

Bella Vista Bluebird Society

Season Kickoff

March 7, 2020



Agenda

- *Announcements*
- *New Volunteers*
- *Research Project Update*
- *Predators & Pests*
- *Nest Activity Review*
- *Guest Speaker*

40th Anniversary Celebration

- *Saturday, April 18th, 12 – 3*
- *Lake Avalon pavilion/beach*
- *Cake & raffles*
- *Other groups*
 - *Bella Vista Garden Club*
 - *Bella Vista Fly Tyers*
 - *NWA Master Naturalists*
- *Will add a new bluebird trail*



★ *Photo Contest* ★



Prizes awarded

Rules & entry form on website & FB

Ends September 14

Monitor Sheets

- *Emailed on March 1st*
- *If you can't open it, let me know*
- *Samples on our website*
- *If away for 10 days or more, get a sub*
- *If you can't find a sub, contact TB or Laura*

Monitor Sheets

- *Best practices:*
 - *Use Excel or LibreOffice.org*
 - *Colored pens/markers*
 - *Monitor on the same day every week*
 - *Fill in personal worksheet every week*

New Volunteers

- *Martin & Tamara Dimmitt – Loch Lomond Park*
- *Kim Eveland & Deb Shoemaker – Kingswood*
- *Edward Hinde & Julie Lanshe – Scotsdale*
- *Percy Holdeman – Edinburgh Car Trail*
- *Clay & Carolyn Merritt – Highlands*
- *B. J. Westhoff – The Plaza*

Research Project

Jennifer Mortensen & Butch Tetzlaff

- *Nine locations:*

*Berksdale, BV Cemetery, Branchwood, Concordia,
Inn at BV, Loch Lomond Park & Marina,
Presbyterian & St Bernard Church*

- *Started November 2019*

- *Temperature probes pulled next week*

- *Nest monitoring, banding & habitat
assessments through the summer*

Predators & Pests



Ways to prevent predators & pests

- *Replace hole box with slot box (house sparrow)*
- *Staple fishing line to edge of roof (house sparrow)*
- *Move box away from the woods (house wren)*
- *Install predator guards (raccoons, snakes, weasels, cats)*
 - *Metal or plastic cone*
 - *PVC conduit*
 - *Stove pipe*
 - *Wire cage in front of hole/slot*

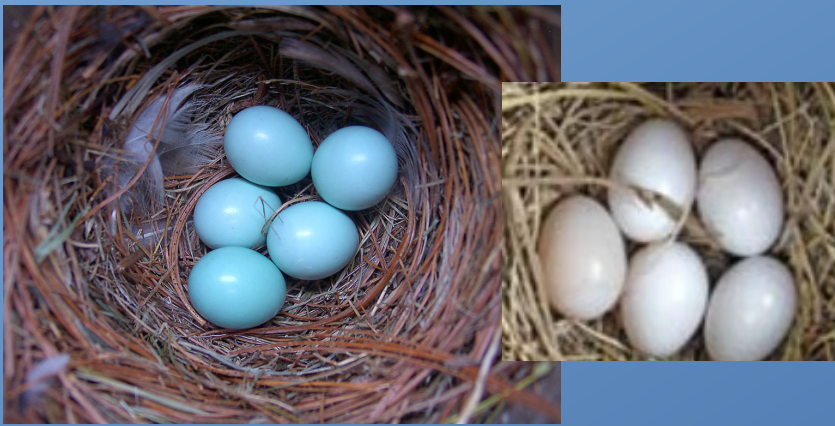
More ways to prevent predators & pests

- *Square-drive screws (humans)*
- *Use food grade DE (diatomaceous earth) in the nest box & at base of pole (ants & mites)*
- *Soap inside roof of box (wasps)*
- *Cooking oil spray (Pam, etc) (wasps)*
- *Use Snake B Gon at base of pole*

NEVER SPRAY BUG KILLER INSIDE A BOX!

Nest Activity Review

- *Eggs*
- *Chicks*
- *Why Count?*



Eggs

- *Female lays 1 egg a day*
- *Incubation starts after last eggs is laid*
- *Incubation period: 11-19 days**
- *Remove abandoned eggs & nest after 21 days*

** used to be 12-14 days*



Chicks



- *Nesting period: 17-21 days*
- *Count by looking for mouths*
- *Carefully open box after 14 days*
- *Clean out nest when all chicks are gone*

Why Count?

To determine:

- *Best start date for incubation*
- *Based on start date, when eggs should hatch, or if eggs have been abandon*
- *Based on hatching date, when the chicks are ready to fledge*
- *If any eggs or chicks are missing**

Our Mission

*Dedicated to increasing & protecting the
bluebird population of Bella Vista, AR*

*Every monitor, trail boss & box builder
working together helps us
fulfill that mission*



Denise DeMaio Klinger

- *Lifelong learner and science advocate*
 - *Became a Master Naturalist in 2012*
- *On the Board of NWA Master Naturalist & this year's president-elect*
- *Led bird hikes for State Parks in Sedona, AZ & the US Forest Service in OR*
- *Has Certified Interpretive Guide designation from NAI (Natl Assoc for Interpretation)*
- *One of her favorite pastimes is hiking the trails in Bella Vista with her husband Jim*