB, San Antonio
- PB, LaVernia
- KB, College Station
- EB, Boerne
- DB, Boerne

- JB, Schulenburg
- FB, Longview
- DC, Longview
- MC, Longview
- MC, Longview
- BC, The Woodlands
- CD, Leakey
- RD, Alvin
- BF, Houston
- NH, Houston
- KH, Houston
- DH, Cypress
- TJ, Austin

- KK, Austin
- SL, Talco
- CL, Christoval
- SM, New Braunfels
- KM, Rosanky
- SM, The Woodlands
- CM, The Woodlands
- FM, Conroe
- FO, The Woodlands
- MP, The Woodlands
- PP, The Woodlands
- PP, The Woodlands
- SP, The Woodlands

- CP, The Woodlands
- LR, The Woodlands
- ER, The Woodlands
- NR, Conre
- MR, Magnolia
- CR, The Woodlands
- JS, The Woodlands
- SS, The Woodlands
- TS, The Woodlands
- NS, The Woodlands
- PS, Spring
- BS, The Woodlands
- CS, Austin

- JS, Sherman
- JS, Houston
- LT, Fischer
- KT, Mt Vernon
- SW, Mt Pleasant
- RW, Scroggins
- PW, Pittsburg
- CW, Mt Pleasant

# Bluebirds Across Texas ... one nestbox at a time

Photo by Gil Eckrich

## Board of Directors

*President*

*Executive Committee*

**Pauline Tom**

Mountain City

*Vice President*

Exec Committee serves as VP

*Treasurer/AP*

TBA

*Secretary*

*Executive Committee*

**Pat Nail**

Clayton

*Executive Committee*

**Judy Hetherington**

Bronte

*Technical Designer*

*Executive Committee*

**Rex Reeves**

Waxahachie

*Event Speaker Support*

**Harold Latham**

Ivanhoe

*Fundraising Auctions*

**Benni Konvicka**

Stephenville

*New Members*

**Don Lawrence**

Whitesboro

*Membership/AR*

**John Park**

Sour Lake

Contact Us:

[tbs@txblues.org](mailto:tbs@txblues.org)

PO Box 40868

Austin, TX 78704

512.268.5678 (Pauline)

281.744.1228 (Linda)

Nesting season is here again! Check your nestboxes regularly, be on the lookout for predators and take the appropriate actions to protect the cavity nesters, and don't forget the mealworms. How many fledglings will you report to Nest-Watch this year? Report activity to [www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)



**All cavity-nesting birds are protected by federal law. Do not disturb birds or nest. Monitor and report to NestWatch.**

## Planning Your Summer Activities?



- ✓ Summer Symposium is August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ✓ Check [txblues.org](http://txblues.org) for local TBS events
- ✓ Visit a TX State Park for great outdoor fun and great birding



## Need Nestboxes?

Go to [www.txblues.org](http://www.txblues.org) click *Nestbox Distributor* tab for nearest location



The Texas Bluebird Society newsletter, *TX Blues*, is published four times a year: March ■ May ■ July ■ October  
 Debbie Bradshaw Park, Editor

Send street or email address changes to John Park at: [records@txblues.org](mailto:records@txblues.org) or send to our P.O. Box.