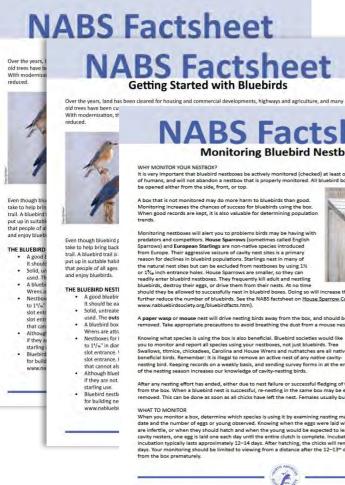
# **BVBBS Volunteers Meeting**

#### October 8, 2022









#### **NABS** Factsheet **Monitoring Bluebird Nestboxes**

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

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

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% or 1% inch entrance holes. House Sparrows are smaller, so they can readily enter bluebird nestboxes. They frequently kill adult and nestling

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

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 cavitynesting 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 nes 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.

When you monitor a box, determine which species is using it by examining pesting 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 bluebird: 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









BILLEBIRGO \$5.00



## Agenda

- 1) New Volunteers
- 2) Service Awards
- 3) 2022 Statistics
- 4) Odds & Ends:
  - **★** Adopt a Highway **★** AmazonSmile
  - **★** Google Sheets **★** Grant
- **\*** Research Project **\*** Stovepipe Baffle

- **Break**
- 5) Guest Speaker



### New Volunteers Monitors

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

\* Took medical leave but plan to return in 2023



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Service Awards 2 Years

- \* Autumn Anderson (monitor)
  \* Ray Atkinson (builder)
  \* Tracy Girardi (monitor)
  \* Larry Hoogerhyde (builder)
- **\***Tami Moore (substitute monitor)



### Service Awards 5 Years

### ★ Tim Garton (builder/trail boss)

### **★** Cynthia Marshall (monitor)

- **★** George Pickell (trail boss & monitor coordinator)
- Steve Skaggs (trail boss & trail boss/box builder coordinator)



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<u>About Bluebirds</u> - <u>BVBBS Business</u> -

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Trails & Boxes -

Photos-

<u>Other Sites</u> -

### **BVBBS Statistics**

**Bella Vista Bluebird Society** 

#### 2022 Overview

End of Season 2022 - shows all trails managed by the BVBBS and all BVBBS monitor counts.

<u>Trails with Box Counts 2022</u> - shows the current number of bluebird nest boxes on each trail managed by the BVBBS.

<u>Yearly Fledges per Box</u> - 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 Sharla Miller



## Hot Temps in BV 2022

- 90° days started in June
- Almost all of July 90°+
- 2 weeks in July 100°+
- All summer high humidity



# Nest Box Hot Temps

from quoted sources

- Bluebird eggs & nestlings can not survive temps exceeding 107°
- Prolonged heat to nestlings causes dehydration & heat stress
- Temperatures inside a nest box can reach 120°
- What can we do?
  - Paint top of box white
  - Place boxes so they get late afternoon shade
  - Umbrella



### **Bluebirds Fledged**

|                 |       | 2022  | 2021  | % Difference |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|
| BVBBS<br>Trails |       | 1,643 | 1,433 | +14%         |
| BV<br>Residents |       | 510   | 721   | -29%         |
|                 | TOTAL | 2,153 | 2,154 | 04           |



## **All Cavity Nesting Species Fledged**

| Year | Bluebird | Swallow | Chickadee | Wren | Other | TOTAL |
|------|----------|---------|-----------|------|-------|-------|
| 2022 | 1,643    | 461     | 106       | 19   | 8     | 2,237 |
| 2021 | 1,433    | 574     | 167       | 15   | 63    | 2,257 |
| 2020 | 1,845    | 579     | 105       | 17   | 14    | 2,560 |
| 2019 | 1,961    | 542     | 159       | 28   | 1     | 2,691 |
| 2018 | 1,752    | 397     | 131       | 8    | 11    | 2,299 |

| Site/Location                | 2022 – EABL | 2021 – EABL |  |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Berksdale                    | 260         | 257         |  |
| Branchwood/Edinburgh/Glasgow | 174         | 134         |  |
| Brittany                     | 95          | 63          |  |
| BVCC                         | 156         | 139         |  |
| Dogwood                      | 120         | 102         |  |
| Highlands                    | 213         | 130         |  |
| Kingswood                    | 158         | 117         |  |
| Loch Lomond Park/Marina      | 40          | 61          |  |
| Oakford & Plaza              | 63          | 46          |  |
| Scotsdale                    | 204         | 258         |  |
| Short Trails                 | 160         | 126         |  |
| TOTAL                        | 1,643       | 1,433       |  |



#### We now monitor & maintain 581 nest boxes in Bella Vista

### From 1980 - 2022 we helped fledge 53,140 Eastern Bluebirds on our trails



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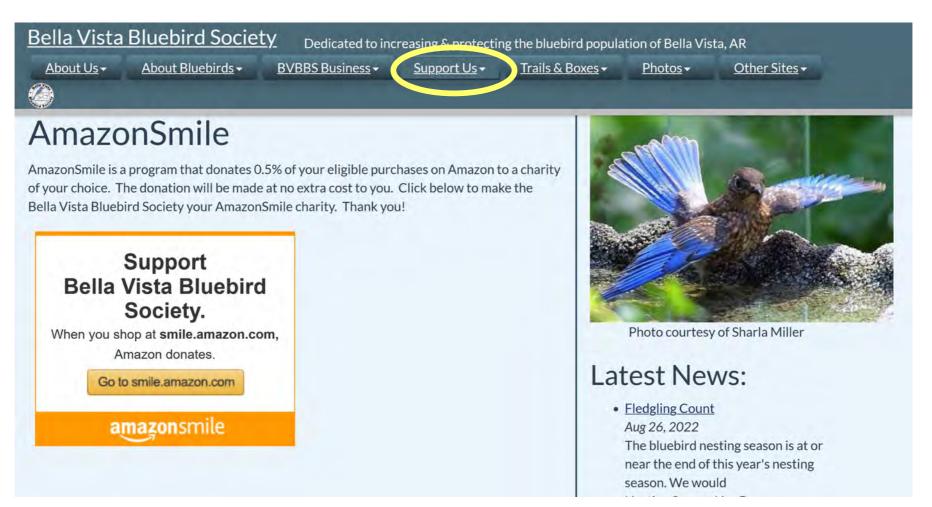


## Adopt A Highway

- Potential new program in March, now a reality!
- Jacqui Stockman & Becky Pratt worked with ARDOT to adopt a mile on Rt 71
- First litter pickup Saturday, Oct 22
- Benefits:
  - Help the environment
  - Show our support of Bella Vista
  - Increase awareness of BVBBS

## AmazonSmile

### Remember us for your holiday shopping & everyday



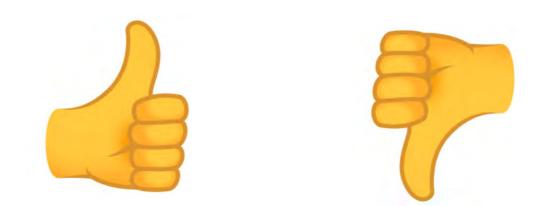


## **Google Sheets for Monitoring**

- 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 for Monitoring**





## Grant

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual
- \$1000 for research on bluebirds
- Announced to Arkansas universities & birding organizations on Sept 1, ends Nov 30
- Our 2021 winner William Kirkpatrick



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#### Research Project Extended into 2023 - 4<sup>th</sup> year



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<u>Other Sites</u> -

### **Research Project**

**Bella Vista Bluebird Society** 

"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 <u>The Bluebird Shed</u> in Bella Vista. Both have done extensive field work with nesting birds and both are licensed bird banders. For questions, contact <u>Butch Tetzlaff</u>.

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 <u>North American Bluebird Society</u> awarded Dr. Mortensen \$1,500 grant toward the project.



Photo courtesy of Sharla Miller

Latest News:



## **Stovepipe Baffle**

- Bad, maddening predation
- Steve Skaggs built 11 stovepipe baffles
- Jim Sours installed 6 at Brittany Golf Course
- Steve Skaggs installed 5 at Oakford
- Brittany had 46% increase from last year
- Oakford had 86% increase!



#### 8" metal duct Cut to 20" Painted flat black





## **Stovepipe Baffle**

- We want to install more in 2023
- Steve's caveat past performance is no indication of future results
- We could use volunteers to make them
- Contact Steve Skaggs if interested



## **Positions Needed**

- Monitors
  - Brittany Golf Course (11 boxes)
  - BVCC Golf Course (14 boxes)
  - Dogwood Golf Course (16 boxes)
- Website Editor
  - Position Description on website

#### Do you read it?

About Us -

## The Bluebirder

### Do you find it helpful?

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Other Sites -

### Our Newsletter - The Bluebirder

If you have any questions or comments, or have a suggestion for a newsletter article, please contact Jacqui Stockman at <u>JSBluebirder@gmail.com</u>.

<u>The Bluebirder, Spring/Summer 2022</u> - Topics include: Get to Know Bluebirds • Member/Volunteer Discounts • Volunteer Spotlight - Susan & Brian Woodruff • Common Nesting Birds • Nestbox Sharing • Does Supplemental Feeding Help • New Treasurer • Wooden Bluebird Pudding Feeders • and more

<u>The Bluebirder, Fall/Winter 2021</u> - Topics include: Volunteer Spotlight - Tim Garton • Local Artists • Grant Funds • A Young Naturalists - Quin Warsaw • Native Plants for all Seasons • and more



Photo courtesy of Sharla Miller

#### Do you have any ideas for articles?





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