

**Results for 2005:** Once again, many thanks to all who persevered through what proved, for some, to be another less than ideal season. Your persistence and hard work has paid off. Over 400 more boxes were monitored this year compared to 2004, and over 500 more bluebirds fledged this year. More and more monitors find themselves able to record nesting success and fledges, and this valuable information is giving us a better view of population trends. Well done! There is still a pressing need for more people to begin working with their lines again, and reporting results. Remember, if you haven't reported in the last two years or more, please ask Carole Sangster to place you back on the kit mailing list. If you intend to renew your efforts. A summary of the years results, as well as a list of all those who were able to send monitoring records is found at the end of this newsletter.

**New Members:** A hearty welcome to **Herb Goulden** (Brandon), **Ross Robinson** (Minnedosa), **Larry Romaniuk** (Winnipeg/Riverton), **Karla Stouffer** (Brandon) and **Gerard Wade** (Oak Lake). Their collective efforts have added over 140 much needed new boxes to our lines. We can certainly use more new members with the enthusiasm shown by this group. Please keep an eye out for likely candidates, and encourage them to join us in this captivating pursuit.

**Retired:** **Don Proven's** carefully crafted reports will be sorely missed, we extend our gratitude to him for his years of dedicated work. His line is an excellent one with lots of bluebird pairs, and is located south of Carberry. Anybody interested in acquiring this little gold mine can contact Don (834-2709) or Bob Andrews (727-8985) for details. Don has indicated that he will help a new monitor get started on the line in 2006.

**In Memoriam:** Our sympathies are extended to

the families and friends of **Norman (Sam) Harde, Bob Smith** and **Charlie Slimmon**, three of our long time members who passed away 2005.

**Notes from the Lines:** **Barb & Ray Pettinger** continue with their successful banding program. The Pettingers banded 95 Mountains (MOBL) and 5 Eastern Bluebirds (EABL) in 2005. They also had 2 recaptures, one of which (a female MOBL) had been banded in 2003, as an adult, at the same box!

**Karla Stouffer** reported an EABL nest with a clutch of albino eggs, and both **Ellen Blain** and **Don Proven** played host to Flying Squirrels. **Barb Robinson** noted high Tree Swallow and bluebird nestling mortality in mid-June, possibly due to Leafy Spurge spraying in the area. Barb also received news from Richard Clark (Wawanesa) of Wood Duck and Common Merganser nestings in his duck nest boxes. Reports from the northern U.S. are beginning to reveal that some Tree Swallows are attempting a second nesting after a first, successful nesting.

**Special Thanks:** To **Jerry Wollman** for his continued donation of nest box building materials, to **Murray Sangster** for transporting the material into Brandon, and to **Jack Webb** and **Bob Andrews** for their efforts in building all those much needed boxes. As well, a thank you to **Joan McTavish** for her generosity in hand delivering the monitoring kits to members in the Brandon area.

**NABS Convention:** The 2006 North American Bluebird Society Convention will take place in San Antonio, Texas on April 26-30. For further details: [www.NABS2006.com](http://www.NABS2006.com)

**(Still) Wanted:** **Volunteers** to act as mentors to new monitoring teams. You need only contribute as much time as you wish and can afford to this initiative. Retired blue birders are especially encouraged to participate! Please contact Barry Danard or Bob Andrews for details.

### Searching for more information?

The monitoring kit you receive is loaded with valuable, practical advice on maintaining and monitoring a bluebird nest box line. (lost your package notes and want a replacement? Contact Carole Sangster) Should you wish to expand your horizons or explore further the world of bird conservation please try the following web sites:

"NABS" :

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

"Bluebirds : Bird watching & Feeding" :

[www.rosebud.com/bluebird/](http://www.rosebud.com/bluebird/)

"Bluebirds": [www.nestbox.com/bluebird.htm](http://www.nestbox.com/bluebird.htm)

or

[www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/EasternBluebird.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/EasternBluebird.html)

As well, thanks to Ann Smith's generous donation, we now maintain a library of books and pamphlets related to bluebird conservation techniques. If you can't attend our meetings to select books yourself, feel free to send a note to Barry Danard asking for a list of publications available.

**Website:** Clarke Snell ([cesnell@telus.net](mailto:cesnell@telus.net)) has been very busy creating our very own web site, the work in progress can be seen at :

[www.mts.net/~jbdanard/](http://www.mts.net/~jbdanard/)

**Fund Raising:** The Coordinating Committee members have agreed that there is no immediate need for fund raising activities to take place. We certainly, however, accept donations to offset the costs of xeroxing, mailing, meeting place rental, etc. On the topic of economy, please don't forget to read over and fill out the note which accompanies this newsletter. We thank you in advance for your assistance in helping us put your money to best use.

**Annual Meetings:** We hold two meetings a year, usually on the third Sunday of April and October, respectively. Our new venue in Brandon is at the Riverbank Discovery Centre, 1-545 Conservation Drive (directly across from the new Corral Centre shopping complex). When you receive your invitations this year, please consider joining us for an afternoon of information sharing

and refreshments. Some of the most experienced bluebirders in the country will be on hand to answer questions, and it's always nice to "recharge the batteries" by sharing experiences with other workers in the bluebird conservation movement.

**2005 Monitors:** The following members were able to submit Summary Forms for this past season:

Bob & Evelyn Andrews, Clayton Baumung, Ellen Blain, Linda & Gareth Boys, Jack Bryer, Brian Burrows, Evan Casselman, Barry & Judy Danard, Bev Dunlop, Edie Evans & Roy Gwiazda, Lyall Franck, Vern Gilbertson, Herb Goulden & Ross Robinson, Jean Horton, Ed & Yvette Huzyk, Evelyn Jorgenson, Jean Kingdon, Doug & Genella MacIntyre, Kellie McCallum, Bridget & Arnold McPhaden, Lynne & Brian Manns, Shirley & Irene Neudorf, Edith Parsons, Bert Perey, Ray & Barb Pettinger, Don Proven, Barbara Robinson, Larry Romaniuk, Bill Sandercock, Murray & Carole Sangster, Hazel Skinner, Lloyd Stankey, Karla Stouffer, Joan Switzer, Gerard Wade, Roy & Lorna Wallis, Margaret Yorke & Amelia Reid.

### Future Meetings & Directions:

Are there particular topics you would like to see discussed at future meetings, or covered in the newsletter? Do you have suggestions to improve the operation of our organization? Any of the following members of the Coordinating Committee (see below) would welcome your ideas!

**Contacts:** Do you have : questions, concerns, or suggestions? Contact any of the following:

Bob Andrews : (727-8985),

Vona Cochran : 727-2986, [vcoch@mts.net](mailto:vcoch@mts.net)),

Barry / Judy Danard: 523-8258, [jbdanard@mts.net](mailto:jbdanard@mts.net)

Carole Sangster : 728-7489, [mcsang2@mts.net](mailto:mcsang2@mts.net)

Barbara Robinson : 728-4029

