

Season Kickoff Volunteers Meeting March 5, 2022





NABS Factsheet NABS Factsheet NABS Factsheet NABS Factsheet NABS Factsheet

Getting Started with Bluebirds

Over the years, land has been cleared for housing and commercial developments, highways and agriculture, and many old trees have been cut down. Wooden fence posts that provided nesting cavities have been replaced with metal posts.

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 tox

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 1½ or 1½ inch entrance holes. House Sparrows are smaller, so they can readily enter bluebird nestboxes. They frequently kill adult and nestling 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.thm)

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. Time Swallows, titmice, chickadees, Carolina and House Wrens and nuthatches are all native eneficial birds. Remember: It is lilegal to remove an active nest of any notive 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 MONITO

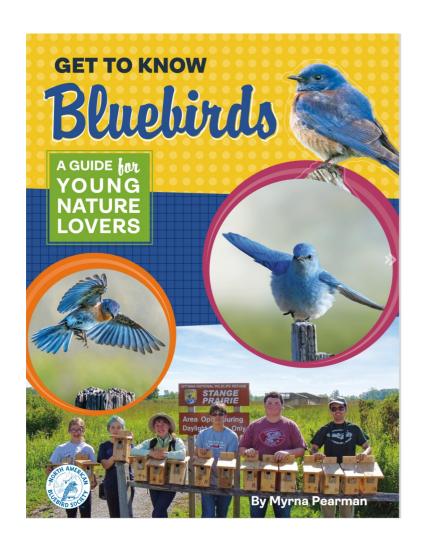
When you monitor a box, determine which species is using it by examining nesting material and eggs. Record the date and the number of eggs or young observed. Knowing when the eggs were laid will help you determine if they are infertile, or when they should hatch and when the young would be expected to 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 12-13th day, or the chicks might jump or fly from the box prematurely.







nabluebirdsociety.org



Free download 74 pages

On the BVBBS website
About Bluebirds



North American Bluebird Society



15 for first time 1 year membership as a BVBBS Affiliate of NABS



Agenda

- 1) What's New
- 2) New Volunteers
- 3) Website Changes
- 4) Google Sheets for Monitor Data
 - ~ Short Break ~
- 5) Guest Speaker



Photo Contest





Mickey Arlow

Prizes awarded
Rules & entry form on website & FB
Ends September 15

Jacqui



Nature Expo



September at Lake Avalon Raffle Prizes

Other Groups:

** BV Garden Club

** BV Fly Tyers

The Bluebird Shed

NWA Master Naturalists



Jacqui



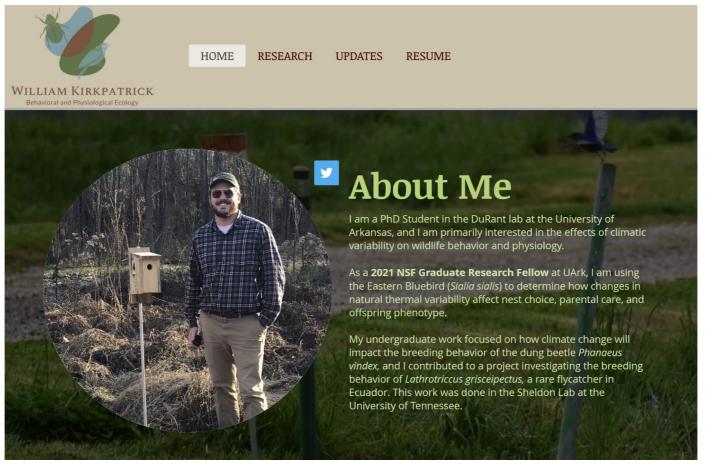
Wood Bluebird Pudding Feeders



Mark or Steve



\$1000 Research Grant was Awarded



whkecology.com

Randy



Potential New Programs

Grants for Arkansas Trails & Adopt a Highway



Jacqui or Ray



Refresher for Monitors



Bella Vista Bluebird Society

Bluebird Eggs, Bluebird Chicks & Birds That Use Bluebird Nest Boxes



Laura or George



New Volunteers

Monitors

Adrian Berghamer (Edinburgh Rd) Bonnie Bohm (LL Marina) Marilyn & Steve Brown (Scotsdale) **Becky Pratt (BVCC)** Jim Richardson (Highlands) Jayne Roth (substitute)



New Treasurer

Mark Richardson

New Trail Highlands Methodist Church



Positions Wanted

Trail Boss for Highlands Church & Glasgow Road

Website Editor

Position Descriptions on Website

Steve or Laura



We now monitor & maintain **582** nest boxes in Bella Vista

From 1980 - 2021 we helped fledge 51,497

Eastern Bluebirds on our trails



bvbluebirds.com



Google Sheets for Monitoring

- Benefits:
 - Shared files online
 - Good for collaboration with TB & substitute monitors
 - No need to email Excel/Calc/PDF
 - Easy to use
 - Data is saved automatically
 - Use it on your phone



Google Sheets

- Next week I will email link to your monitor sheets & training for new monitors
- A slightly new way of working:

Keep up to date weekly

gella	Vis _e Monitor		r	Cheryl Sialis						Year	2022		Site Name			Berksdale, Holes 1, 2, 3					ТВ	Jim Feather					
	54,590																							4	79-822-0	187	
BE		1 – Click on a cell to add data												Bluebir			wallow										
bird	2 - To set bird color in a cell use <u>A</u> in the menu above, see colors to							olors to t	he right	t.				Chickadee		House Wren											
	3 - For dates use month/day (3/20 for example) 4 - Scroll down to see Sample sheet												House \$	Sparrow	Titmou	ıse											
		4 – Scr	oli dowi	n to see	o see Sample sneet																-						
HOLE#	BOX#	DATE																								2022 TOTALS	2021 TOTALS
		3/19	3/27	4/3	4/11	4/17	4/24	5/2	5/9	5/16	5/22	5/29	6/6	6/13	6/20	6/27	7/5	7/10	7/19	7/24	7/31	8/7	8/14	8/21	8/28		
1	1	G/ 10	0,2,	-,,0	-0.11	NC	NC	4E	6E	6E	6C	6C	6F	0, 10	0,20	0,2,	7,0	7710	7710	7,21	7,01	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	0,11	0,21	0,20	6	0
1	1A		NC	4E	4E	4C	4C	4F		NC	5E	RN	RN		NC	NC	NC	АВ								4	3
1	1B	NC	1E	4E	4C	4D		NC	4E	4E	4C	4C	4F			NC	4E	4E	4E	АВ						4	4
2	2		NC	NC	1E	3E	3E	3C	3C	3C	3F															3	5
2	2A		2E	5E	5E	3C	3C	3F	NC	1E	NI			NC	4E	4E	3C	2C	2F							5	0
3	3	NC	3E	4E	4E	3C	3C	3C	3F					NC	4E	4E	4C	4C	4F							7	0
3	3A	4E	4E	4C	4C	4C	4F				NC	2E	2E	NI				NC	3E	4E	4E	3C	3C	3C	3F	7	4
3	3B 3C	NC	2E	2E NC	NI 4E	6E	NC 6E	4E 6C	4E 6C	4C 6C	4C 6F	4F														6	8
3	3D			NC	40	NC	4E	4E	4E	AB	91															0	10
TOTAL	, J.								72	71.5												10	26	6	4	see left	29, 12
АВ											Е	Eggs – 1E, 2E, etc. remove clutch after 21 days if unhatch							atched	d Nest building: 1-10 days, remove after 21 days							
	Nest Completed – use bird colors to identify nest								Chicks								Egg laying: 1 per day										
	Nest In		u uoc	Directions to lucitary nest											- 	atc.				Incubation: 11-19 days after last egg is laid							
												F Fledged (left nest) – · D Dead – 1D, 2D, etc.			, <u>z</u> r, et					Brooding: 15-18 days after							
	FL Flooded * For NI – make notes below of the type of predator, known or suspected, included the suspected of the type of predator.													, etc.						Blood	ng: 15-	To days	arter na	accning			
							-																				
2A, 5/22, nothing disturbed, maybe a snake? 3A, 6/13, same as 2A. 3B, 4/11, nesting material pulled out, raccoon or cat, Jim put guard on box.																											



If You Are Unable to Monitor Your Boxes

- Stuff Happens Life Happens
- We don't need to know why
- Loss of data is TOTALLY PREVENTABLE using Google Sheets & subs

Keep up to date weekly





Giving Thanks



****** Jennifer & Butch The Bluebird Shed T.H. Rogers Lowes Bella Vista POA **Our Amazing Volunteers**





THANK YOU