

# Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society

## Volume 18– Spring 2016

Dedicated to studying, conserving and helping restore the natural range  
of the Mountain Bluebird in Southern Alberta  
[www.bluebirdtrails.org](http://www.bluebirdtrails.org)

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### President's Message

by Joe Michielsen

(something goes here)

Our volunteer members, and executive are working to make the best possible habitat for Mountain Bluebirds. If you are interested in joining the Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society as a supporter of the work to protect these beautiful birds, please call Joe Michielsen at 403-345-4777.

Look at the [bluebird statistics page](http://bluebirdtrails.org) on our website, <http://bluebirdtrails.org>.

Highlights of the 2015 season: (Anyone?)

#### • Are You Interested in Mountain Bluebirds?

Come out on May 21, 2016 and learn by seeing a Mountain Bluebird Trail:

The Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society invites anyone interested in bluebirds or in monitoring a trail to come out on May 21, 2016, to look at a working trail. We will meet at the Helen Schuler Nature Center at 9 a.m. and be gone for the morning. If you are interested Please contact Gerry Kylo at 327-0120 or Jim Leitch at 320-8970 for further details. If weather is inclement, the event will be held May 28 instead. Follow up monitor training will be held based on interest.

#### • Of note:

- We have received our monitor permit and a copy will be sent to known monitors. Please contact Gerry at 403-327-0120 to get yours.
- We are updating the email addresses of our monitors. Send your emails — and any photos of bluebirds and nest boxes — to:
  - Wayne Dwornik  
[gwd41@shaw.ca](mailto:gwd41@shaw.ca)
  - or Jan Warren  
[summitwalk@hotmail.com](mailto:summitwalk@hotmail.com)
- Thank You!

#### The Waterton Wildflower Festival

is June 19-24, 2016. There are guided walks, hikes, workshops and presentations at Waterton Lakes National Park. Maybe bluebirds can be seen as well!

[www.watertonwildflowers.com](http://www.watertonwildflowers.com)

# 2016 NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY CONFERENCE

July 8-10, 2016 - Ellis Bird Farm, Lacombe, Alberta, Canada

This conference is open to everyone! If you appreciate nature and are interested in learning more about our remarkable wild neighbours, you will enjoy this conference.

We invite you to join us at the 39th annual North American Bluebird Society Conference! NABS 2016 will be held at Ellis Bird Farm, a non-profit bird education and research centre in Central Alberta. Ellis Bird Farm is a unique facility that operates both as a working farm as well as an organization devoted to the conservation, education and research of native cavity-nesting birds and other wildlife.

The theme of NABS 2016 will be about the secrets of bird migration, and how new technologies are providing insights into the remarkable migration journeys of Purple Martins and Mountain Bluebirds. The conference will include presentations by leading scientists, opportunities to network with fellow bluebirders, vendor displays and field trip days to local areas of interest.

Ellis Bird Farm is located in Central Alberta, and is easily reached from either Edmonton or Calgary. The province of Alberta is home to numerous tourist destinations, including the Royal Tyrell Museum of Palaeontology, the Calgary Stampede, the Columbia Icefields, Fort Edmonton Park and many more. There are many places of interest that can be visited before and after you attend the conference.

Click here for information about: [REGISTRATION - FEES - PAYMENT](#)

Click here for information about: [SPEAKERS AND LEADERS](#)

Click here for information about: [ACCOMMODATIONS GUIDE](#)

## Trail Monitors Agreement and GPS

The Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society is trying to develop complete records of the trails, the number of boxes and their location, as well as contact information for trail monitors. Toward that end, it has developed a Trail Monitor's Agreement. All trail monitors are asked to fill out the agreement shown here and return it to: Who????

### Trail Monitor Agreement

I \_\_\_\_\_ am a volunteer with the Mountain Bluebird Trails Conservation Society (MBTCS.) I understand that MBTCS owns the boxes, and that I am chief caretaker of the boxes as a trail monitor!

In return for obtaining boxes from MBTCS, I will submit the GPS locations of my trail of boxes to the Trail Master, faithfully clean and record activity in the boxes, and send this important data to MBTCS annually (September 10) In maintaining the habitat for Mountain Bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens; I will maintain the boxes where I can, and report damage and request repairs when needed. It is my responsibility to contact and report data to the society regularly.

When I am no longer able to be responsible for my trail, I will notify MBTCS, to enable another MBTCS volunteer, to be the caretaker of the boxes!

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town and P. Code \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Office use</u>	
Trail Location _____	# of Boxes _____
GPS computer file name _____	
Additional Boxes _____	Date _____ additional info _____

The society is also attempting to record the GPS location of every nest box. Here's how to do it: (can someone supply this info? I don't know the details)

## **THE BLUEBIRDS ARE HERE!**

Society treasurer Ken Moore reports that Mountain Bluebirds were seen March 10 in the Mountainview area. Moore himself saw his first bluebird of the season March 20 north of the bison paddock at Waterton Lakes National Park.

Below are photos from the area near the Oldman Dam and Heritage Acres, north of Pincher Creek, provided by new trail monitor Tracy Glen while she was checking a trail with long-time bluebird trail monitor Jeannie Wishneski in early March.



