



Photo Credit ~ Zenobia Lapeyre

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PRESCOTT BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROJECT

Post Office Box 1469 | Sherwood, Oregon 97140 | www.prescottbluebird.com

Newsletter ~ Fall 2013

The President's Nest Box

by Dave Flaming

The 2013 Bluebird season has come to a close and we are pleased that our project numbers are up from the previous three years. Not all of the data is in at this time, but indications are that we will have banded over 1,600 nestlings.

Nestlings Banded by Year: **2010:** 1,484 **2011:** 1,200 **2012:** 1,337 **2013:** 1,600 plus

This Spring's warmer & dryer weather contributed to fewer lost clutches and a higher count of nestlings banded. The major contribution to the higher numbers was the effort of our dedicated volunteer monitors and banders. Thank you for all you accomplished!

Educating the public is an important aspect of our mission statement. This year the Board of Directors approved the formation of a scholarship program dedicated to students who are interested in pursuing a career in environmental sciences. We are pleased to be entering into this phase of our education goals. Please be certain to read elsewhere in this newsletter the article on our 2013 recipient, Samantha Neverick. Congratulations Samantha!

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

- January 10, 2014 Quarterly PBRP Board Meeting
- March 8, 2014 9:30 - Noon - SPRING WORKSHOP/NEW MONITORS at Champoeg State Heritage Area
- April, 2014 WESTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING SEASON and ROUTE MONITORING BEGIN
- April 11, 2014 Quarterly PBRP Board Meeting
- July 11, 2014 Quarterly PBRP Board Meeting
- October 10, 2014 Quarterly PBRP Board Meeting
- September tba ANNUAL MEETING, Fall Wrap Up, final Bluebird and Other Specie Reports and Banding Reports due



Photo Credit ~ Rick Sorensen

2013 September Annual Meeting

On September 14, the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project Annual Meeting was held at Champoeg State Heritage Area. President Dave Flaming thanked all of our volunteers for their field work and information collection/documentation, and recognized our board members for their work over the past year.

During the business meeting, the following volunteers were elected to the Board of Directors: Bob Burbank, Lyn Burniston, Dave Flaming, Nancy Fraser, Lauri Kunzman, Dana Robinson, and Nelda Skidmore. Lauri announced that PBRP has established a Scholarship Fund for biology students enrolled in an Environmental Science major at an Oregon school of higher

learning. She introduced Samantha Neverick, the first recipient of such a scholarship. See detailed article about the Scholarship Fund and Samantha on page 5.

Attendees were treated to a selection of munchies and finger foods provided by the Board of Directors, and had an opportunity to meet and talk together with other volunteers to share experiences on their bluebird trails, the natural world, and other timely topics. Our project's success depends on our volunteers and their careful monitoring and banding activities. Our landowners graciously allow us to place and monitor nestboxes on their property.

Thank you for all that you do and the time you devote to our efforts.

BLUEBIRD PEOPLE

A collage of photos of our volunteers, landowners, and guests. We hope this can be a regular feature. We'd like your photos submitted and will use them as space allows. Submit high resolution images to pbrpnewsletter@yahoo.com.



Photos by ~ Rick Sorensen, Nancy Fraser, Brenda McGowan, Zenobia Lapeyre

Spring Workshop for New and Returning Volunteers

Do You Want To Become A Volunteer To Help Bluebirds?
Join Us on March 8, 2014

Each year our project holds a spring kickoff workshop for interested community members, those interested in becoming PBRP volunteers, and our returning volunteers. For the next bluebird nesting season, the workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2014. We will meet at 9:30 am at the Visitors' Center at Champoeg State Heritage Area, and wrap up by noon.

For returning monitors, this is your opportunity to pick up your packet for the 2014 nesting season, meet with your bander, board members, and our new guests. All of our guests enjoy hearing from and meeting our volunteers. And I know that all of you enjoy meeting your fellow volunteers to talk over last season, the coming season, your fall and winter vacations and trips, and just catch up.

If you have friends or family that have expressed an interest in volunteering, or learning more about bluebirds or our project bring them along. Light refreshments and parking will be provided.

Registration for the workshop is encouraged so that we have some idea of how many will be attending. Contact our website at www.prescottbluebird.com to register.

New Monitor, New Nestbox, New Record!

Submitted by
Marilyn Stinnett

Some years ago during Migratory Songbird Festival at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, a Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project volunteer helped me build a nestbox. Despite good intentions, I didn't get it put up for the birds.

Then last spring 2013, we became PBRP monitors and were assigned a route on Parrett Mountain. Our fearless leader, Nancy Fraser, pointed out some of the boxes that have been the most successful bluebird producers.



Western Bluebird pair collecting mealworms to feed nestlings
© Marilyn Stinnett

When a pair of this year's ubiquitous swallows claimed one of these "known producers," we decided to put up my still-unused nestbox adjacent to it. We were overjoyed when a pair of bluebirds nested in the "new" box... and laid 5 eggs... and then there were 8 (yes, eight) eggs in the nest! Nancy said this was an all-time nest record for her Parrett Mountain routes, and at the end of the nesting cycle all 8 youngsters had fledged!



Unused nestbox that became home to 8 bluebird nestlings
© Marilyn Stinnett

Needless to say, this ultra-success in the nestbox I had helped build was a huge thrill for this first-year monitor momma!

Reflections After Attending First Bluebird Banding

Submitted by Marilyn Stinnett, New Monitor in 2013

It is such a thrill to see (and hold) those little ones! To think that a few weeks ago there was an empty nest box... then it had a couple of eggs... then it had 6 eggs... and these little creatures have feathers developing and are growing by the day. It's like planting a seed and the next thing you know it's a 5-foot-tall yarrow with numerous stems and blooms. Life is just so incredibly amazing, to put it mildly!!

Newsletter Editor Huzzah

Submitted by Nancy Fraser

Jody Burnim offered through one of our board members to help us with our newsletter nearly 3 years ago. Her careful work, somehow squeezed into running her full time business, provided us with both the incentive and means to make improvements in our publication's readability and flexibility, while using the funds donated by our friends and volunteers prudently. I am pleased to acknowledge her contributions to our project, and to thank her for making the process of soliciting materials and creating the newsletter so smooth. And one of the secrets I know is that she generously provides a similar miracle for a number of non-profit organizations. If she just could figure out how to make a week into 8 or 9 days, I'll bet she'd make a smashing volunteer bluebird monitor, too!!

The following was written by Russ Vandehey, the golf course superintendent, who is the hero of the bluebird success story at the Oregon Golf Club.

Bluebirds and Golf Courses - a perfect match

Submitted by Elaine Newland

Twenty years ago the Oregon Golf Club, in West Linn, started its involvement with the Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project. The current golf course superintendent, Russell Vandehey, has been in charge of grounds maintenance for the past 16 years, and says "this golf course location is a perfect place for Western Bluebird habitat". Vandehey knew nothing about the bluebirds when arriving at the club, but soon found out that the program, started here 1992, had something special going for it. "Our elevation is ideal, the open expanses of golf course turf and native grass areas very inviting, and tree snags left after construction of the course provided the perfect place for these special birds to flourish".

Located on Pete's Mountain, The Oregon Golf Club, as well as others in the local area, has been extremely successful with their nesting boxes over the years. The golf course typically has 5 to 7 active nesting boxes, and lately has produced up to 10 successful clutches per year.

Vandehey not only takes much pride in the success of bluebird nesting efforts at the golf course, but has also achieved certified status for the golf course through the Audubon International Program for golf courses. His efforts in reducing pesticide usage, enhancing wildlife habitat areas, and encouraging community involvement are documented every two years during the recertification process. Vandehey's efforts have recently been recognized by the Oregon Golf Course Superintendents' Association with this year's presentation of the Michael Hindahl Environmental Stewardship Award.

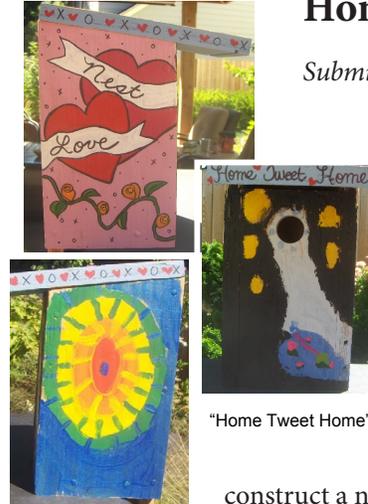
"We are very fortunate to have two hundred acres of property on which to not only maintain a beautiful golf course, but also enhance and steward the land for wildlife and the surrounding community", says Vandehey. His success at the Oregon Golf Club has encouraged some of his peers at other golf courses to get involved with bluebird nesting boxes. He has helped Stone Creek golf course in Oregon City and Persimmon golf course in Gresham get some boxes up and going.



Vandehey wants to thank all of the great banders that have helped the golf course with their success over the years. Pat, Lauri, Lyn, and Elaine along with club member Tom Monaghan have been a big part of this program.

Home Tweet Home

Submitted by Joy Redington



"Home Tweet Home"

Our family's favorite station at the Champoeg Bluebird Day was the "build your own nest box".

With the friendly guidance of volunteer Charlie Stalzer, our children pieced together and wielded a hammer (much to their delight) to

construct a nest box to call all our own.

On the trip home, a discussion ensued on how we could attract a bird family to our box. Many ideas were bounced around. It was decided that in order to increase our chances we each needed to paint a side of the nest box.

Now our newly painted nest box patiently awaits in our garden. We will be keeping our fingers crossed next spring for a special bird family to call it home.

Save this 2014 Date

SPRING WORKSHOP For NEW & RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

New volunteers are needed & invited to the March 8, 2014, meeting. Our current volunteers should also attend to pick up their monitoring packets & meet potential new monitors. This gives us a chance to give quality answers to our new volunteers' questions from experienced monitors and banders,



Photo Credit ~ Zenobia Lapeyre

and to get together with our fellow field workers to talk about one of our favorite topics . . .

WESTERN BLUEBIRDS.

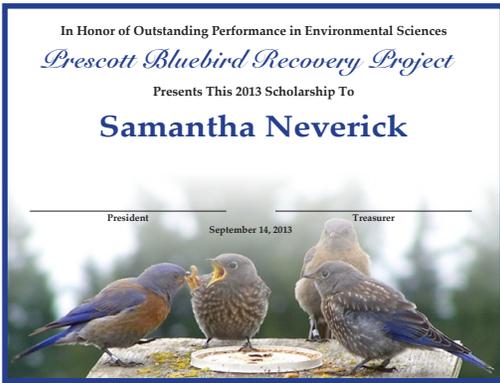
9:30 am to Noon
Champoeg State Heritage Area Visitors' Center

Light Refreshments & Parking Provided
Please register at our website: www.prescottbluebird.com

See you in March at the workshop!!!

PBRP Scholarship Program

Submitted by Lauri Kunzman



PBRP has long enjoyed reaching out to the public to share our love and knowledge of the Western Bluebird. This educational outreach includes but is not limited to instructing landowners, monitors, banders, and other interested people

about the needs and habits of the Western Bluebird.

Enhancing our organization's purpose of education the Board this year established a scholarship fund. This fund makes two scholarships a year of a determined amount available to be awarded to biology students. The successful applicants are required to be enrolling in an 'Environmental Science' major in an Oregon school of higher learning.

It is with great honor that we awarded one scholarship this fall. Our first recipient, Samantha Neverick, graduated from West Linn High School (WLHS). While at WLHS her instructors praised her as a good student who displayed excellent field science skills both in the classroom and in field studies. Today she is a sophomore at Portland Community College (PCC) majoring in biology science with plans to continue on to Portland State University (PSU) with a major in the Environmental Sciences.



Samantha is passionate, hard working and loves teaching others about nature and birds in particular. Her dream is to sit in her own classroom with a "white board to my right full of knowledge that I cannot wait to share". Along with her passion for nature and birds she combines this gift with a flair for art.

You blaze on young lady. We are only too proud to assist you in your educational endeavors which will further your personal goals along with being a mentor for other young like-minded nature lovers to admire and respect nature's critters.

Champoeg Bluebird Day

Submitted by Lauri Kunzman

Champoeg Bluebird Day 2013 proved to be a beautiful day. The skies were blue to match the beautiful blue of our favorite bird. A good turnout came to enjoy learning about the Western Bluebird that resides at Champoeg State Heritage Area (CSHA).

Visitors were greeted at an information table by volunteers Dana Robinson, Nancy Fraser, Lauri Kunzman and Barbara Manghelli. They shared their birding experiences. Available for viewing were displays of different bird nests, native food sources for the bluebirds and photos capturing bluebirds in their daily lives. Lyn Burniston shared an entertaining video filmed inside an active nesting box.

Children were able to construct their own 'take home' chickadee nesting box with the aid of our volunteer carpenters Charlie Stalzer, Jeff Wiese, Bob Burbank, and David Elliott. Larie Stalzer assisted by welcoming and guiding visitors to the work stations. Building nest boxes is always a highlight of our program. It is a thrill to see how excited and engaged the kids are in building their own nesting box to put up in their own yards

Park staff were available to sign up kids for Junior Ranger programs where kids can earn points in Ranger activity at the Park throughout the year.

A bluebird spotting station was set up out in the field within viewing distance of an active nesting box. Ron and Nelda Skidmore, monitors at CSHA, along with Barbara Manghelli, fielded questions about the bluebird nesting season. Binoculars were available for viewers to observe bluebirds including watching the adult bluebirds accept mealworms provided by the monitors.

Many thanks to Rangers Daniel and Brian for making this day possible.



Photo Credit ~ Lauri Kunzman

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Photo courtesy of Zenobia Lapeyre

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