



**Virginia
Bluebird
Society**

The Bird Box

March 2006

Calendar

This Month: Time to renew your VBS membership if you haven't.

This Month: Check your trails! Are they ready for monitoring? See our Spring Trail Checklist, page 3.

March 18: VBS Board meets, 10:30-12:30, DGIF, 4010 West Broad St. Richmond. See VBS Web site for directions.

March 28: Bluebird Seminar, Anne Little. Noon. Reedsville Garden Club. E-mail Anne for details: thegate@cox.net

March 28: Bluebird Seminar, Anne Little. 7 p.m. Spotsylvania Native Plant Society. E-mail Anne for details.

April 1: All bluebird trail monitoring should begin this week.

April 20 - 23: Mid-Atlantic Garden Faire, Abingdon. Marci and Brian Swanson, mltdswan@comcast.net

April 27 - 30: NABS Annual Meeting. San Antonio, Texas. See page 4.

May 1 - 7: New River Birding and Nature Festival, Oak Hill, West Virginia. See www.birding-wv.com.

May 5 - 7: VSO Annual Meeting. See page 4.

May 12 - 14: Clinch Mountain Trails Birding Festival, Saltville. E-mail: birdfestival@saltville.org.

May 15: Deadline for your articles for the July *Bird Box*.

May 19 - 21: Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival, Pembroke. Contact Peggy Spiegel at gramby@pemtel.net.

Color-banding Project Update

Last summer the Virginia Bluebird Society completed its first season of bird banding. The project's inaugural year was treated as a pilot study to determine the feasibility of doing long-term research on bluebird population dynamics. Our protocol and techniques were honed throughout the season, and the results provide insight into the bluebird populations on our monitored trails.

This year bluebirds were banded on two trails: Franklin Park and Brambleton Regional Park, both in Loudoun County. Most of the effort was made at Franklin, with 30 birds (24 chicks and 6 adults) banded. At Brambleton one adult female and her six chicks from her first clutch were banded. One of the crucial elements of the pilot study was to confirm that the bluebirds would not be adversely affected. After all banding events, the parents returned to their nests, most in less than 20 minutes, to successfully fledge their young.

A crucial part of any population study is the recapture or re-sighting of marked individuals. To aid re-sighting, individual birds not only received the usual metal band but were also color banded. Each parent had two bands per leg: a metal band and a unique combination of three color bands. All 2005 hatching-year birds received the metal band on one leg and a red band on the other. (For details on how to report a banded bluebird, see page 3.)

Because the parents were uniquely color-banded, we could confirm through observation that one pair fledged three broods in one box, and another female fledged two broods in one box then shifted to a neighboring box to raise a third. (Her male partner or partners eluded capture throughout the season.)

For 2006 the project will focus on developing a more reliable way to capture adult males. The technique used last year required males to enter the box completely, but males will often only insert their heads to feed the box occupants. This year, monitors will look for banded bluebirds with one red band. When a second-year bird is re-sighted, attempts will be made to capture it with a mealworm-baited trap or audio-playback and mist nets.

By continuing to mark and re-sight individuals, this study will help us understand how bluebird survival is affected by age, life history decisions, and landscape. Such data can contribute to more effective conservation of bluebirds and their habitat.

— David Mitchell

[David Mitchell, of Loudoun County, is color-banding Eastern Bluebirds with a license held by VBS.]



Photo © Helen Ellis

Promoting bluebirds and other cavity nesters

The Bird Box

Issue 7.3

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.

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We welcome your written items and artwork (photos and drawings) for *The Bird Box*! Send your materials by e-mail or on diskette to Sarah or Bob.

VBS News

One of Us: Anne Little

Many VBS members have already had contact with our new President, **Anne Little**, who took over the reins in September from **Julie Kutruff**. Anne and her husband, **Carl**, along with **Julie and Barbara and Charlie Chambers** were founding members of VBS in 1996. Since then Anne has worn many official hats for our organization, such as Vice President of Trails, Secretary, and Board Member. But even when she was not working in an official capacity Anne, frequently accompanied by Carl, was establishing new trails, working with state and county officials, and speaking about bluebirds before many organizations.

A native of Michigan where she majored in political science at Wayne State University, Anne spent much of her adult life in San Francisco. Her dedicated interest in bluebirds took hold after she moved to Virginia in the early '90s. Anne and Carl won the esteemed Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority's Walter Mess Award in 1997 after spearheading the creation of a number of responsibly tended bluebird box trails. An article in the Washington Post in 1997 featured Anne and Julie's efforts at establishing box trails. As a result, over 300 phone calls flooded Anne's company, and it became apparent that the Virginia Bluebird Society could grow from a handful of people to several hundred members statewide if properly stewarded. While helping VBS grow, Anne became an officer of the North American Bluebird Society (NABS).

About three years ago, Anne and Carl moved from Woodbridge to Fredericksburg. There she is active member of the Sierra Club and of the Fredericksburg Pathway Committee, which is helping to provide 18 miles of walking paths through the historic city. She also is helping to save Crowsnest, a 4,000-acre old-growth forest in Stafford County.

In December 2005 Anne sold her marketing and sales business and has opened a new business, Through the Garden Gate, a landscape design firm with a focus on shrubs, trees, native plants, dry stonewalls, and waterfalls. Her design certification will be come from the University of Richmond's program at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

In her spare time, Anne is the leader of six box trails and monitors in Fredericksburg and Prince William and Spotsylvania Counties. She also promotes the mission of VBS by being available for bluebird presentations in many parts of the great birding state of Virginia. If you haven't already met Anne, you'll probably get to know her soon!

— Sarah McDade

2005 Nest Box Results Summary

Included in this edition of *The Bird Box* is an insert presenting the lion's share of last year's statewide nest box results. We got a good response to the early request for data, so this summary contains data for over 2,300 nest boxes, just short of the total for all of 2004. For 2005, I also expect data from an additional 400 boxes, so we're heading for a record.

On the reverse of the insert is a brief analysis and comparison with the results of 2004. We'll put the final results on the VBS Web site later in the summer after the rest of the data has come in. Meanwhile, thanks to all who worked so hard to get their data to me.

— Charlie Chambers



Reporting a Color-banded Bird

It is one challenge to color-band a bird. The second challenge is to sight one, and for this binoculars are helpful. The third challenge is properly reading the bands. The fourth challenge is reporting them so the research can be helpful to the birds. As he explains on page 1, David Mitchell banded his hatch-year birds with one silver and one red band last year. Those might be the easiest to report. He gave the adults three colors plus the metal band, and the top right band was always green. (David used these colors: red, blue, green, black, purple, yellow, white, orange, pink, and light blue. The yellow and light blue might fade toward a white.)

What is the "top right"? In David's research, the top right is from the bird's point-of view. How does an observer "read" the bands? Pretending he is the bird, the observer reads in the following order: top left, bottom left, top right, bottom right. For an excellent guide to reading color bands, visit Cornell's House Finch Disease Web page at www.birds.cornell.edu/hofi/resightcolor.html.

Please report any sightings of these birds to David at 540-822-4553. Try to be specific as to when and exactly where you saw one. If you spot a red-banded bird, David is willing to travel to the site.
– Sarah McDade

Are You Ready for the Bluebirds?

All over the state, trail leaders and monitors are gearing up for the nesting season. One thing a State County Coordinator tries to do is to alert bluebirders that it is time to get out there and take a look at your boxes. The other is to help you find new monitors and train them, as well as retrain the returning ones.

You can send an article to your local newspaper or newsletter soliciting interested folks to call and volunteer for bluebird trail monitoring. I also give programs to fit your area's needs, as do many of our VBS coordinators. On Feb. 21, Charlie and I drove to Nelson County to give a program for Milly Colella, the new County Coordinator there, who had gathered bluebirders and interested friends together.

On March 20, there will be a training and information program in Loudoun County for County Coordinator Nicole Hamilton and her bluebirders at the Rust Library on Route 7 in Leesburg at 6:30 p.m. You are all invited. Then on March 29, Klytia Salcedo-Roper is presenting a training and information program for new and seasoned monitors at the Mason District Headquarters on Columbia Pike in Annandale at 7 p.m. Please come and meet like-minded people.

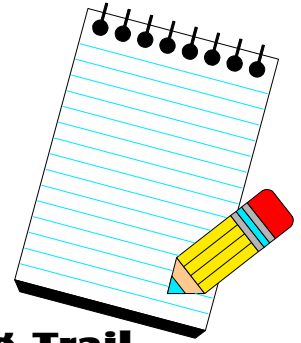
You can contact your County Coordinator using the list on the VBS Web site, www.virginiabluebirds.org. Earl Morris, the Roanoke County Coordinator, is also giving programs this spring. Are you?

– Barbara Chambers, State County Coordinator

What's Happening on Your Trail?

The *Bird Box* is looking for printable information from any VBS member about life on your bluebird trails. Perhaps you would like to share some unusual happenings or observations.

Please e-mail your articles or letters to the editor to Sarah McDade at sarahmcdade@aol.com. Or you can send your information to 8502 Crestview Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.



Spring Trail Checklist

The bluebirds will soon be nesting. Is your trail ready for their activity? It takes some effort to be organized before they lay their eggs, but it pays big dividends in ease of recording and reporting data when everything is in place before the birds set up house-keeping!

- T Have you walked your trail and checked each box? Take some repair tools and magic markers with you.
- T Have you moved any boxes that need better locations?
- T Is your monitoring team in place, scheduled, and trained? VBS can help!
- T Is your notebook ready, with extra monitoring sheets, sharpened pencils, a calendar, team member names and telephone numbers, scrap paper, and hatchling aging charts?
- T Is your bucket ready?

All forms are on the VBS Web site, www.virginiabluebirds.org.



Photo © Helen Ellis

Virginia Society of Ornithology

Annual Meeting
May 5-7, 2006

Breaks Interstate Park, off I-80

Hosted by Buchanan Co. Bird Club

Saturday, May 6 Highlights

1:30 Northern Saw-whet Owls, Claire Mellinger

2:00 Effects of Human Disturbance on the Breeding Success of Eastern Bluebirds, Caitlin Kight, College of William and Mary

7:00 Banquet Speaker, Don Kroodsma: The Singing Life of Birds

Complete details at VSO Web site:
www.virginiabirds.net

Red, White, and Bluebirds

NABS 2006 Convention
April 26-30, 2006
San Antonio, Texas

Hosted by the Texas Bluebird Society

Online registration at:
www.NABS2006.com



Photo © Helen Ellis

If You Find an Injured Bird

Do people who know you monitor bluebird boxes also think you know everything about birds, including how to care for an injured bird? There are definite “do’s and don’ts” about rehabilitating injured wildlife, and it is illegal to harbor a wild bird. It is best to leave the care to trained rehabilitators. A Northern Virginia songbird rehabilitator recently told me that many birds brought to her have been bitten by cats and that they must be given antibiotics because otherwise the cat bite is deadly.

If you think a bird is truly injured, and not a fledgling making its first journey into wider surroundings, place it in a shoebox-type of container with holes in the top for ventilation. **Do not** provide food or water, but place the box in a warm, quiet place away from pets and children. Then call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator hotline (see the list below).
– Sarah McDade

Licensed Songbird Rehabilitators

Here is a partial list of licensed songbird rehabilitators in Virginia. Many of these organizations and individuals also rehabilitate other animals. Most are non-profit organizations that rely on donations and volunteers. For a complete list, check the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website: www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/licensed_rehabilitators.asp. Click on “List all Locations.”

Augusta, Albemarle, Rockingham, Nelson Counties

Wildlife Center of Virginia 540-942-9453

Clarke, Warren, western Loudoun Counties

Blue Ridge Wildlife Center 540-837-9000

Frederick County

Gretl Learned 540-888-7949

Northern Virginia

Wildlife Rescue League 703-440-0800

Richmond area

Area Rehabbers Klub (ARK) 804-598-8380

Roanoke and Bedford Counties, Lynchburg City

Wildlife Care Alliance 540-587-4007

Virginia Beach area

Wildlife Response Hotline 757-543-7000

Join NABS

Founded in 1978, the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to monitoring bluebird populations and leading the bluebird conservation movement. VBS is an affiliate of NABS.

Individual memberships are \$20, and family memberships are \$30. In addition to the mealworm discount, members receive a subscription to *Bluebird*, a quarterly journal with new scientific findings and a wealth of ideas and tips for bluebird lovers. Nesting boxes, literature, and bluebird art are available for purchase. You also get access to expert advice for bluebird trail problems.

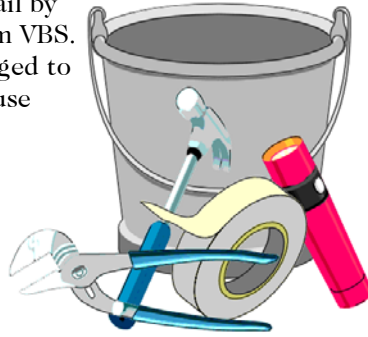
To join NABS, visit its Web site, www.nabluebirdsociety.org, or send your payment to NABS at its **new address**: 481 Athens Road, Royston, Georgia 30662.

What's in Your Bucket?

Many of us were trained how to monitor a trail by Barbara Chambers or other volunteers from VBS. In this training, new monitors are encouraged to carry a sturdy bucket with essential tools you can use when a nest box needs an "emergency" repair.

Here's what a helpful bucket contains:

- T Screwdrivers: Phillips and regular
- T Pliers
- T Small hammer
- T Small jar of nails and screws
- T Extra pencils, pens, and magic markers
- T Small and medium plastic bags
- T Bar of plain soap, like Ivory (*Why plain soap? See "The Paper Wasp," page 6.*)
- T Small stiff-bristled brush
- T Rubber bands
- T Putty knife
- T Small mirror
- T Flashlight (for House Wrens' nests!)
- T Clean, washable gloves
- T Strong adhesive tape
- T Tanglefoot (*see right column*)
- T Old golf balls (for propping up leaning poles)
- T Sunscreen



Got Ants on Your Poles?

Tree Tanglefoot pest barrier is a natural-ingredient, thick, gooey, spreadable substance, and it's very effective in keeping upward-bound pole-hugging ants from getting into the nest boxes. Wait until you have an ant problem before applying Tanglefoot around the circumference of the lower part of the pole. It is messy, and a monitor should avoid contact with it after it is applied.

Tanglefoot can be purchased on-line or in Northern Virginia at Merrifield Garden Centers and some Home Depot stores. Check the Tanglefoot website (www.tanglefoot.com) for other retailers.

Reporting a Dead Banded Bird

About four years ago a neighbor told me she had found a dead bird in her driveway the previous year with a band on its leg. She mentioned it when she learned of my interest in bluebird box monitoring. She kept the band in a drawer with a tag showing the date she found it. I was really curious about the band, so she gave it to me. But I could not find a phone number to call to report the discovery. A fellow VBS member referred me to the Bird Banding Laboratory office in Laurel, Maryland, and I called in the data on the band, along with the date that the bird had been found.

Within 60 seconds the lab told me that the bird was a Carolina Chickadee, gave its approximate age at time of banding, and reported that it had been banded by another neighbor three years before. The lab also sent me a little certificate outlining the banding information about that specific bird. So if you find a banded bird, record the date, collect the data from the metal band, and call 1-800-327-BAND. Both you and the Bird Banding Laboratory will be glad you followed through.

– Sarah McDade

Keep your monitoring notebook, with your previous week's notations, close at hand, and review it before approaching a box. After examining the box, immediately record your findings in the notebook. Depending on the type of trail, some monitors leave the heavier tools in a nearby golf cart or car or carry them in a backpack while wearing a tool belt or apron for the screwdrivers, brushes, and plastic bags.

Mountain Migratory Bird Festival

May 19-21, 2006

Headquarters: Mt. Lake Hotel

800-346-3334

Celebrate spring migration at the Giles County birding festival! You will have over 35 field trips and workshops to choose from including rafting on the New River. The activities begin at noon on Friday with field and float trips. Those will be followed by a slide presentation of "The Birds of Mountain Lake" with Jerry Via and a Moth Watch with Teta Kain.

Saturday will be filled with field trips, workshops, and children's nature activities. A banquet that evening will be topped off with the keynote speaker, Bill Hilton, who has spent the past two winters banding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in Costa Rica with his project Operation RubyThroat. Then more field trips on Sunday.

For more information, visit the Web site, www.mountainlakebirding.com, or contact Peggy Spiegel at gramby@pemt.net or 540-921-4340. Sponsors include the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, For the Birds, Giles County, Mt. Lake Hotel, and the Inn at Riverbend.

Which Wasp Lives In Your Box?

“Paper wasp” is the common name for over 20 different species of paper wasps native to North America. They get their name from the nest they build. They are members of the genus *Polistes*, family *Vespidae*. The nest looks like an upside-down umbrella with hexagonal cells that hold the eggs and then the larva of the species. These grow into adults inside the cells, feeding on a caterpillar that the parent left for that purpose.

The nests can be found hanging under eaves of buildings, on porches and structures as well as in attics and trees. The paper nest is made from wood fibers that are mixed with the sticky saliva of the parent wasp. (Don't confuse these with the more common hornet or yellow jacket wasp. They build very large gray, conical, closed nests that look papery.)

The nest of the European wasp is larger than that of the native North American variety. European wasps, with vivid yellow and black stripes, are very aggressive and much more likely to attack with little or no provocation. They were introduced in Massachusetts in 1980 and originally ranged from the Mediterranean to China. It looks like this is the House Sparrow of the wasp family! The queens of this species, *Polistes dominulus*, have been found to “sit and wait” to adopt a mature nest of native wasps, when they have no nest of their own. This reproductive strategy seems very risky, but they often use it. The European queen will then eat the eggs and larvae of the native queen but will allow the worker cells to develop to tend her larvae.

All wasps are ferocious hunters and will clear the garden of unwanted caterpillars, but the European wasp may also be a real limiting factor for our butterflies and butterfly gardens!

– Barbara Chambers

Cavity Nesters' Corner The Paper Wasp

We have all had the experience of opening a nest box on a trail and finding wasps inside. Of course, you need to get them out of there, as no self-respecting bird will share a box with a paper wasp, would you? Here are some ideas for getting them out and keeping them out – short of stomping them to death.

Early in the morning, the wasps are more lethargic and can easily be swept out of the box with your gloved hand, a paintbrush or a screwdriver. Just step aside as you do it! (And don't let anyone who is sensitive or allergic to bee stings do it.) Then look inside the box for the small beginnings of the paper nest. A short stem attaches the paper cone to the inside ceiling of the box. Pick that off, crush it under foot, and throw it off into the woods away from the box. Do not use insect spray inside the box.

Rub soap over the entire ceiling of the box to seal the wood fibers so the wasps can't reattach the nest. Use a bar of plain soap like Ivory, not a detergent or deodorant soap like Dial, because plain soap has more natural ingredients and is less toxic to birds. You can also use paraffin, as in a candle or canning wax. Bernie Daniel, president of the Ohio Bluebird Society, suggests that a citronella candle might be best. Although he has never tried it, he suggests that the candle contains both elements that deter wasps, and citronella is non-toxic to birds. If you keep at it, this process seems to get rid of wasps inside boxes.

Unfortunately the box is not the only “cavity” in which wasps can build. They can also build inside the snake guard. These nests have been much larger than nests inside the boxes. So if you see wasps flying about, but none are in the box, they may have a nest inside the snake guard.

If so, you have a slightly more challenging problem, especially if it is the larger nest of the European paper wasp, *Polistes dominulus*. The queen of this species can over-winter in a box that was not cleaned out in the fall. They are much more aggressive than our native paper wasps. They have been found in Pennsylvania and Laurel, Maryland, so they are probably in Virginia, too. They may be the species that uses our snake guards, so take care. (See “Which Wasps Lives in Your Box?”, left column.)

To clear a wasp nest from a snake guard, I **do** use wasp spray. Use a can that delivers a **stream** of toxin. I spray, and then run back out of the way as they boil out of there! When the activity slacks off, I spray again, putting some down the crack at the top of the guard where it meets the pole. Then I leave it and finish the trail or come back the following day. You can then remove the snake guard by removing the two screws that attach the cover to the stove pipe. (Mark one of the screw holes so you will know where to match up the holes to put the screws back in.) Pull down on the stovepipe, and you can then reach and remove the wasp nest. Scrape the snake guard well, apply more spray, and then reassemble.

Crush the nest completely underfoot and then throw it far off or place it in a tightly tied plastic bag and put in the trash.

This wasp problem is a good reason to consider using Ron Kingston's design for a snake guard. It uses ½-inch hardware cloth for the cover instead of the closed metal cap. That openness may deter the wasps from building in the snake guard since it's no longer a cavity!

– Barbara Chambers



Golden Paper Wasp Nest

Photo: Department of Entomology, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jim Kalisch

Two Board Books for Toddlers

These reviews are for big folk who want to read to wee ones who love to snuggle, hear a gentle voice, and view colorful pictures. *Owl Babies*, written by Martin Waddell and illustrated by Patrick Benson, is a cleverly presented story that centers on three baby owls. They awake to find their mother gone. There are discussions, speculation and frustration. The youngsters know their mother must hunt food, but they are still concerned that she is not home. (This point may be a good one to talk about: what to do or not do when children believe they are alone.) Owls' nocturnal nature is subtly revealed, as are size differences within a brood. Apparently owl chicks hatch on different days. *Owl Babies* ends well with the mother's return. Sturdy, thick board-pages contain sparse but revealing words and marvelously detailed drawings. (*Owl Babies*, *Candekwick Press, Cambridge, Mass. Gift set, with tiny stuffed baby owl, about \$13.00; book about \$6.*)

Bluebird's Nest is dominated by fanciful characters. Illustrated by Jo Parry and written by Dorothea DePrisco, this book offers two additional features that may fascinate – soft twine represents nest-building material and a three-dimensional nest aids the story ending. Cartoonish characters work through seasonal change, nest building, and happy endings. (*Bluebird's Nest, Piggy Toes Press of Intervisual Books, Inc., Los Angeles, about \$10.00.*)

Reviewer's druthers: purchase the former, checkout the latter. – *V. Kay Fry*

DGIF Partners With VBS

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), through the Watchable Wildlife Program, has recently formed a partnership with the Virginia Bluebird Society to provide some limited support to build bluebird trails at the Mariners Museum, Newport News Park, Sandy Bottom Park in Hampton, and several schools in the Hampton Roads area. One hundred boxes will provide valuable habitat for bluebirds in these urban areas and will provide valuable opportunities for many Virginians to see bluebirds, Tree Swallows, and perhaps even a flying squirrel. Each of these boxes will also be a “teachable moment” to many people about the threat of invasive non-native species like starlings and House Sparrows and about the need to protect boxes from predators, such as black rat snakes.

The Department has a three-fold mission to maintain optimum populations of wildlife, provide opportunities for all Virginians to enjoy wildlife, and promote safety-related to outdoor recreation. To further this mission the Department started the Watchable Wildlife Program four years ago. During this time program staff have built many lasting relationships and accomplished some big projects. Most of you are probably familiar with the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail (the first statewide wildlife viewing trail in the United States), but you may not be familiar with the rest of the program.

The Watchable Wildlife Program manages the WildlifeMapping Program, which is our volunteer program to collect wildlife observations. In addition, we co-sponsor three birding festivals across the Commonwealth, we provide workshops on urban wildlife issues, and we provide technical assistance to landowners and managers who want to improve their property for wildlife viewing. Finally, our program staff is always looking for opportunities to provide the public with better wildlife viewing opportunities. Partnerships such as this one between the Department and the Virginia Bluebird Society to build these new bluebird trails provide the best mechanism for the Watchable Wildlife Program to get the most from our limited resources. These types of working relationships not only benefit the wildlife, our ultimate goal, but also benefit all partners by supporting the organizations' missions. We look forward to building on this partnership in the future and developing many new ones.

– *Jeff Trollinger, DGIF Watchable Wildlife Program Manager*



Paper Wasp Nest in Mid-Summer
Photo: Department of Entomology, Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jim Kalisch

Can Wasps Smell?

According to researchers from the American Chemical Society, wasps can be “trained” to detect odors! The wasps are put into cup-sized containers and they then somehow sound or flash an alarm when they react to certain odors! Researchers say these trained wasps could be used to detect illegal explosives, drugs, human and plant diseases, and even bodies. Who knows, perhaps trained wasps will replace sniffer dogs at airports, disaster sites and other places.

– *Barbara Chambers*

A Unique Gift

Do you know someone who “has everything,” but you would still like to give him or her a remembrance for a birthday or other occasion? How about the volunteers who lead free bird walks? Would you like to show them your appreciation, too? Giving **memberships in VBS** can solve these dilemmas. See the VBS membership information on the back page.

Listen to Song of The Bluebird

Even experienced monitors can have a hard time recognizing the song of the bluebird. It's a challenging warble for a person to mimic if asked to do so. The New York State Bluebird Society's Web site, at www.nysbs.org, features a recording of a bluebird singing. Just click on the bluebird photo.

You'll find links to this and many other birding resources on 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.

Join Us!

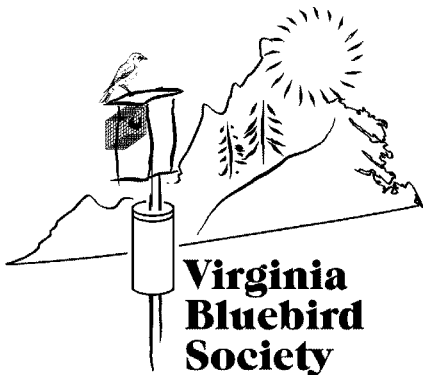
Become a member of VBS and receive:

- T All the information you need to start and maintain a successful bluebird trail.
- T Access to working trails, workshops, and educational programs.
- T Our newsletter, *The Bird Box*, in July, October, and March.

Annual membership is \$10 Individual, \$15 Family.

Download the membership form from the VBS Web site and send it with your check, payable to VBS, to:

Virginia Bluebird Society
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401



In This Edition of *The Bird Box*

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Virginia Bluebird Society
726 William Street
Fredericksburg, VA 22401

**DATED
MATERIAL**