



Monitor

Position Description
Updated Nov 2021

Overview: Monitors are data collectors that need to commit to 24 weeks of field work from mid-March thru mid-August. To get started, you will attend an online training session, followed by field training with an experienced volunteer at your trail to see your assigned nest boxes and to observe monitoring in action.

Your field work will include checking your assigned bluebird boxes every week and keeping good records of what you see in each nest box using our tried & tested forms. You are our eyes and ears, and accurate data collecting is essential so that we get a clear picture of what's happening in each nest box.

Be warned, monitoring is sometimes not for the faint of heart. When opening a nest box you might encounter broken eggs, missing eggs, dead chicks, ants, wasps or snakes. Some monitors have never experienced any of those issues, while other monitors have seen them all. You also will need to clean out old nests that are often saturated with bird droppings. But monitoring can also be nature at its best, watching nests being built, eggs laid & hatched, and baby birds growing until they are ready to leave the nest.

Areas of responsibility are defined below:

- 1) Attend semi-annual (March & October) meetings of the Bella Vista Bluebird Society (BVBBS); attend other BVBBS meetings as needed or requested.
- 2) Check all boxes on your assigned trail every 7 days during the nesting season. This is critical and must be taken seriously. Never go past 9 days; secure a sub or contact your trail boss, the monitor coordinator, or the president in cases such as being out of town, illnesses, etc.
- 3) For each date that you monitor, record the activity for each box according to the legend on your monitor sheet. At season's end submit your detailed report to the monitor coordinator or president.
- 4) If repairs or replacements of boxes, posts or PVC/baffles are needed, notify your trail boss, the monitor coordinator or the president.
- 5) For details on monitoring, see the BVBBS procedure [Monitoring Bluebird Nest Boxes](#).