



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”

OVERALL RESULTS 2017

Results for 2017 are quite similar to those for 2016 in spite of the increased rain; this surprises me very much as I expected a considerable increase resulting from a corresponding increase in the insect population. There are no surprises in the 2017 results – the top producers and counties are the same as for the past few years. See the state summary article which is elsewhere in this issue for details (the full 22 years of state reports are available at: http://cbrp.org/documents/results_22yr.pdf). Also see the 2017 Annual report which will be found on the CBRP web site at: http://cbrp.org/annual_reports/ar2017.pdf; this report provided the detailed trail by trail, species by species results as reported by the trail monitors.

Reports were received from 20 counties, 169 monitors and 333 trails. These show that the 5333 (down from 5793 in 2016) boxes installed on the reported trails yielded some 20246 fledglings of which 11044 were Western Blue Birds and the remaining 9202 were distributed among 19 other cavity nesting species.

Orange County, as usual, was the top producing county (by almost a factor of two) for the number of trails, nest tries, total fledglings and Western Bluebird fledglings. See the table of results by counties which appears elsewhere in this issue. The top producers were **Steve Simmons** (Merced) with 1919/206 fledglings (mostly Wood Ducks), followed by **Lee Pauser** (Santa Clara) with 1825/594 fledglings, David McMichael (Riverside) with 1676/130 fledglings, **Irv Tiessen** (Alameda) with 1178/607 fledglings and **Evelien deGreet** 880/229 (first number is total fledglings and second is Western Bluebird fledglings). See the table of results by monitor which appears elsewhere in this issue.

The table of state results shows CBRP results for 10 years out of the 22 years during which CBRP has been collecting data (1996-2017). 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 six 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.

If you would like to enter additional detail (box-by-box) with dates and detailed results, I strongly encourage you to participate in Cornell University's e-bird and/or Nestwatch programs. Data on the NestWatch site is of great scientific value and provides information for researchers all over the world. See the following links:

General information about the eBird program at Cornell : <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/> Nestwatch web site: <http://nestwatch.org/>

Information and an easy to use spreadsheet on the CBRP web site:

NestWatch Bulk Upload Template Documentation: <https://goo.gl/yP9ZBV>

NestWatch Bulk Upload Template: <https://goo.gl/6eQA9f>

TRAIL TALES

The reporter Lorraine Gabbert attended my most recent birdie presentation, and wrote an article for the Almaden Times. There are some inaccuracies, but I'm impressed with the range of the article--she managed to cover much of the material I presented. Maybe you could mention the article, and provide a link.

I'm not wanting to blow my own horn, but to entice folks to get involved, and do more.

<https://timesmedia.pageflip.site/editions/AT12649>

Youngest died early and inundated by ants, 2nd and 3rd died after growing flight feathers, near fledge date, injured by ants. (Removed from box when discovered and I fought the ants with nontoxic measures.) One very fortunate survivor fledged, and flew to chair in front of my kitchen window (to say thank you!) before taking off with Daddy. Mom waited patiently for (newly deceased) last baby to leave nest. I finally checked box the next day and pulled last dead bird and nest out for Mom to see. She left after that. Heroic effort by these parents, in light of persecution. I witnessed the mockingbird chase them away from my birdbath, and watched them feed their babies by flying into box directly from a distant tree, to get past the mockingbird!

One box in use for Nuttall Woodpecker roost. OATI had fully built nest with lined cup when big windstorm hit. No activity after that. CBCH supplemented insect diet with peanuts and suet from feeder.

http://calfire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/newsreleases/2017/CAL_FIREandU.S.ForestAnnounce129MillionDeadTrees.pdf





The Director's Chair

Thanks to all of you who entered your 2017 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 2017 Annual Report is available in full color for viewing and/or downloading on our web site: at

http://www.cbrp.org/annual_reports/2017ar.pdf/. Several articles summarizing the 2017 results will be found in this issue of *Bluebirds Fly!*. *2017 results are similar to those for 2016.*

Note that this and previous newsletters and annual reports as well as updated state results (22 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 2017 (amounting to \$1015 in 2H 2017 and \$2525 for the year) - see the 2nd half 2017 donor list elsewhere in this issue.

Donations just about 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.*

I want to encourage monitors to contribute to and participate in Cornell University's Nest-Watch Program using their web site or the bulk upload template on the CBRP website so as to preserve the nesting data you collect and to make that data available to researchers around the world. 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.)

California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) Board Members

Dick Blaine, Program Director — dick@theblaines.net

Dave Cook, Board Member — justdave50@comcast.net

Georgette Howington, Asst. Program Director—
ghbirdscape@gmail.com

Jim Semelroth, Editor,— jimsemweed@cox.net

Dick Purvis, Recruiting — dickersly@aol.com

I get a great deal of enjoyment from my memberships in and donations to NABS (North American Bluebird Society) and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology – especially from their quarterly publications: *Bluebird*, *Journal of the North American Bluebird Society* and *Living Bird* respectively. Both publications are highly informative and easy to read and I feel that I am making worthwhile donations to birding. Their wonderful websites are:

<http://birds.cornell.edu> and

<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/>

NABS has a special (low price) one-time membership for members of “Affiliate Organizations” such as CBRP. This is designated as the “A+” membership and is only \$15; a great way to try out NABS membership. Link to

<http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/PDF/MembershipApp.pdf> for a printable form which includes the “A+” membership.

Remember to start getting ready for the 2018 nesting season by cleaning and repairing your nest boxes by the end of February. Happy New Year and happy 2018 birding.

Dick Blaine - dick@theblaines.net

CBRP Web site - <http://cbrp.org>

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.nabluebirdsociety.org>

<http://www.cbrp.org/SDBluebirds/>

<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

NATIVE BERRIES FOR BLUEBIRDS AND FRIENDS

If you ever have the chance to take the UC Davis California Naturalist Certification Program (www.calnat.ucanr.edu), please, don't miss the opportunity because it's one of the best experiences we nest box monitors can have. Why? Like we don't have enough to do? The one I took was for the Mount Diablo Region and exposed to topics I had never thought about and the common bonds all of us students shared made us one big family. Our mutual passion for Nature fueled desires to put our naturalist skills to good use in the community. One requirement of the course was each of us had to present a Capstone Project presentation at the end of the class.

My Capstone Project began as a vision about 7 years ago to propagate berry producing plants, cultivate them and plant in appropriate habitats plus encourage gardeners to plant them in their gardens. After hearing about more and more sightings of Western Bluebirds in Contra Costa County, than in previous years, I wanted to learn more about native berry producing plants. The Western Bluebird, like other secondary-cavity nesters are primarily insectivores during the warm months; berry eaters in the colder ones. Some species like the Tree Swallows are migratory passerines, do eat berries but in late summer fly South.

About 8 years ago I did my own survey and counted how many berry producing shrubs and vines were near my trails. Not surprisingly because of fire suppression, understory shrubs and vines are often culled out or the soil disturbed so seedlings are unable to establish themselves. In other words, it surely looked as if there were few relative to the size of the open spaces my trails are on.

I started volunteering at Native Here Nursery, the California Native Plant Society nursery, in the Berkeley hills, thinking I would study berry producing shrubs, vines and trees there. John Danielson, one of the founders, told me it best I learn the fundamentals at the nursery first. So, that's what I am doing.

Most of us know what the Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) shrub is because it's common on the west coast. I have tried to propagate them on my own at different times (I am an avid gardener) to no avail. Turns out, according to Charli Danielson, the Toyon is not an easy plant to propagate! The seeds are unreliably viable.

Like so many of our native plants the Toyon provides a plethora of gifts for wildlife. The berries are ripe mid to late fall and are a blazing red just in time for the holidays. The Toyon blooms in Spring. A froth of white flowers brimming with golden pollen attracts many pollinators. The dense evergreen shrub is cover for wildlife and insects alike.

This year, when you're monitoring take notes in your journal about the berry producing plants on and near your trails. You might end up thinking about studying them like I am and plant a few yourself! **Georgette Howington**

Lessons Learned

When I begin my monitoring career I had read that I should check nests for the presence of string woven into nests, and to cut the sting into smaller pieces without damaging the nest when found. Consequently I carry a scissors in my tool pouch.

Despite being aware of this, several years into my monitoring career I found a lone dead Western Bluebird nestling in a box. When I attempted to remove the nestling I discovered that it had a single thread of a fine string looped around one foot.

Several years later I discovered a lone dead Swallow in a nest. When I attempted to remove the nestling I discovered that its feet were cemented to the nest by droppings that had hardened due to a heat wave's high temperatures.

By now I was looking more closely for the presence of sting or string-like material woven into the nests, and chopping it into short pieces without damaging the nests if I found it. I also attempted to ensure that nestlings aren't anchored to the nest by carefully placing my finger into the box, and making the nestlings hop around. This is easily done with my side-opening bottom-hinged boxes.

This past season I had two Western Bluebird nestlings in a box, and was surprised that they hadn't fledged. Yes, the finger check verified that they indeed hopped around, so I closed the box. My next visit to the box found one living and one dead nestling, and, yes, even the dead nestling hopped around because one of each of their legs were tied together by what was probably very fine horsehair. I separated the two nestlings, and the living one buzzed off with the adults trailing behind.

Lessons learned:

Check more closely for the presence of anything that a nestling may get hung up in, and chop it into smaller pieces without damaging the nest. A fine string could be woven into the nest as the female finishes the nest's cup, and may not be easily noticed or even impossible to notice once eggs are present.

If possible, verify the nestlings are individually free from attachments. The latter is better done if the nestlings are close to fledging age. This effort is better accomplished with more frequent visits to the box during the nestling's last week in the box.

Happy Trails.

Lee Pauser
San Jose, CA

	1996	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Average*
Counties	21	20	20	24	21	20	25
Reporters	169	169	157	160	178	169	185
Species	16	24	21	20	21	20	20
Boxes (N)	2400	5664	5067	5601	5793	5333	4539
Tries (T)	1526	5715	5096	5526	5742	6007	4031
T/N	0.6	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9
Eggs (E)		27876	24058	26262	27509	27395	24054
E/N		4.9	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.1	5.1
E/T		4.9	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.6	5.7
Chicks (H)		22489	19481	21234	22872	22998	19443
H/N		4.0	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.3	4.1
H/T		3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.8	4.6
H/E		0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Fledged (F)	5077	19754	17056	18144	19873	20246	15894
F/N	2.1	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.8	3.5
F/T	3.3	3.5	3.3	3.3	3.5	3.4	4.0
F/E		0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
F/H		0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

***Average:
average of
non-zero
values for 22
years**

2005 notes	No data on T,E, H from Ventura or Merced Cos.in 2005
2006 notes	6 counties which reported in 2005 did not report in 2006 & no data on T, E, H from Merced Co. in 2006
2007 notes ...	172 trails reported. Few major producers reported results
2008 notes ...	228 trails reported but several major producers did not report
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
2017 notes ...	results are similar to 2016; because of the rain in 2016/2017 I had expected much higher results

Monitor	Total Fledge	WEBL Fledge
28	13779	6438
Simmons, Steve	1919	206
Pauser, Lee	1825	594
McMichael, David	1676	130
Tiessen, Irvin	1178	607
de Greef, Evelien	880	229
Ralph, Bill	540	47
Tischer, Christine	531	49
Bulger, Susan	399	399
Millett, Jerry	352	344
Coller, Jo-Ann	313	313
Venhuizen, John & Kim	301	244
Violett, Linda	291	261
Rogers, Jim	283	110
Sinex, Vince & Valerie	273	273
Howington, Georgette	267	97
Wright, Steve	261	261
Henson, Danny	251	213
Shafer, Darryl	239	239
Covington, Bill	235	147
Miller, Joan	233	220
Keally, Bob	225	225
Miller, Sara	213	194
Jordan, Kim	209	209
Hurst, Kappy & Fred	207	203
Kneeland, Roger	174	174
Wallace, Bill & Inge	174	174
Cook, David	166	112
Franz, Norm	164	164

Today as I was walking home around Rancho Santa Margarita Lake, I heard the call of at least one Bluebird. I stopped. I had a great deal of difficulty locating the bird. THEN I became intensely aware of the sound of Cedar Waxwings (at least 2 dozen of them). The distinctive high-pitched, trilled "bzeee" filled the air. They descended into this tree (where the bluebirds also were feasting on the black berries). The Bluebirds (I finally found them and it seemed to be a family) were eating the same berries but, not quite as vigorously as the flock of Waxwings!

Wonderful morning walk! **Cheri Miller**

The one strange thing that did happen during the past season in Mason Park in Orange County was the hatching of an odd colored bluebird chick. Box 13 had two sets of eggs. The first had six eggs but, produced only one bluebird, normal looking but, larger than a normal chick. The second had five eggs and the bluebird in the attached photo was the only one that hatched. This strange colored but, beautiful bluebird positively came from a western bluebird. It is still hanging around the box and is often seen going into the box it was hatched in. I've been monitoring boxes for 21 years and have never seen one like it.

Joe Chandler



'EMPLOYING' BLUEBIRDS IN CALIFORNIA'S VINEYARDS

Do bluebirds serve as effective insect pest managers? Vineyard owners in California hope that they do because pests like the Blue-green Sharpshooter spread bacteria among their vines. Furthermore, because the industry is criticized for altering oak woodlands and reducing biodiversity, owners would like to demonstrate their use of conservation methods such as attracting bluebirds, hawks and owls as pest managers.

Installing nest boxes on vineyards is not new, but quantifying the birds' impact is more complicated than one would think. Historically owners have been able to offer anecdotal accounts of the benefits of the birds, but scientific results of nest boxes in agroecosystems have been mixed (Nolan Jr., Ketterson, 1996, *Current Ornithology Vol 13*, pp 247-248, Plenum Press, New York and London). However, one fact is repeatedly confirmed. Bluebirds do eat many insects that can damage grapes (and other crops). But they are not working alone. Other species of wildlife in the vineyards, including helpful insects, share the job of insect management. Studies also need to determine if bluebirds eat the helpful insects as well.

Fecal samples are one way scientists try to learn which insects bluebirds select, but samples may not provide a complete list of what they eat nor a complete inventory of the vineyard's insects. Scientific standards are rigorous, so to determine the level of the birds' impact means having 'control' lots and measuring many other conditions on the study sites over a long period of time. In some cases, this may be virtually impossible or impractical.

One surprise arose from a recent vineyard study in Sonoma and Mendocino counties conducted by environmental scientists Jedlicka, Vo and Almeida. (The research paper can be found in [The Auk, Ornithological Advances, Volume 134, 2017, pp 116-127.](#)) By taking fecal samples, they learned that mosquitoes were the most common insect chosen by bluebirds on study sites. This is a prey item never before documented in their diet. Another revealing finding was that apart from mosquitos, almost 50% of their prey were tiny items such as non-biting midges, stink bugs and groups of closely related prey, all of which amounted to 66 unique arthropod species. This means that compared to bluebirds nesting in their natural oak woodland and savannah habitat, vineyard bluebirds opportunistically consumed many more small prey. Crickets and grasshoppers which bluebirds most commonly select in woodlands and savannah were largely missing from the vineyards and therefore the birds' diet. Is this significant?

No one knows for sure. It is certainly to the benefit of bluebirds and their vineyard owners that bluebirds have a generalized diet and are opportunistic. That said, it has been observed that as adults, insectivorous birds characteristically tend to select the largest available prey for themselves and their nestlings, i.e. when the latter are sufficiently mature to manage them. Scientists are left to wonder if parents nesting in vineyards have to work harder to satisfy their young or if an abundance of energetically less favorable insects makes up for the absence of larger and more favored prey at no additional cost.

Emily Heaton PhD from UC Berkley, also conducted a study in Napa and Sonoma county vineyards using 288 boxes. Raccoons and outdoor cats were a cause of significant nest failure (up to 89% at one site) leading her to suggest the importance of close monitoring and use of predator guards so that nest boxes are not functioning as ecological traps.



Blue-green Sharpshooters spread Pierce disease in vineyards. Photo by Katja Schulz

ONE VIBRANT NESTLING

Problem solving an infected, occupied nest

Patricia Jordan and I were checking our last nesting box at the Sequoias. As we approached the box, which we knew had chicks inside from the week before, we knew something was very wrong. This box is on a pole. We noticed what seemed like hundreds of flying insects around the box and swarms of ants moving up and down the pole. Another sinister sign was the odor. It was the smell of deceased birds. It was difficult to see well inside the box due to the height. Using a mirror we saw the unexpected: Inside was one vibrant, mature ash-throated flycatcher, due to fledge any day. Now the dilemma: What to do with this nestling inside a nest imbedded with a variety of insects, especially ants. But we had to do something to move the nestling aside and remove the nest. There was no simple solution. There had been three chicks the week before and all was fine at that time. After much discussion, Tricia covered the entrance hole and one side of the open door, leaving only enough space for me to slide my hand inside and move the nestling to the far corner, in order to remove the nest. Meanwhile, both parents were nearby watching. With the nest out we saw 2 dead, mature nestlings. Upon examination, we noticed they already had yellow abdomens. Then we had the job of removing all parts of the nest that had various types of bugs, especially ants. Mealy bugs also infested the nest. We set the soft cup aside and picked through the nest, removing insects as best we could. Then, we removed the soft but sturdy grass, which the parents had used to build with initially, discarding the infected parts of the nest, having reformed it as best we could, some semblance of a nest. Next, we replaced the now much smaller nest inside the box and nudged the frightened nestling from underneath the nest to the top center. All the while we were in danger of the chick heading for the door to escape, a likely possibly. Fortunately, that did not happen. We then closed the door and stepped aside to watch the box still surrounded by flying insects. I'd wiped the ants off the pole. With ant's excellent communication skills they no doubt smelled their own suddenly disappear from the pole. As we stood there the population of flying insects immediately decreased and within minutes all flew off. A short time after that the remaining ants inside poured out from the box and hustled down the pole. At that point mother flycatcher began to call her nestling. We had a good view of her on a nearby branch. One week later we returned to check the box, not without great trepidation! Tricia and I shared our concerns and the possibility of a dead nestling in a ruffed up nest. But instead gone was the cloud of insects around the box. That was a good sign. The pole was free of ants too. With raised eyebrows we opened the box and it was empty! The nestling had fledged. Our work the previous week proved successful. What a good feeling that was for two WEBL monitors. A difficult job pays off.

Cindy Lockhart

May 2017

“ALEX CHO AND HIS NEW TRAIL FOR THE NEW YEAR”

Part One

Georgette Howington

Contra Costa County Coordinator

“When he was seven Alex saw a book about birds in a bookstore, asked me to buy it for him and surprised us by studying it.” Richard Cho, Alex’s Dad shared with me while we walked on an East Bay Regional Parks trail in Dublin. Then, when Alex was about 8 years old, they met a person who encouraged them to join the local Audubon Society where they lived in Southern California. Alex is now 12 years old, has been an active birder for 5 years and is about to establish his own nest box trail.

The family relocated to Dublin last January in 2017 and found themselves in an area they greatly appreciate and enjoy. Alex, and his parents, were active members of the Pasadena Audubon Society and joined the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society in Walnut Creek after they moved. The “*Young Birders Club*” welcomed Alex with open arms! While Alex did learn the basics about nest box monitoring some years ago, this will be his first trail.

He’s planning to start a Nature Journal and when I asked why he wants to have his own nest box trail he responded, “I always thought it would be cool to be a monitor...birds are awesome, you never realize how many kinds there are until you start looking.”

His Mom, Brenda, homeschools Alex and both parents will be his assistant monitors. I have not received permission to install the trail because we have to submit our request with photos and GPS locations to the supervising Ranger in charge of the areas where we set out the blue flags to pinpoint the locations. So, please, stay-tuned. Part Two for next time!

**COUNTY BLUEBIRD COORDINATORS MEETING**

Donations in 1H 2017 - \$1015; 2H 2017 - \$1510; Total \$2525

Name	County
Ray Abeyta	Contra Costa
Doris & Bill Allison	Amador
Michael & Marybeth	Mendocino
Don & Cindy Baldwin	Orange
Vicki Butler	Sacramento
Cary Carr	Santa Clara
Feridun & Louise	Orange
Earl Garrison	Orange
Kate Gudmundson	Santa Clara
Elena Hery	Orange
Nancy Hobert	Contra Costa
Kappy Hurst	Orange
Amy Kernes	Orange
Colleen Kvaska	Orange
Amne Miller	Santa Clara
NABS	National
Chris O'Connell	San Mateo
Martha O'Neal	San Mateo
Lee & Janna Pauser	Santa Clara
David Richmond	ID
Val & Vince Sinex	Orange
Rose Sonnen	Solano
Mary Steele	Orange

WIND, RAIN AND FIRE

What a year in Cali.! Heat, wind, rain, fire and now mud. Add to that the death of millions of trees due to bark beetles, shot hole borers, and other invasive species. And yet, because of nature lovers, Bluebirds and other birds are holding their own. A recent interview on NPR told of the strong recovery of bumblebees and other native bees in burned forests, perhaps because of easier access to their holes in the ground.

A recent call from **Bob Franz** urged bluebirders to check their nest boxes after strong winds blew down son, Norm's, boxes. And we need no reminders to check to see if our boxes have survived tree trimmers and removers of dead trees. My trail of twelve boxes has been reduced to eight after shot hole borers killed many trees in the county park. My favorite tree for nest boxes is the sycamore, which seems to be the most vulnerable tree in the parks in SoCal.

Many reasons for an extra check of trails after our natural events. **Jim Semelroth, Editor**

With much gratitude, we accept these donations.



PHOTO BY JOE DISTEFANO



HELP SAVE NATURAL CAVITIES

First	Last	City	Home#	Email
Georgette	Howington	Martinez	925-686-4372	ghbirdscape@gmail.com
Georgette	Howington	Martinez	925-686-4372	ghbirdscape@gmail.com
Dick	Purvis	Anaheim	714-776-8878	joann1@socal.rr.com
Bill	Ralph	Raymond	(209) 966-2260	Bill@drydranch.com
Michael &	Arago	Fort Bragg	707-962-0724	mambarago@mcn.org
Steve	Simmons	Merced	209-722-3540	simwoodduk@aol.com
Kate	Brennan	Grass Valley	530-268-1682	woodswom-an55@goskywest.com
Dick	Purvis	Anaheim	714-776-8878	dickersly@aol.com
Heath	Wakelee	Granite Bay	916 797-4536	
Erin	Snyder	Riverside	951-683-7691 x	snyder@rcrcd.org
Vicki	Butler	Sacramento	(916) 448-8030	butlerrowe@sbcglobal.net
Glen	Chappell	Redlands	909-794-3470	
CM	Killebrew	Ramona		sdbluebirds@cox.net
Paul & Judy	Burkhardt	Creston	805 438-4491	tinhornranch@sbcglobal.net
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Barbara	Willey	Lompoc	805-588-4997	barbara.willey@verizon.net
Mike	Azevedo	Fremont	510-792-4632	Geochelone@aol.com
Larry	Jordan	Oak Run	530-472-3131	larrytech@frontiernet.net
Melanie	Truan	Davis	530-754-4975	mltruan@ucdavis.edu
Mike	Crumly	Sonoma	707 996-7256	mikec@freixenetusa.com

Please send correspondence to CBRP
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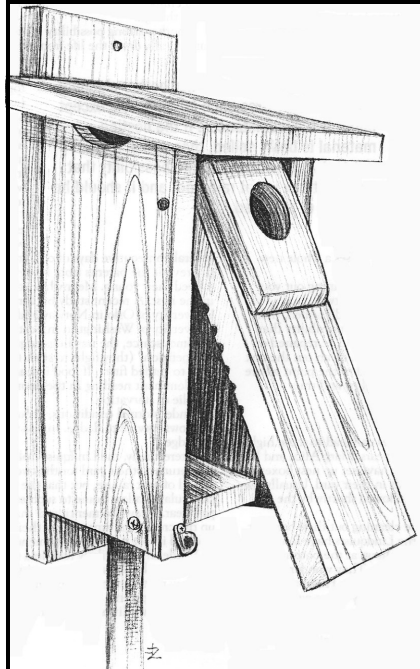
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