



BLUEBIRDS FLY!

California Bluebird Recovery Program Newsletter

—Assisted by Mount Diablo Audubon Society —
An affiliate of the North American Bluebird Society

\$2.50 Per Issue
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Donation

www.cbrp.org

“For the encouragement and conservation of cavity-nesters — especially bluebirds — anywhere in the West”

2016 ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BY CALIFORNIA BLUEBIRD MONITORS

Results for 2016 show a small increase in all metrics over 2015. The drought in California seems to have affected results of the past several years – results over the past few years are about 10% less than the 2010-2012 period but have increased 5-10% for the most recent three years.. See the state summary which is elsewhere in this issue for details.

Reports were received from 21 counties, 177 monitors and 325 trails. These show that the 5793 boxes installed on the reported trails yielded some 19873 fledges of which 11969 were Western Blue Birds and the remaining 7904 were distributed among 20 other cavity nesting species.

Orange County, as usual, was the top producing county (by more than a factor of two) for the number of trails, nest tries, total fledges and Western Bluebird fledges. See the table of results by counties which appears elsewhere in this issue. The top producers were **Steve Simmons (Merced) with 1733 fledgelings (mostly Wood Ducks), followed by Lee Pauser (Santa Clara) with 1502 fledglings, Irv Tiessen (Alameda) with 1267 fledges and Davud McMichael (Riverside) with 1084 fledges.** See the table of results by producer which appears elsewhere in this issue.

The table of state results summarizes CBRP results for 21 years (1996-2016). From 1996 thru 2006 trail-by-trail data were collected from handwritten worksheets, summarized by county coordinators and entered into a statewide spreadsheet. From 2007 thru 2011 box-by-box, trail-by-trail data were entered by monitors directly into a homegrown database. For the past five years trail-by-trail data were entered by monitors directly into a shared, on-line spreadsheet. Each method has had its own problems resulting in some inaccuracies. In particular the number of nest tries was incorrect from 2007-2011 leading to errors in all ratios and percentages based on that quantity. Note that for the past few years the number of nest tries is again approximately equal to the number of boxes and so, the resulting ratios are more accurate.



Actual color of blue wing with no light



The Director's Chair

Another nesting season completed - another year! Happy New Year to all of you and many thanks for participating in our program.

Thanks to all of you who entered your 2016 results on-line. We used Google Drive again this year for on-line, shared data collection with few problems. I continue to look for a better/simpler way to collect data, but have not found one.

The 2016 Annual Report is not included in this issue because of the size and cost of printing and mailing. The report is available in full color for viewing and/or downloading on our web site: at http://www.cbrp.org/annual_reports/ar2016.pdf. Several articles summarizing the 2016 results will be found in this issue of *Bluebirds Fly!*. 2016 results are similar to those for 2015. Note that this and previous newsletters and annual reports as well as updated state results (21 year history), box-by-box and trail-by-trail data) are also available on our web site. Link to <http://www.cbrp.org> and look under "Program Results".



Special thanks to those of you who made donations to CBRP in 2016 (amounting to \$975 in 2H 2016 and \$2114 for the year) - see the 2nd half 2016 donor list elsewhere in this issue. We will be using a new printer starting with this issue so as to reduce printing costs. Again this year donations barely cover the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. I am reluctant to ask for dues and prefer to encourage donations. If donations decline from present levels I will revert to on-line newsletters only. Following your name on the mailing label for this issue of *Bluebirds Fly!* are two numbers. The first is the date of your most recent contribution in the form yyyyymm and the second is the amount in the form \$\$\$\$. If these fields are blank or zero then you have not made a contribution in the past three years. My practice is to remove monitors/contributors from the contact list after three years with no activity.

This year I made a concerted effort to encourage monitors to contribute to and participate in Cornell University's NestWatch Program by means of their web site or a bulk upload template so as to preserve nesting data of scientific value. I am aware of only two of you who used the bulk upload template and one who entered data directly using the NestWatch web site. Following is a comment from **Carol Killebrew**, CBRP's San Diego Coordinator: "I entered my 2016 data at the NestWatch website. Setting up my account and entering all the initial location data took me about 20 minutes for three boxes. It was nice to discover that I had a choice to either

California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) Board Members

Dick Blaine, Program Director — dick@theblaines.net

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Dick Purvis, Recruiting — dickersly@aol.com

enter my data each time I monitored a box, or I could just enter one summary after all the nestlings had fledged from a box. I find entering data at NestWatch easy and fun, and will continue to enter my data there as well as at CBRP in the future. Elsewhere in this issue is an article by **Lee Pauser**, Santa Clara County discussing his approach to data entry/retention and his experiences with the NestWatch bulk upload template. It is not too late to contribute your data to NestWatch.

* The link to the NestWatch web site is: <http://www.nestwatch.org>.

* The link to the bulk upload documentation is: <https://goo.gl/PqHXiX> and

* The link to the bulk upload template is: <https://goo.gl/6eQA9f> (send the completed template to me and I will make the arrangements with NestWatch.)

Remember to start getting ready for the 2017 nesting season by cleaning and repairing your nest boxes by the end of February. Happy New Year and happy 2017 birding.

Dick Blaine - dick@theblaines.net



Civil War cannon in peaceful use

Photo by Jo-Ann Coller

About the California Bluebird Recovery Program Founder - Don Yoder; Emeritus - Hatch Graham

Our Mission

Enlist current bluebirders and recruit others who will help reestablish bluebirds to their normal habitat

- ◆ Locate preferred habitat for the placement of nestboxes suitable for bluebirds
- ◆ Secure monitors to care for the boxes and keep systematic records of the development of young birds during the nesting season
- ◆ Record and analyze all annual summaries of nestbox records
- ◆ Provide a forum (newsletter) through which fellow trail monitors can exchange information and secure help in solving problems encountered in the field.

Learn More

To learn more about the California Bluebird Recovery Program and other cavity nester conservation programs, visit the below web sites:

<http://www.cbrp.org>

<http://www.nabluebirdssociety.org>

<http://www.socalbluebirds.org>

<http://www.sialis.org>

If you are looking for a mentor, start by contacting the county coordinator in your county listed on page 12. You can also contact **Dick Blaine** (dick@theblaines.net) or **Dick Purvis** (dickersly@aol.com).

Please consider supporting our efforts. There is a donation form on the back page of this newsletter. Your contribution is tax-deductible and goes a long way in helping us conserve the bluebird population in California.

Donations in 1H 2016 - \$1139. 2H 2016 - \$975; Total 2016 - \$2114

Name	County
Doris & Bill Allison	Amador
Nancy Arbuckle	San Mateo
Susan Bulger	Orange
Walter & Edna Burch	Orange
Joe Chandler	Orange
Sandra Dempewolf	San Diego
Melva Foley	Orange
Kappy & Fred Hurst	Orange
Joan Loney	Santa Clara
Charles Lowrie in Memory of Karen Lowrie	Amador
Ross Millikan	San Mateo
Merle Norman	Contra Costa
North American Bluebird Society	National
Lee & Janna Pauser	Santa Clara
Jim & Connie Rogers	Orange
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society	Nevada
Southern California Bluebird Club	Orange
Loren Walden	Santa Clara

With much gratitude, we accept these donations.



COUNTY TOTALS 2016

County	Tot Fledge	WEBL Fledge
21	19873	11969
Orange	6943	5602
Santa Clara	3388	1414
Merced	1768	257
Los Angeles	1641	1626
Alameda	1344	748
Riverside	1086	360
Contra Costa	998	585
San Mateo	808	328
Nevada	371	203
Placer	312	189
Madera	251	17
Amador	237	151
	202	180
Santa Barbara		
Solano	157	78
San Diego	127	91
Shasta	119	68
San Bernardino	55	34
Tuolumne	35	27
Ventura	23	6
Sacramento	5	5
Mariposa	3	0



	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Average*
Counties	19	24	24	20	20	20	24	21	24
Reporters	174	192	168	170	169	157	160	178	177
Species	17	23	26	21	24	21	20	21	19
Boxes (N)	4189	5274	5426	5293	5664	5067	5601	5793	4225
Tries (T)	2937	3939	3202	5715	5715	5096	5526	5742	3664
T/N	0.7	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1
Eggs (E)	21762	28751	28386	28423	27876	24058	26262	27509	22240
E/N	5.2	5.5	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	5
E/T	7.4	7.3	8.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	6
Chicks (H)	17967	23014	22794	22747	22489	19481	21234	22872	17888
H/N	4.3	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.9	4
H/T	6.1	5.8	7.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	4
H/E	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1
Fledged (F)	15781	20737	20323	20477	19754	17056	18144	19873	14740
F/N	3.8	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	3
F/T	5.4	5.3	6.3	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	4
F/E	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	1
F/H	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	1

2009 notes ... 265 trails reported - nest tries down but fledges up? Major producers from 2008 did not report

2010 notes ... Nest Tries underestimated as many large producers did not provide bob-by-box detail; each species was reported as 1 box in these cases.
Large increases in boxes, eggs, hatchlings and fledglings are primarily the result of Merced county reporting after a lapse of several years

2011 notes ... Nest Tries underestimated as many large producers did not provide bob-by-box detail; each species was reported as 1 box in these cases.
Ditto - boxes. All ratios based on nest tries or boxes are low as a result.

2012 notes ... Nest tries and boxes much more realistic this year - accounts for large change in related ratios
Based on trail results not box-by-box results

2013 notes ... Ditto 2012

2014 notes ... Reductions from 2013 are almost entirely explained by the illness of Dick Purvis, Orange County.

2015 notes ... results are down 10% from pre-drought years (2010-2012)

2016 notes ... results are slightly up from last year

Monitor	Tot Fledge	WEBL Fledge	Monitor	Tot Fledge	WEBL Fledge
178	19873	11969			
Simmons, Steve	1733	257	Chandler, Joe	123	123
Pauser, Lee	1502	581	Jordan, Larry	119	68
Tiessen, Irv	1267	725	Covington, Bill	114	65
McMichael, David	1084	63	Osaki, Steve	114	114
Pike, James	595	0	Clark, Patricia	111	43
Bulger, Susan	519	519	Hall, Luise	109	83
Purvis, Dick	389	389	Miller, Sara	106	98
Coller, Jo-Ann	378	365	Suan, Robin	104	104
Tischer, Christine	328	37	Islas, Barbara	103	103
Violett, Linda	292	264	Lorenzen, Don	101	24
Venhuizen, John	290	255	Sieburth, Dessi	100	100
Ralph, Bill	289	17	Wetzel, Peter	100	88
Keally, Bob	288	288	Kvaska, Colleen	99	99
Jennings, Candy	274	268	Azevedo, Mike	98	39
Rogers, Jim & Connie	270	109	Bostelman, Rusty	97	97
Kneeland, Roger	267	267	Deas, Ian & Karin	94	61
Snyder, Erin	250	212	Eubank, Lane	94	32
Allison, Bill & Doris	237	151	Caropepe, Cody	92	25
Franz, Bob	237	234	Carr, Caryl	91	20
Wallace, Bill & Inge	237	232	Alfrey, Kelly	90	9
Klahn, Allen	198	124	Carder, Susan	86	15
Howington, Georgette	196	73	Orcholski, Gerald	85	76
Miller, Joan	195	195	Sinex, Valerie	84	84
Jordan, Kim	189	189	King, Robin	79	71
Josten, Walter	185	185	Fontaine, Ray	77	23
Livermore, Dan	175	175	Fieldhouse, Gus	76	76
Millett, Jerry	175	175	Loney, Joan	76	19
Henson, Danny	168	168	White, Beverly	76	76
Cook, Dave	167	115	Garrison, Earl	75	75
Franz, Norm	163	163	Chase, Jeff	74	57
Elvin, Fran	140	49	Houlihan, Bill	73	63
Willey, Barbara	140	136	Schat, Amber	73	0
Hurst, Kappy	138	135	Glaser, Fred	69	40
Shafer, Darryl	138	138	Chen, Andrea	68	56
Guerrero, Susana	137	137	Baldwin, Don	67	67
Wright, Richard	131	131	Mello, Diane	66	66
O'Neal, Martha	128	22	Cunningham, Karen & Steve	65	47
Dardis, Tomas	126	126	Lockhart, Cindy	65	39
			Kimbrey, Ian	63	63
			Miller, Anne	63	29

In 2012 the Southern California Bluebird Club (SCBC) launched **The Cavity Conservation Initiative** (CCI), an educational program designed to address the fundamental reason for declining populations of some cavity nesting species...the steady removal of dead trees. This was a formidable mission projected to be low on fun and high on frustration. How do we persuade a land manager to care about the ecosystem value of a dead tree? Harder yet! Dare we, as untrained arborists, suggest safe ways to retain one? Can we *really* change public perception of a dead tree?

Surprisingly, the first two years were easier. Our County Park system, some golf course managers and private property owners in several states have come on board. Providing Wildlife Tree signs for safely retained trees actual ‘greased the wheel’ for some. You see, the signs helped to avert complaints, and became a catalyst for unexpected praise! Collectively, our public speaking programs, classroom loaner kit, our outdoor naturalist kit, and video, *This is The Tree*,



<http://cavityconservation.com/2016/08/24/our-video-story-of-a-dying-tree/>



have reached thousands of adults and kids. Audience members often say with utter delight, “We had no idea...!!” It fuels hope.

Ah! But silently and steadily our efforts in the past two years have been stifled by a highly invasive non-native beetle, the Polyphageous Shot-hole Borer. It has killed and set in motion an unprecedented removal of thousands of dead trees in Orange and surrounding counties. The loss of their ecological benefits has been painful to accept.

But thanks to our growing relationship with the tree care industry, in the summer of 2015 a unique opportunity emerged. The CCI and a large tree-care company, West Coast Arborists, found mutual benefit in forming a state-wide partnership to develop best management practices and educational tools to improve tree care for birds. (This naturally includes saving standing dead trees.)

Since then, nearly 100 volunteer stakeholders have joined the Tree Care for Birds and other Wildlife Project. Our largest fiscal supporters have been CAL FIRE, the Britton Fund and several Audubon Chapters. It will take three years at least to complete our primary objectives.

So, prompted by what we don't know, the SCBC and the CCI are beginning the 2017 nesting season with a review of scientific literature relevant to nest boxes and projections due to climate change. Ours is an amateur, humble effort, but it is the CCI's hope to move toward best management practices for bluebirds *and their bird community*. **Gillian Martin, Director, CCI**

CLIF BAR SPENDS A DAY AT FERNANDEZ RANCH

Employees had a great time! I'm glad that we could help JMLT 'get ahead' on these projects at Fernandez Ranch. — **Cassie Cyphers**, Clif Bar's Community/Eco Programs Manager

Emeryville-based **Clif Bar** has a long tradition of supporting local nonprofits, and on June 8th JMLT hosted Clif Bar employees at Fernandez Ranch. Some 375 eager volunteers helped maintain drip irrigation systems in a restoration area along Rodeo Creek, rehabilitated hiking trails, set signposts for a new Franklin Canyon trail, and removed invasive thistles. Others used power tools to assemble 150 bird houses that were donated to The California Bluebird Recovery Program. **Georgette Howington**



I didn't really have any great tales, but I do have a tip for the birders. I start collecting dryer lint about now and then in February put it out in various places for nice, soft nesting material for our birds.

I thank you for all you contribute, and would love to attend one of the meetings. I shall try in future. I think that somewhere you asked us to let you know if we would still like to receive, "Bluebirds Fly", and I would if possible. I enjoy it and your posts.

A Very Happy New Year to you and your Family! And may it be BLUE!

Warm wishes, **Beverly Gandall**

When Is Too Much Data Too Much?

When I first begin monitoring nest boxes during the 2002 nesting season, it was to assist my spouse **Janna** who had assumed an existing trail of nest boxes. All record keeping was done on a visit-by-visit basis using paper forms. At the end of the season box-by-box data was surmised from these forms, and entered into the California Bluebird Recovery Program's (CBRP) on-line database.

Wanting to simplify the data collection process before the 2003 season, I noted the specific data that was being collected for the CBRP, and mimicked the program's collected data in a Microsoft Access database. This made year-end data reporting simple—simply re-enter the box-by-box data into the on-line data base.

To totally eliminate the use of paper, I decided to record the visit-by-visit data in a relational database on a Palm Tungsten E2 Handheld. I upload this data to my desktop computer, and, while reviewing the day's records, update my box-by-box data appropriately.

Over the years I have asked myself questions, and added additional fields to the above databases in an effort to glean answers to the questions. E.G. does a bluebird nest box with a 5.5" x 5.5" floor vs a 5" x 5" floor result in a larger clutch size and more fledglings?

So, after fifteen seasons of monitoring nest boxes I have a tremendous amount of data available in several relational databases. For the 2016 season alone, I have 3,891 records in my visit-by-visit database, and 635 records in my box-by-box database. The latter database has fifteen seasons of data containing 4,469 records.

My intention is not to impress you with numbers, but to impress you with what can be done with the data. Answers to questions can be derived by asking questions (submitting queries). Questions such as what is the range, average, and median of clutch sizes for the various species that have nested in my nest boxes. What is the fledge rate for the various species. The data is there—it may appear hidden, but it's just waiting for a question.

Additionally, Microsoft Excel can be used to extract data from these databases, and morph it into a graphical form more easily understood than raw numbers.

Cornell's NestWatch program has a tremendous thirst for nesting data. When the program was first announced I quickly discarded participating in the program not wanting to spend a significant amount of time inactively entering the attributes of a nest box, and later entering nesting data. Additionally, the majority of my bluebird nest boxes are hanging boxes—not mounted boxes. As such, they are very portable, and, I typically do move some boxes around for various reasons throughout the season. The moving of a nest box would require changes to the attributes of the box as described to NestWatch. Sigh, still more data entry.

My objections to participating in the program were overcome when CBRP's **Dick Blaine** and Cornell's Robyn Bailey derived the ability to perform bulk uploads of data. Using the provided bulk upload template for guidance, I created an Access query to extract the desired data into an Excel spreadsheet. This file was provided to NestWatch, and its nesting data entered into Cornell's database for scientific research purposes.

Currently NestWatch's California statewide data is spotty—for 2016 NestWatch has only 862 nest records of which 468 records are what I had submitted. This season, a total of 5,697 nest attempts were reported in CBRP's on-line database. Many of you likely have the data that NestWatch needs lying about. I encourage you assemble it, and to participate in the NestWatch program.

So, when is too much data too much? Probably never.

Lee Pauser

At this moment I am sitting at my desk and everything I do is punctuated with picking up binoculars and training them upon two nestlings taking turns leaning out of the nesting box getting ready for the big leap away from home sweet home! This is my second clutch this year and I was shocked to find us hosting a family this late in the season.

I followed two additional clutches this year at a friend's zen garden a block away. Overwhelmed by the plethora of hummingbirds and butterflies, I just knew that a pair of blues would not be able to resist this paradise. I hung a box in Lynn's vintage plum tree (the aged grey wood of the box blended perfectly with the old tree) and within a few months, a telltale golden blade of dried grass was peeking out of a crevice. Within a week, four fledglings appeared in the branches and didn't miss a meal for six weeks. Then one day, they were gone, the couple built a new nest and the female re-entered the box. After a week or two, the blues were run off by a black phoebe who had decided to claim the garden. I took down the box and found one egg within it which bore the signs of possibly the destruction of a winged competitor.

My most memorable blues event this season was that of my first clutch. The male was killed by our local Coopers Hawk two weeks prior to the fledge. The female worked like a dog caring for her brood! The fledging occurred on the most beautiful Saturday morning of all Newport Beach mornings. Hi 70's. no wind, no predators or competitive birds to be seen or heard. A third had already fledged the evening before. Two remained, warily leaning out of the box, surveying the options of landing pads. Both fledged and flew directly up onto a smooth, broad branch of the Sycamore. They sat here for hours, listening and watching every butterfly float by as they stretched out and dried their wings in the gentle sunshine. The previous evening's fledgling arrived to join them. How exciting! Suddenly, out of nowhere, a brilliant young blue male appeared and began "mingling" with the family. He was a bystander for quite some time and did not even know how to take worms out of the feeder. I was shocked how the female quickly accepted him and he eventually followed her lead on how to use the feeder. The fledglings did not hesitate to hungrily accept worms from him, once he got the hang of it all.

Unlike all of my past clutches, the female hid that first family for weeks. Six weeks later, they all appeared back at the birdbaths. After that, only one accompanied the parents to feed in my backyard for a few days. No teenager returned, but the male still appeared to be taking worms to another location for a short time while the female disappeared. I finally realized that she was back in the box! During this latest nesting, the female and male did not access worms from either of my feeders, one of which is in my back yard. They shot up the street to another bluebird hostess. It wasn't until this last week when the parents were calling the nestlings to fledge, that have they taken worms from us.. Every day of hawk-free skies, I just knew that "today is the day." And it is!! I have been especially glued to this event as I thought nesting season was over and did not ask any of the few volunteers I have to take down the box. It was cleaned after the last clutch, a nest was built immediately but it was deserted after a week or two of nesting. We took it down and discovered it was a "false nesting," as the female had appeared to be staying in the box for at least ten days. I truly thought they were done. Once again, Mother Nature has provided us with a wonderful surprise!

Oh no. The hawk just came through. He didn't get a fledgling, but he certainly knows what is transpiring here. There was never a better use for a water blaster! **Portia Weiss**

Yikes! There's a Bumble Bee in my Nest Box!"

In April 2016, an early Oak Titmouse brood successfully fledged and hoping for a second I left the nest in the box. Two weeks later, an agitated bumblebee rushed at my face when I opened the door. Bumblebee's can sting multiple times so I shut the door quickly and left. There were vacant nest boxes on the trail for the birds and I thought it best to research and figure out what the best course of action was for me and that little bee!



Dead Bumblebee and honey pots in nest box

The next time I visited that nest box I spotted a flurry of bumblebees. From what I had read, a Queen bee had found and chosen the empty Oak Titmouse nest to build her colony on top of! Since the colonies only last a season I decided to let this one live out its life cycle there instead of trying to relocate it. As a gardener I experience first-hand how essential bumblebee's are. Without them to pollinate we wouldn't have tomatoes, peppers and other vegetables in the Solanaceae family as well as many other crops.

By late September the bees were gone. When I reopened the nest box, I was amazed at the tall "nest" of hair skillfully built on top of the OT nest. Peeling it back I found the "honeypot" combs made by the Queen who made them out of wax. And other than a few curious spiders and a large dead bumblebee I assumed was the Queen, the nest was empty.

I photographed the dead bumblebee and sent it to a respected naturalist in my area named Michael Marchiano. He identified it as a Yellow-faced Bumble Bee or *Bombus vosnesenskii*. "...you start by helping bluebirds and, then other birds use the house too, and then, you learn how so many of the other creatures end up using them...and how all these living things coexist. How intricate and marvelous the whole ecosystem is!"

For more information about bumblebees you can check out: www.helpabee.org (UC Berkeley, Dr. Gordon Frankie's research group, The Urban Bee Lab); www.iucnredlist.org; and get a free new guide to "Bumble Bees of the Western United States at www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/documents/BumbleBeeGuideWestern2012.pdf

Georgette Howington, January 9, 2017

Note: Some Bumblebees are now listed as endangered species. Editor

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/sciencefair/2017/01/10/bumble-bee-endangered->

BLUEBIRD OF HAPPINESS RETURNS

By **Georgette Howington**

Special to the Benicia Herald, October 6, 2016

Rarely seen 30 years ago because of severe population decline, the Western Bluebird, once a common harbinger of spring is making a comeback in the Bay Area. Nest box monitors, taking care of birdhouses season-after-season, smile when they hear news like, "I saw a bluebird for the first time!" or "There are more bluebirds in the open space these days." So, what's going on?

Urban adaptation due to mature trees, grassy areas (gardens, golf courses, parks and dedicated open space), more places for successful nesting such as monitored birdhouses and the reduction of insecticides are some of the contributing factors. Scientific studies indicate varied results in populations of Western Bluebird (*Sialis Mexicana*) depending upon locale within the North American Western Region. For instance, in 2016, the IUCRedlist of Threatened Species (www.iucnredlist.com) lists the species as "Least Concern." The Audubon Society (www.Audubon.org), on the other hand, forecasts a 63% loss of the birds' current winter range by 2080 and therefore considers the Western Bluebird (along with over 588 North American bird species) as "threatened due to climate change."

In 1995, **Don Yoder**, and a small group of bluebird enthusiasts, with support from the Mt. Diablo Audubon and the North American Bluebird Societies, formed the California Bluebird Recovery Program. "For the encouragement and preservation of cavity-nesters – especially bluebirds anywhere in the West." has clearly lived up to that vision. With fewer than 200 reporting monitors the average annual fledgling count since 1996 is 15,477.

Bluebird nest boxes are designed for Western Bluebirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Titmice, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Tree Swallows, Violet-Green Tree Swallows, White-breasted Nuthatches and House Wrens. The detailed design is critical for this group of birds. Barn Owls and Wood Ducks are examples of other secondary-cavity nesters that can adapt to using nest boxes but theirs are much larger.

Nesting season begins late-January and is over about late August. In fall and winter, after the boxes are cleaned out, the birds often use them for roosting. Monitors learn how to safely check the nest boxes, keep records and turn their data in to CBRP at the end of the nesting season. It's best not to install nest boxes if they are not going to be monitored.

For more information, please, check out www.cbrp.org and contact a county coordinator.

Georgette Howington is the state assistant program director and Alameda and Contra Costa counties coordinator for the California Bluebird Recovery Program

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'County'	'First'	'Last'	City	Home#	Email1
Alameda	Georgette	Howington	Martinez	925-686-4372	ghbirdscape@gmail.com
Contra Costa	Georgette	Howington	Martinez	925-686-4372	ghbirdscape@gmail.com
Los Angeles	Dick	Purvis	Anaheim	714-776-8878	joann1@socal.rr.com
Madera	Bill & Megan Michael & Marybeth	Ralph	Raymond	209- 966-2250	bill@dryadranch.com
Mendocino	Steve	Arago	Fort Bragg	707-962-0507	mmbarago@mcn.org
Merced	Steve	Simmons	Merced Grass Valley	209-722-3540	simwoodduk@aol.com wolfcreek-
Nevada	Kate	Brennan		530-268-1682	farms@goskywest.com
Orange	Dick	Purvis	Anaheim	714-776-8878	dickersly@aol.com
Placer	Heath	Wakelee	Granite Bay	916 797-4536	
Riverside	Erin	Snyder	Riverside	951-683-7691	snyder@rcrcd.com
Sacramento	Vicki	Butler	Sacramento	916-448-8030	butlerrowe@sbcglobal.net
San Bernardino	Glen	Chappell	Redlands	909-794-3470	
San Diego	Carol	Killebrew	Ramona		sdbluebirds@cox.net
San Louis		Burkhard			
Obispo	Paul & Judy	t	Creston	805 438-4491	tinhornranch@sbcglobal.net
San Mateo	Caryl	Carr	Palo Alto		carylc@gmail.com
Santa Barbara	Barbara	Willey	Lompoc	805-588-4997	barbara.willey@verizon.net
Santa Clara	Mike	Azevedo	Fremont	510-792-4632	Geochelone@aol.com
Shasta	Larry	Jordan	Oak Run	530-472-3131	larrytech@frontiernet.net
Solano/Yolo	Melanie	Truan	Davis	530-754-4975	mltruan@ucdavis.edu
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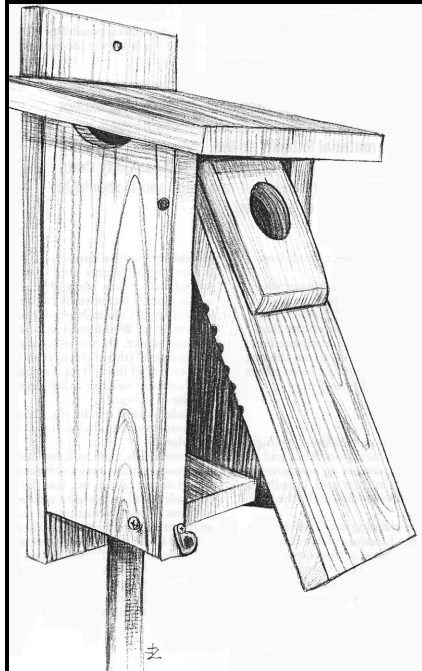
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Newsletter
Bluebirds Fly!, Vol. 32, No.1 Winter 2017

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