

# BVBBS Volunteers Meeting

## October 16, 2021



# NABS Factsheet

## NABS Factsheet

### Getting Started with Bluebirds

Over the years, old trees have been reduced. With modernization, the number of old trees has been reduced.



Even though bluebirds take to help bring back a trail. A bluebird trail is put up in suitable areas that people of all ages and enjoy bluebirds.

#### THE BLUEBIRD TRAIL

- A good trail should be solid, untreated, and used. The trail should be made of 1 1/2" x 1/2" slats that can be nailed together. Although if they are starting to rot, bluebird trails for building nests should be replaced.

Over the years, land has been cleared for housing and commercial developments, highways and agriculture, and many old trees have been cut down. With modernization, the number of old trees has been reduced.



Even though bluebirds take to help bring back a trail. A bluebird trail is put up in suitable areas that people of all ages and enjoy bluebirds.

#### THE BLUEBIRD NEST

- A good bluebird nest should be made of solid, untreated material. The nest should be made of 1 1/2" x 1/2" slats that can be nailed together. Although if they are starting to rot, bluebird nests for building nests should be replaced.

## NABS Factsheet

### Monitoring Bluebird Nestboxes

#### WHY MONITOR YOUR NESTBOX?

It is very important that bluebird nestboxes be actively monitored (checked) at least once a week. Bluebirds are tolerant of humans, and will not abandon a nestbox that is properly monitored. All bluebird boxes should be built so that they can be opened either from the side, front, or top.

A box that is not monitored may do more harm to bluebirds than good. Monitoring increases the chances of success for bluebirds using the box. When good records are kept, it is also valuable for determining population trends.



Monitoring nestboxes will alert you to problems birds may be having with predators and competitors. House Sparrows (sometimes called English Sparrows) and European Starlings are non-native species introduced from Europe. Their aggressive seizure of cavity nest sites is a primary reason for declines in bluebird populations. Starlings nest in many of the natural nest sites but can be excluded from nestboxes by using 1 1/4" or 1 3/4" inch entrance holes. House Sparrows are smaller, so they can readily enter bluebird nestboxes. They frequently kill adult and nesting bluebirds, destroy their eggs, or drive them from their nests. At no time should they be allowed to successfully nest in bluebird boxes. Doing so will increase the House Sparrow population and further reduce the number of bluebirds. See the NABS factsheet on House Sparrow Control (available on our website at [www.nabluebirdsociety.org/bluebirdfacts.htm](http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/bluebirdfacts.htm)).

A paper wasp or mouse nest will drive nesting birds away from the box, and should be removed. Take appropriate precautions to avoid breathing the dust from a mouse nest.



Knowing what species is using the box is also beneficial. Bluebird societies would like you to monitor and report all species using your nestboxes, not just bluebirds. Tree Swallows, Titmice, Chickadees, Carolina and House Wrens and Nuthatches are all native, beneficial birds. Remember: It is illegal to remove an active nest of any native cavity-nesting bird. Keeping records on a weekly basis, and sending survey forms in at the end of the nesting season increases our knowledge of cavity-nesting birds.

After any nesting effort has ended, either due to nest failure or successful fledging of the young, remove the used nest from the box. When a bluebird nest is successful, re-nesting in the same box may be encouraged if the first nest is removed. This can be done as soon as all chicks have left the nest. Females usually build a new nest.

#### WHAT TO MONITOR

When you monitor a box, determine which species is using it by examining nesting material and eggs. Record the date and the number of eggs or young observed. Knowing when the eggs were laid will help you determine if they are infertile, or when they should hatch and when the young would be expected to leave the nest. In the case of most cavity nesters, one egg is laid one each day until the entire clutch is complete. Incubation will then begin. For bluebirds, incubation typically lasts approximately 12-14 days. After hatching, the chicks will remain in the nest for about 17-21 days. Your monitoring should be limited to viewing from a distance after the 12-13<sup>th</sup> day, or the chicks might jump or fly from the box prematurely.





# Agenda

- 1) New Volunteers**
- 2) Service Awards**
- 3) 2021 Statistics**
- 4) Research Project**
- 5) Other**
  - AmazonSmile**
  - Grant Committee**



# **New Volunteers**

## **Monitors**

**Autumn Anderson (Edinburgh Road)**

**Nancy Gilmore (Highlands)**

**Tracy Girardi (Highlands)**

**Tami Moore (Substitute)**

**Michele & Quin Warsaw (Glasgow West)**

**Gayle Walker (Highlands)**



# **New Volunteers**

## **Box Builders**

**Ray Atkinson**  
**Larry Hoogerhyde**



# **New Trail Bosses**

**Tim Garton (Dogwood)**

**Clay Merritt (Edinburgh Road)**



**New to Existing Position**  
**Board Member**  
**Box Builder & Trail Boss Coordinator**

**Steve Skaggs**

**New Position**  
**Monitor Coordinator**

**George Pickell**



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# Service Awards

**2 Years**

**Martin & Tamara Dimmitt (Loch Lomond Marina)**

**Kim Eveland (Kingswood)**

**Ed Hinde (Scotsdale)**

**Julie Lanshe (Scotsdale)**

**Clay & Carolyn Merritt (Highlands)**

**Deb Shoemaker (Lake Avalon)**

**B.J. Westhoff (The Plaza)**



# Service Awards

**5 Years**

**Kathy Allen (Tanyard Creek)**

**Jerry Butler (BVCC, Dogwood, Highlands)**

**Bill Davis (Dogwood)**

**Al Melton (Short Trails)**

**Nancy Ortman (Dogwood)**

**Shari Reed (Lake Bella Vista)**

**Gracie Turley (Kingswood)**

**Kathy Zumbro (Dogwood to BVCC)**



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## BVBBS Statistics

### [2021 Overview](#)

[End of Season 2021](#) - shows all trails managed by the BVBBS and all BVBBS monitor counts.

[Trails with Box Counts 2021](#) - shows the current number of bluebird nest boxes on each trail managed by the BVBBS.

[Yearly Fledges per Box](#) - starting in 1980 to the present, gives the number of bluebirds fledged, the number of bluebird nest boxes, the average number of fledges per box, and the cumulative total fledges from year to year.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Fulton



# Bluebirds Fledged

		2021	2020	Difference
Monitor Trails		1,433	1,845	(412)
Monitor Homes		45	93	(48)
BV Residents		676	716	(40)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,154</b>	<b>2,654</b>	<b>(500)</b>



# All Cavity Nesting Species Fledged

<b>Year</b>	<b>Bluebird</b>	<b>Swallow</b>	<b>Chickadee</b>	<b>Wren</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>1,433</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2,257</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,560</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,691</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>1,752</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,299</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>1,587</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,250</b>

Site/Location	2021 – EABL	2020 – EABL
Berksdale	257	303
Branchwood/Edinburgh/Glasgow	134	212
Brittany	63	97
BVCC	139	293
Dogwood	102	182
Highlands	130	177
Kingswood	117	154
Loch Lomond Park/Marina	61	57
Oakford & Plaza	46	14
Scotsdale	258	210
Short Trails	126	146
TOTAL	1,433	1,845



**We now monitor & maintain**

**582**

**nest boxes in Bella Vista**

**From 1980 - 2021 we helped fledge**

**51,497**

**Eastern Bluebirds on our trails**





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# Butch Tetzlaff Research Project



## Research Project

“Should I stay or should I go? How migratory strategies and natal dispersal decisions structure Eastern Bluebird populations in a developed landscape,” is the research project that Dr. Jennifer Mortensen and Butch Tetzlaff are embarking on using the BVBBS nest boxes.

Jennifer Mortensen, PhD, is a teaching assistant professor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and Butch Tetzlaff is the owner of [The Bluebird Shed](#) in Bella Vista. Both have done extensive field work with nesting birds and both are licensed bird banders. For questions, contact [Butch Tetzlaff](#).

After getting approval from property owners, the project began in fall 2019, and will continue for three or more years. The study will focus on about 100 nest boxes around Bella Vista.

In January 2020 the [North American Bluebird Society](#) awarded Dr. Mortensen \$1,500 grant toward the project.

The project's objective are:

1. Assess migratory strategy
2. Study winter roosting behavior
3. Evaluate the fitness consequences of migratory & roosting strategies
4. Determine what factors influence box occupancy and productivity



Photo courtesy of Lisa Fulton

## Latest News:

- [Please Send Us Your Results](#)

Sep 1, 2021

The bluebird nesting season is finished for this year, and the Bella Vista Bluebird



**Diamond-back  
Watersnake  
Unsavory  
temperment**



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## AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you. Click below to make the Bella Vista Bluebird Society your AmazonSmile charity. Thank you!

### Support Bella Vista Bluebird Society.

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com),  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)



Photo courtesy of Lisa Fulton

## Latest News:

- [Please Send Us Your Results](#)

*Sep 1, 2021*

The bluebird nesting season is finished for this year, and the Bella Vista Bluebird

- [Nesting Season Underway](#)

*Mar 22, 2021*

The usual clutch size for Eastern Bluebirds is 3-5



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# Randy Hamm

## Grant Committee

[Bella Vista Bluebird Society](#)

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

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[Bluebird Basics](#) ▾

[Photos](#) ▾

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## Grant

As of 2021, the Bella Vista Bluebird Society (BVBS) is offering a \$1,000 cash grant to college undergraduate and graduate students who are conducting research on Eastern Bluebirds.

We plan to award the grant each year as long as funds are available. The decision on whether to award a grant, as well as the amount of the grant will be made by the board on an annual basis.

- [Request for Proposals](#)
- [Signature Page](#)



Photo courtesy of Lisa Fulton



*Dedicated to increasing & protecting  
the Eastern Bluebird population  
of Bella Vista, Arkansas*





**THANK YOU!**