



California Bluebird Recovery Program

Sponsored Jointly by
National Audubon Society - California Field Office and
North American Bluebird Society

For the Encouragement and Preservation
of Cavity Nesters, Especially Bluebirds
Anywhere in the West

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Volume 2 Number 2

October 1996

U.S. Forest Service Agreement Concluded

by Don Yoder, Program Director, CBRP

The month of February produced an exciting highlight for the California Bluebird Recovery Program. On February 14, this Director received a signed copy of a

The Forest Service is apprising the biologists and Forest Supervisors, in each of the Forests, of our agreement and of the help our members will be able to provide.

of biologists or supervisors who are ready to establish working arrangements with our representatives. Biologists can assist in locating likely habitat for boxes, box placement, and very likely, mutually agreeable monitoring schedules.

The Forest Service controls 20 million acres of land, containing some of the best habitat for cavity nesting birds to be found anywhere.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Forest Service which sets forth our mutual interest in furthering the Cavity Dependent Species effort of the Service, and goals to find good habitat for the placement and monitoring of nest boxes. The Memorandum lays out plans for each of our organizations to assist the other in furthering our respective aims.

Their cooperation is readily available and they will look favorably upon any contact, seeking to set up a local arrangement on land they supervise.

Copies of the monitoring records are to be exchanged at the end of the season so Forest interests and our own can measure the success of each trail or problems which can be avoided.

The Forest Service controls 20 million acres of land in the Pacific Southwest, supervised by over 100 biologists in 18 National Forests in this region. This land contains some of the best habitat for cavity nesting birds and animals to be found anywhere. Since cavities in natural structures are limited, nest boxes provide a logical supplement.

All CBRP County Coordinators have received a copy of the MOU, together with names and addresses

Even though a few Coordinators may not be located in or immediately near a National Forest, they will be able to pass to other birders the availability of the Forest Service facilities and to be of assistance in establishing some of the contacts with the Forest Service staff. If you have access to Forest Service land, contact your County Coordinator for details and particulars of the Memorandum.

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We fully expect that you will receive total cooperation by the Forest Service staff and that their training in various sciences will be freely offered and helpful to you. Likewise, we expect program participants to set up an easy working arrangement for mutual satisfaction of both parties. ▼

Bits & Pieces

▼ You might decide it is time to try some **different Bluebird box designs**, either for variation, or to experiment with your birds' acceptance of different designs. Call or write, if you would like drawings. In addition to the standard NABS (North American Bluebird Society) pattern, we can provide plans for Bauldry, Del Parkinson, Doug Martin, Kentucky Slot, Peterson and Tree Branch boxes. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for fastest service.

▲ **THE THIRD ISSUE** of the CBRP newsletter contained a **WANTED** poster for you to copy and post with your name and phone number, to attract resources of material, and help in monitoring boxes once put in place. Hatch Graham, El Dorado Co-Coordinator, copied the poster on shocking pink paper. **It is stunning** and ought to get a lot of attention. Post copies in merchants' windows, lumber yards, building sites, and anywhere it can be seen.

▼ If the **WANTED** poster gets results and you can secure material for salvage and conversion into nest boxes, let your coordinator know. The word can be disseminated to other birders who may also be looking for material.

▲ **CONVERSELY**, if you need material, look around your area first, then contact your **County Coordinator** who may already know of such resources.

▲ **IF YOU HAVE a fax number or e-mail address**, we'd like to add it to

our files. By the time the Coordinator list is published again, or a complete membership roster is arranged, such numbers can be a valued addition. Other members can then reach you more readily. Indicate whether you are on a dedicated or shared line.

▲ **WE HAVE FINALLY** made progress in formatting summaries for the 1995 Annual Nest Box Report. We'll be sending a summary report to all report contributors when it is completed. Our thanks to everyone who submitted reports. We look forward to receiving the 1996 reports.

▲ **Included with this mailing** you will find Form 2 Annual Bird Nesting Summary 1996. We need your report if you had a box or a trail—with favorable results or not. Your data will be included in the total for CA, and forwarded to NABS for inclusion in the national totals. Please try to submit your report by November 15.

According to NABS, 1995 was not a great year for Bluebird production nationally; many other areas reporting reduced fledglings. The data from California helped sustain previous years' national average totals. **YOUR FIGURES ARE IMPORTANT.**

▲ **LESA CHAN**, Placer County Coordinator, has written a very provocative letter to (Sacramento Bee's) California Life editor Dan Pratt pointing out the fallacies of spraying for oakworms. She points out that killing oakworms also kills birds, etc. that feed on them and feed their young at the critical hatching season when adequate food supplies are so important. She cites an authoritative source, the California Oak Foundation, who assert that oak trees are not harmed by oak moth larvae. Wiping out the food supply is just as

critical as destroying natural habitat for creatures that have no voice in their survival.

▼ One of our newest coordinators, **Howard Rathlesberger, San Mateo County**, is looking for posts and pipe for box supports of any of the well-known types—something to hold up a box and be reasonably substantial and long lasting. Steel or PVC pipe, 4x4 or even 2x4 wood posts—all will be useful and fill a need. So much usable material of such types is discarded; all it takes sometimes is to look in likely places to make some wonderful discoveries.

▲ **Howard** has several potential nest box sites—some on property whose name would be readily recognizable to many readers. Property owners are often surprisingly accepting of your efforts to restore some natural residents on their property. Look around—and ASK!

▼ **WE HAVE LEARNED** from an associate that bluebirds abound in Pinnacles National Monument, **San Benito County!** We are totally without representation or a Coordinator in that county. If you have contacts or friends in the general area of Hollister, Tres Pinos or the county in general, please help us contact them to join in our Program.

▲ **If you are making group presentations**, public programs, etc., you should be included in the NABS Speakers' Bureau. Send your name to Ron Kingston, Chairman, 3690 Country Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22903. He will send you a questionnaire late in the year to describe your activities, methods, etc. Keep track (now) of your approximate audience sizes.

More BITS & PIECES on Page 6

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Mountain Air Motivates Monitors

by Hatch Graham, Co-Coordinator, Amador/El Dorado Counties

What a year it's been! When we got going with the California Bluebird Recovery Program last February, we had no idea where it would take us. Judy and I drove around the Counties contacting anyone who had Bluebird houses in evidence. Viola Sampert, our co-Coordinator in El Dorado who handles the Georgetown Divide area, provided many interested folks with construction plans and handouts. Julie Ellis wrote an excellent article in the County Times and many people contacted us for plans and advice. Mary Hess hosted our display on Mothers' Day and the following weekend at her Bluebird Haven Iris Gardens. Lesa Chan, the Placer County Coordinator, lent us her beautiful banner and Viola brought an eye-catching display.

We put up "WANTED" posters at country post offices and stores and many responded—some just this month. Not everyone had the proper habitat or could monitor, but several donated trailer loads of scrap that we could recycle into nest boxes.

Thanks to Cassandra and Dave Draxler, Julie and Cal Ellis, John and Mary Hess, Debbie See, Pat and Chuck Butterfield, Mike Rains, and

Jean Ellis, I collected enough material to make over 250 nest boxes. I've placed 180 of these so far. These are in addition to the hundred or so that some of you already had up.

Our thanks, too, to the landowners who allowed us to establish trails on their property monitored by others: Eloise James, Chuck Gladwell, Ray Farrell, and notably the U.S. Forest Service, the largest landowner in the mountain counties. More recently, the Forest Service has guided the 250 member Soroptimist Club at Lake Tahoe to seek us out as a conservation project they want to undertake. We'll initially establish 25 boxes in the Tahoe Basin this winter. And we have a 50 box trail at Schneider Cow Camp near Caples Lake on the Amador Ranger District. As we locate willing monitors who want a weekly hike in our beautiful mountains, we have locations that are virtually unlimited.

The North American Bluebird Society has been asking for annual reports for many years, but there was little response from California, even though many people had boxes out. In 1993 only 13 reports came in from California (the records from 1994

aren't in yet), but since Don Yoder got CBRP running, State reports jumped to 62 in 1995! Now here's the news that we are proud of—42 of the State reports were from El Dorado and Amador Counties!

Finding monitors for landowners is the toughest problem we face. Penny Saulsbury, Amador co-Coordinator, is monitoring a 10-box trail in Amador County, and we have the Soroptimists lined up at Lake Tahoe. Even before CBRP reached him, Jim Fletcher was monitoring 19 boxes at the Forest Service Nursery at Camino along with his own 6 boxes in Pleasant Valley. Recently, Janet Varcoe of Ione expressed interest in helping monitor our 61-box trail on Hwy 124 by Dry Creek.

Amador and El Dorado folks obviously have the spirit and dedication to restore habitat for cavity nesters and perform positive wildlife management. Viola and I challenge the other Counties in the State to match our past and future records!

As Don Yoder told us, "There must be something invigorating about the air up there". You better believe it, Don! ◀

Irvington High School Students Make Bird Boxes for Monitoring

The Special Education Family at Irvington High School is involved in building a variety of bird houses in their vocational training class. The bird houses are being placed throughout California and then monitored for nesting patterns and types of birds that use the houses. This project is a great channel for introduction of students to natural science subjects, particularly birds.

To assure success of the program, donations of \$25-\$500 are solicited for individual, partner, and corporate sponsorships. The houses are provided to the community for the low cost of **\$6.00**, which covers the cost of materials. They have extended that invitation to members of the CBRP for their bluebird trails.

For more information about obtaining low cost bird boxes, or to inquire about the Irvington High School bird box program and how you can incorporate it into your community, please contact **Harold Whitmore at (510) 656-5711, Ext. 253.** ◀

CBRP on the World Wide Web?

You Can Help!

by Tom Hoffman, Coordinator, San Joaquin County

(Excerpted from a letter to Don Yoder, CBRP Program Director)

I wanted you to know I think the last edition of the CBRP newsletter looks very professional. I don't know who did the editing and arranging, but it is a fine piece of work. You are doing a good job, and for once the NABS is starting to notice us folks out here in California. (My name even came out in the last issue!)

As one of your County Coordinators, I thought I should give you something of a report. First of all, I might as well come out and say it directly, I didn't achieve what I wanted to since accepting the position. I set myself a goal of inventorying the present nesting trails in the county. My first step was to contact the major newspapers in the county with a letter to the editors. The letters would ask readers to contact me if: (1) they had or knew of an existing bluebird trail, or (2) if they would like to become involved in establishing habitat restoration projects. I never got the job done, mostly because I'm so busy with other projects. Maybe this year.

A couple of other things have happened, however. Waldo Holt, from the San Joaquin Audubon Society, called me sometime ago looking for information regarding setting up nest box trails in the Nature Conservancy Consumnes River Preserve. I told him what I knew and offered to help him in any way I could. As a result of that conversation,

he saw to it that my message about finding interested bluebirders got into the San Joaquin Audubon Society newsletter.

That seemed to have helped. Several weeks ago I got a call from a man named Jim Guthrie. He has a 50 box trail around New Hogan Reservoir just across the county line to the east. Jim called because he makes bird boxes and wanted to make them available to other people. He asked me if I knew any that might be interested. As it turned out, I have contacted three land owners in the area and they are all interested in establishing the beginnings of a trail on their property using his boxes. I will help them get started and show them what to do.

I recently had another idea for a project that would help put CBRP in the spotlight, locally and perhaps, nationally. What do you think of the idea of setting up a bluebird hotline? More and more people have access to the Internet these days, and all of those have e-mail capacities. The entire program, could in fact, be run through e-mail.

What the project would include would be setting up some thing that is quite simple: a Bluebird E-mail Directory. All that would be necessary would be for interested people to e-mail their numbers to someone, me, for example (I would be willing). That someone would gather the numbers as they came in and compile them into a list. The list

would then be sent out to all the participants. If there is one particular person or persons on the list that are considered "experts", you, for example, those people could be highlighted as Hotline Numbers, serving the rest of us when a crisis arises. The rest of the time, the directory would serve as a means of allowing us to contact others who share our fascination with bluebirds. Sending e-mail is easy, fun, inexpensive, and quick. I think a lot of people would enjoy it and a great deal of friendships would be made.

To start would be easy. Find someone who would be willing to put together the list. Like I already said, I wouldn't mind. Whoever you designate it to be, simply get that person's number out in the next newsletter with the notice that all interested people with e-mail capabilities should contact that number. If you want to use me, my number is **thoffman@lodinet.com, Internet**. Let me know what you think. In a year's time, the program could be quite successful.

Locally, the swallows are starting to return, and the bluebirds are pairing off, staking out claims to boxes. I'm afraid that the bluebirds and the swallows will be in tight competition again this year. To make things worse, I've been so busy with my owl box building business that I haven't had time to extend my trail this year. I'm afraid the poor critters will have to make do with old boxes this year. ▼

Audubon Chapter Teams up with Cal Trans to Place Kestrel and Bluebird Trails

by Tom Rickman, Central Sierra Audubon Society

Central Sierra Audubon Society (CSAS) has initiated Kestrel and Bluebird nest box trails along highways 120 and 120/108 in Tuolumne County. Both trails were established in close cooperation with the Stockton CALTRANS office, from whom we received approval for box locations and encroachment permits that allowed the trails to become established.

The first trail, in 1994, was an American Kestrel nest box trail consisting of 12 boxes on Highway 120/108. Breeding Bird Survey data shows significant declines in the Kestrel breeding population in California. Kestrel nest box trails have become common in the midwest and east; they are appropriate here in California as well.

In 1995 we expanded the Kestrel trail by 3 additional boxes, and at the same time we created a 40-box

Bluebird nest box trail along the same highway segments on which we had Kestrel boxes. Both trails have been successful. Of the 12 Kestrel boxes in 1994, two contained Kestrel nests which fledged 8 young. In 1995 we had 4 Kestrel nests which fledged 18 young. In 1995, our 40 Bluebird boxes contained 30 nests of 5 species and fledged 119 young. Most numerous were Western Bluebirds (11 nests, 45 young) and Ash-Throated Flycatchers (12 nests, 45 young).

Besides the success of the trail in providing nest habitat for the target species, another satisfying aspect of the projects is the cooperation provided to us by CALTRANS, Kent Kibble, the Adopt-A-highway coordinator in the Stockton office, and biologist Margaret Lawrence have both been extremely helpful in the effort. Kent was instrumental in having our trails accepted into the state's Adopt-A-Highway program.

Our chapter now has the blue and white Adopt-A-Highway signs at each end of our trails, advertising their presence and the Chapter's involvement.

Our trails were the first in the state to be incorporated in the Adopt-A-Highway program, and our signs proclaiming "Bird Houses" were also firsts. But they surely don't need to be the only ones, there are other opportunities out there for similar trails. Safety is of course the primary factor of which to be concerned, and features to look for include safe access or parking locations, and wide right-of-ways to allow safe access to boxes as well as safety for the birds which may be attracted to them.

Parties interested in the trails and similar Adopt-A-Highway opportunities can contact me at (209-928-1825) or Kent Kibble at CALTRANS (209-948-7462). ▼

Are Woodpeckers Welcome?

by Don Yoder, Director, CBRP

The 1997 nesting season will soon be upon us and it is not too early to have boxes in place for eager inspection by would-be tenants. Besides the intended users (several varieties besides Bluebirds should be welcomed, too) you may notice that woodpeckers are doing their best to enlarge holes or make new ones where you didn't intend to have any. If the woodpeckers are hammering, it is a pretty good indication that they have a housing shortage too. With all the trees being cut down, is it any wonder?

Boxes placed for their benefit can prove interesting. It is part of a woodpecker's psyche to excavate so as to feel he's doing his job right. So, use a hole and floor size appropriate to the varieties you favor—and fill the box with chips for them to throw out. It will really make a woodpecker's day and he'll feel like he has accomplished miracles in finding a spot for the new nest. Sawdust in lieu of chips is not recommended: it will pack down if it gets wet.

We can furnish suggested box and hole sizes for several varieties of occupants. Call or write and some details will be sent to you. For examples, a flicker box hole needs to be 2-1/2 inches in diameter. A Pileated Woodpecker needs 4 inches to gain entrance.

Remember, the California Bluebird Recovery Program is supportive of "cavity nesters, especially Bluebirds, anywhere in the West." ▼

More Bits & Pieces

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▲ **THE CBRP OWNS** a 2'x5' white vinyl grommeted **banner with a blue logo**, designed to attract attention to your table, display or booth. If you would like to use it, contact the Director as far in advance as possible. A serious attempt to get it to you by the desired date will be made. First come, first served, if at all possible.

▼ **THE IMPACT** of our recovery program-- i.e., whether we are producing an increased population of Bluebirds in California-- may be hard to measure for some time. Looking to the future, banding may be a worthwhile tool in measuring the degree of success of a Recovery Program such as ours.

If you are a licensed bird bander or rehabilitator, please advise the Director so a database may be set up for benefit of birders in your area. Extraordinary travel would not be expected or anticipated, except by arrangement with anyone requesting your services.

▲ **ONE OF THE** most thoughtful and innovative ways of making a contribution do double-duty has come to us from **Mrs. Cheryl Kaul** of

Sonoma County. Mrs. Kaul has provided funds for our purchase of 100 nest boxes to be made by youths at Hanna Boys Center. **David Graves**, Coordinator for **Napa-Sonoma Counties**, will make arrangements with the center for construction of the boxes and distribution and placements thereafter. David's emphasis is on natural insect control and decreased use of toxic sprays. Obviously, that has growing appeal. Our great thanks to Mrs. Kaul for her double barreled support.

▲ **IF YOUR SEE OR GENERATE** publicity about Bluebirds, send the article to NABS Historian Shirley Adams, 3484 Torch Club Road, Alton, IL 62002. Such articles are filed in the permanent history, displayed at each Annual Meeting of the Society. NABS supports our program. Let's feed pertinent items back to them.

▼ **TRAIL TIP**. If your boxes are necessarily hung on trees, check the wires occasionally to be sure they are not cutting into the bark due to the tree's constant growth.

COORDINATORS MEET IN VACAVILLE

A call to all Coordinators for a meeting on August 3 resulted in attendance by twenty persons, with ten Coordinators representing their respective Counties from Nevada to Orange.

Discussions covered membership, publicity and a wide range of subjects related to furtherance of the Program.

Hatch Graham, Coordinator for **El Dorado/Amador** presented to all attendees copies of his new publication Monitoring your Bluebird Trail in Amador and El Dorado. This is a very comprehensive manual, for which Hatch requested serious critiques for adjustments of its data in other Counties. Coordinators holding copies are urged to submit suggestions for modifications directly to Hatch. A state-wide edition could be ready by early 1997. Whether you are experienced at Monitoring or not, much can be learned in a short time from this manual. \$2.00 to Hatch covers printing & mailing. (Hatch's address can be found on page 8.)

Report on NABS 1996 Annual Meeting

By the time you read this, NABS' 1996 Annual Meeting will have occurred in Ontario, Canada. An outcome of that meeting may effect our Program and other independent State organizations now operating or yet to be formed.

An ad hoc committee, on which the CBRP Director served, has been studying the future of NABS and how it might best broaden its influence and serve the various independent groups. The general concept may provide that NABS would become an umbrella coordinator of all such groups that wish to be a part of an internationally functioning program. The provincial/ state/ regional groups now operating-- some as corporations, others more loosely organized-- would continue in retaining their current assets, membership lists, etc.

NABS, on the other hand, would lend cooperation in the formation of new groups, providing suggestions and guidelines to aid in such formations. Current NABS members would be informed of the pending local group brooding, and other cooperative measures.

It remains to be seen what action the NABS Directors will take, but the eventual joint membership in NABS and

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NABS Annual Meeting continued from Page 6

a p/s/r group is seen as a distinct possibility.

Our own membership fees might be adjusted, with options for joint or combined membership. We suggest that now would be a judicious time to renew your subscription at the current rate. Original current subscribers will now have received 4 newsletters promised for the basic payment of \$5. We appreciate those who paid more, and those who have already sent renewals. Their subscriptions will continue for the most advantageous term possible. Check upcoming mailing labels for an indication of your expiration date.

One of the suggestions we saw during the exchange of ad hoc correspondence, made with the intent of promoting a sense of unification of NABS with the provincial/ state/ regional groups called for an International Nest Box Trail. Many established trails now exist, reaching from border to border in a few states (e.g. MT), with others contemplating such a project.

The proposed trail would start at the east coast of Canada, stretch westward through the Provinces, take advantage of the MT work already in place, drop southward through our Western States and, including CA, extend eastward to Carolinas and Bermuda. Certain other states propose a 'meandering' trail of over 800 miles.

We suggest that CA can accomplish such a project, perhaps by 2000, and join the INBT with 900 miles of monitored boxes, plus the many side trails now being put into place. Let us have your thoughts and ideas on such a project. ▼

THIS IS NOT A HOBBY

The North American Bluebird Society (NABS) was formed to promote the Conservation of cavity nesters-- especially Bluebirds-- by the placement of artificial nesting space (nest boxes) meeting basic construction requirements to replace disappearing natural cavities.

The effort has spread to many parts of the North American continent, with commendable results and the probable saving of the species. Paralleling these serious efforts, however, is a certain amount of box building and hanging as a HOBBY-- for the satisfaction of the box builder-- but often with disastrous results for birds, the intended beneficiaries.

Box material and construction must meet certain minimum standards for insulation and ventilation. Wood is by far the ideal material for sides and roof. Nothing less than 3/4" will provide the minimum necessary insulation. In some areas even such boxes should be placed so they receive some kind of shaded protection, since interior temperatures can rise to fatal levels for nestlings. We see too many lightweight, cutesy boxes designed for decoration of a garden, but which should never be placed so they might be occupied by any desperate bird looking for a space that might eventually kill them and their brood. Nothing can replace substantial boxes in furthering the conservation effort.

The question is sometimes asked about the advisability or necessity of painting boxes. Certainly there are diverse opinions and answers to that one. Our basic preference is for the

use of solid, natural wood, left unpainted and allowed to weather naturally. Local climate conditions can influence the matter, if boxes are expected to have a reasonable life and usage. Severe weather can shorten the life of bare wood.

If you choose to paint, you should follow a couple of guidelines. (1) Use pastel colors in natural earth tones, blending into the landscape. Bright, strong colors should be avoided. Gaudy colors would probably scare off would-be occupants who will not care for fussy, decorative finishes. (2) Avoid the use of any lead-based paint: instead, use flat latex, or stains that will penetrate completely. Read the label for reference to any toxic effects present.

Finally, it is important to monitor the nest boxes once they are placed in good habitat. There is always something new going on on the trail and problems are a part of the picture. Many problems can be solved or avoided by periodic, faithful checking of boxes, keeping records of progress, and tabulating the results at the end of the season. Failure to monitor simply furthers the hobby aspect of box placement, rather than the serious business of conservation and promoting the welfare of cavity nesters. If you don't monitor, don't put up boxes at all.

Remember, your nest boxes are the important key to the abundant future of Bluebirds, and other cavity nesters, in the West. Experimentation and observation are vital to creating the ideal homes for the birds in your area. ▼

COUNTY COORDINATORS

The Coordinators listed below have agreed to promote the Bluebird Recovery Program and serve as local contacts for information and questions. You can help them by introducing new members to our program. The 31 counties on this list constitute over half of the 52 counties in in state! But we'd really like to add representatives from the missing counties as well.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find extracts of letters from Coordinators Hatch Graham and Tom Hoffman. We find them truly inspirational in the reports of activities taken to get new people involved in the Bluebird Recovery Program. Note the common thread of keeping in touch with box builders, trail operators, and preparers of the annual reports. We call it "building the network". The more we can do that, the faster we can increase habitat for Bluebirds.

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(see Napa-Sonoma)

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About CBRP by Don Yoder

MONEY MATTERS\$

By now you may have noticed that this is our fourth Newsletter in a continuing series promised to all members for an initial contribution, when we started this new venture. We appreciate the kind words that some readers have expressed after reading earlier copies. We hope all have found something of value and interest here and there—such that you feel that continuance is worthwhile.

We haven't liked to dwell on Money Matters in the earlier issues—but we've mentioned it because of the importance of memberships to our continued existence. So it's time to **renew** for those early subscribers who saw the value of our effort to form a loosely knit network of Bluebird supporters throughout California.

Despite inflation we'll continue to set the rate at \$5.00 for 4 issues. But a little extra in addition to that base amount would be a great help. Any amount, made payable to MDAS Bluebirds, is entirely tax deductible by reason of your payment to a 501.c.3 non-profit organization. So as some say: Give until it feels good. We're working on some system of labeling to indicate your renewal date. Given another issue to make it work, anything is possible.

Our greatest thanks for hard work and effort at keeping the presses rolling go to the staff in the Audubon California Field office in Sacramento. Special thanks to Dan Taylor, Executive Director, and Jennifer Jacobs, Administrative Assistant, for paying the bills and providing the financial means to get this newsletter fledged.

Tell a friend about CBRP and suggest that they become a subscriber too. You will both feel good!

HELP WANTED!

Sheila Green has been the volunteer editor of this newsletter since she "retired" from Audubon last June. She has agreed to continue as Editor through December 1996, which is when National Audubon's official obligation to our organization ends. **WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE OVER AS EDITOR.** This is a quarterly volunteer position. Please contact Don Yoder if you or someone you know is interested in this opportunity to further the cause of Bluebirds. ▼

California Bluebird Recovery Program

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The North American Bluebird Society (NABS) is a non-profit organization determined to increase the populations of Eastern Bluebirds, Western Bluebirds, and Mountain Bluebirds on this continent.

NABS studies obstacles impeding bluebird recovery, publishes results of studies, and encourages participation by its membership in all facets of its programs. Through its quarterly journal, SIALIA, the SOCIETY addresses such issues as improved nest box design, control of competitors and predators, and enhanced techniques for increasing winter food supply.

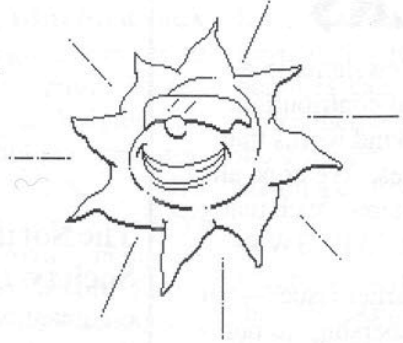


The National Audubon Society (NAS) has local chapters in all fifty states, Guam, and Latin America. In California there are over fifty local chapters. All local chapters have newsletters, monthly programs, and field trips to local areas of interest.

To join NAS, contact your local Audubon Chapter, or call the CA Field Office at (916) 481-5332. National dues are \$20 for new members, and includes a bi-monthly magazine and membership privileges in your local Audubon chapter. ▼

Upcoming Events

Attach a note NOW to your calendar to attend the **20th Annual Meeting of the North American Bluebird Society** to be held **May 15-18, 1997** at the Sheraton Newport Beach Hotel at the Orange



County Airport, CA. Sponsored by the **Sea & Sage Audubon Society**, it should be a great gathering of Bluebirders from throughout the country. Many people will seize the opportunity to "go to California" to attend the meeting and do some sightseeing. CBRP has been invited to participate. We intend to have a visible presence and join what will be a very lively event. Let's show our local (CA) support for the national gathering. ▼

AUDUBON SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETINGS

October 26...Central California Audubon Council - Kern River Research Center

November 2...Southern California Audubon Coordinating Council - Cabrillo Marine Museum, San Pedro

November 9...Central Coast Audubon Council-Lompoc

December 7...Bay Area Audubon Council

For more information about any of these meetings, please contact **Jill Shirley**, Chapter Development Coordinator at the Audubon California Field Office, (916) 481-5332. ▼

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Upcoming Events:

OCTOBER

26 Central California Audubon Council

NOVEMBER

2 Southern CA Audubon Coord. Council

9 Central Coast Audubon Council

15 **Deadline for 1996 Nestbox Reports**

DECEMBER

7 Bay Area Audubon Council

10 **Deadline for Jan.. issue**

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