

From the President:

Hello everyone. Finally the days are getting warmer and spring flowers are popping their little heads. I was out on my trail this past week checking the sixty-seven boxes I monitor and recorded lots of new Bluebird nests and many new eggs. I'm up in Geauga County where we're a little behind some of you in the southern parts of the state, so the Tree Swallows up here are still just starting to build their nests. Being that Mother-Nature was a little kinder this year by giving us a milder winter, I'm sure we are all hoping this will be reflected in a boost to our cavity-nester population. There's so much we have no control over in nature, but we can be pro-active by using what we've learned to help increase the survival rates of young birds.

Speaking of using what we've learn, I personally learned a lot this past February at our OBS Conference in Ashland, Ohio. From my seat, I learned just how valuable dedicated volunteers are to the health and sustainability of our organization. What an honor it is to work with people who offer their talents and just want to know how they can help. I was a bit overwhelmed at the attendance and level of interest by so many friends and supporters of OBS. And would you put your hands together for the great job the conference planning team did under the leadership of Don Plant and Mike Watson! Please know it took many months, many meetings, numerous phone calls and hundreds of combined hours to ensure you would be offered the best conference experience possible. For many on that team it was their first time in planning such an event. After all was said and done, all agreed it was just as rewarding as looking into a nest box and seeing Bluebird eggs for the very first time. The planning committee was thrilled to know so many of you enjoyed "your" conference and went home feeling you were given the tools to make a difference in nature conservation. It really was / is an honor and privilege serving the membership and especially a lot of fun. It's also a lot of work, but what in life isn't that helps make such a big difference to future generations.

We have received your feed-back forms and as I write this a meet has already been scheduled for the planning of the March 2017 big OBS birthday conference/celebration. You'll not want to miss it so be watching your emails and newsletters for all the latest and greatest up-to-date information. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated and will help plan "your" next conference. If you'd like to help in any way, please let us know.

Thanks for all your support, patience, willingness to help, and especially, thank you for being kind to nature.

Best Regards, Jay K. Brindo