



# BLUEBIRDS FLY!

\$2.50 Per Issue  
Suggested

## California Bluebird Recovery Program Newsletter

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

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

### 2008 California Nestbox Reporting Results

This issue contains the nestbox results for the 2008 nesting season. Covering 23 counties, 163 dedicated trail-monitors took the time to send their statistics to us.

The percentage of nesting tries to the number of boxes (99%) was a big improvement over 2007 (69%).

There is certainly good news in the numbers. The number of chicks fledged compared to the number of eggs (71%) was very consistent with previous years, despite some West Nile Virus reported.

Due to the consistent care trail monitors provide, a chick that makes it out of

the egg had an 86% chance of fledging. This is an impressive number. Orange County again showed incredible numbers. Fledging 6269 WEBL, the OC produced almost two times the number of WEBL than the other twenty one counties combined. Wow!

#### Inside this issue

Director’s Chair 2

Editor’s Notes 3

Six Egg Nests 4

13-Yr Statistics 5

2008 Report 6

Tribute to Don Yoder 8

Dr. Dickinson 9

### Orange County leads in nestboxes and fledglings

With 1368 active nestboxes and 6964 (6269 are WEBL) fledglings, Orange County once more is the top cavity nesting county in the state and produced the most Western Bluebirds in the state. The number of fledgling jumped 20% from 2007 thanks to the dedicated efforts of Orange County trail monitors in general and in particular the Southern California Bluebird Club. This remarkable feat is primarily because of the nearly vandal free hanging boxes placed in parks, golf courses, cemeteries, and urban gardens developed by Dick Purvis, Orange County CBRP Coordinator. Very few of their locations could be considered native habitat but, rather, man-made habitat that would never see a bluebird except for the artificial cavities provided by dedicated bluebirders.

Summary by county follows (data represents boxes, trails and counties which reported results; i.e. no-reporting trails and boxes are not included in the counts.

County	#Trails	#Boxes	Total Fledged	WEBL Fledged
Orange	74	1368	7056	6269
Santa Clara	55	707	1689	481
Los Angeles	11	237	1179	1168
Alameda	2	273	814	409
Yolo	1	174	602	111
San Mateo	19	246	558	187
Riverside	5	89	411	341
Contra Costa	8	116	379	118
Santa Barbara	3	62	316	239
San Diego	21	95	252	94
Amador	1	44	202	188
Kern	1	138	196	175
Sacramento	3	30	149	134
El Dorado	2	58	114	85
Sonoma	4	33	84	39
Placer	3	30	69	62
San Bernardino	1	9	65	65
Shasta	2	15	41	12
Butte	1	7	16	16
Nevada	2	6	12	8
Ventura	1	5	7	
Yuba	1	13	7	7
Mendocino	1	3	4	



“Sure, Mom, Berries’ll do”

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- 2008 Annual Report
- OC Leads Again
- Six-Egg Clutches
- 2008 Donors
- Dr. Bluebird



## The Director's Chair

Many of you already know that **Don Yoder** passed away in July; this has saddened all who knew and worked with him. The trail he monitored at The Rossmoor Community in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County has been renamed "**The Don Yoder Memorial Bluebird Trail**" in his honor and as a way of remembering him and his accomplishments. I have tried to fill his shoes for the past two years since Don retired as director of CBRP and am aware daily as to how important his contribution really was. Don will be long remembered and sorely missed. I am currently working on a living memorial to Don in the form of educational material currently under preparation by two outstanding groups.

I want to thank **Michael Spohn** for his contributions as editor of *Bluebirds Fly!* He created a new and bold style for the newsletter. Other commitments are taking his time and we wish him well. We are fortunate to have **Jim Semelroth** as our new editor. He comes with experience in producing newsletters and is passionate about bluebirding.

Thanks to all of you who entered your 2008 nestbox results into the on-line data base. There is entirely too much data for me to do so. The 2008 Annual Report is included in this issue along with several articles summarizing that data. The results are similar to last year; several of our most productive trail monitors did not report their results this year. I estimate that there would have been about 20% growth in the number of fledglings if these several monitors had reported. This is consistent with the 25% growth in the number of trails.

The several goals I stated previously (closer relationship with Audubon chapters, finding additional trail monitors/county coordinators, collecting and/producing education material and funding worthwhile projects) have turned out to be more elusive than I expected and little progress has been made. If any of you have suggestions, please contact me or any of the board members. (Cont. Page—5)

## The Editor's Journal



### The Bluebird Mathematicians

Western Bluebirds must be mathematicians. They and the public interest seem to grow exponentially. Consider my case this summer.

I live in Laguna Niguel, California, a beautiful city in south Orange County. Near my house is a county park, the Laguna Niguel Regional Park of eighty acres and a 44 acre man-made lake stocked with Utah-raised trout, many picnic shelters, playground and plenty of grassy areas. I have walked the forty minute walk around the lake for years, meeting regular walkers and observing the many species of birds and fowl inhabiting the park. In particular, I actively sought out the Western Bluebirds nesting in boxes someone had placed in trees around the lake. When a kid in central Illinois, we once had bluebirds nesting in a 1 ½ inch pipe my dad used to anchor the grapevines on wires between the pipes. I never saw another bluebird for fifty years until I saw one in the Regional Park. So, on my morning walks my family members and I looked for the bluebirds.

In the spring of 2008 I never saw as many bluebirds, so I contacted the Bluebird Club I had seen on Huell Howser's PBS program, *California Green*. A club member named, **Earl Garrison**, responded by email that there were plenty of bluebirds in the park and asked if I wanted to see for myself as he monitored the trail. Of course, I said yes, yes. We met at the ranger station in April and he showed me the nine boxes he had hung in the trees. He taught me how the club does it, recording egg counts, hatchlings, fledglings, re-hanging boxes, recording, cleaning Easter grass out of nests, untangling female birds from the plastic grass, and attending club meetings. Well, one thing he didn't tell me was the box cleaning part. I learned the hard way. Whew! Earl asked me if I wanted to take over monitoring the nine boxes in the park. I said yes and (Cont. on p. 7)

## California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) Board Members

**Dick Blaine**, Program Director — [dick@theblaines.net](mailto:dick@theblaines.net)

**Georgette Howington**, Asst Program Director— [georgette@birdscape.net](mailto:georgette@birdscape.net)

**Dick Purvis**, Recruiting — [dickersly@aol.com](mailto:dickersly@aol.com)

**Dave Cook**, Board Member — [justdave50@earthlink.net](mailto:justdave50@earthlink.net)

**Michael Spohn**, — [mspohn@socalbluebirds.org](mailto:mspohn@socalbluebirds.org)

**Jim Semelroth**, Editor,— [jimsemweed@cox.net](mailto:jimsemweed@cox.net)

## PUBLICITY ENHANCES GROWTH

We all know that blue birding is a numbers game. The WEBL numbers began declining years ago, and people like **Don Yoder**, **Dick Purvis** and others began helping boost the bluebird numbers year by year as we can see in the charts in this newsletter. Year after year we keep track of the number of nest boxes we put up, the number of nests, eggs laid, hatchlings, fledglings, renestings, deaths, etc. Besides the fun, it's a numbers game. To increase our Bluebird numbers we need more nest boxes, more sites, and most importantly, more monitors.

One way to find more monitors is through publicity. **Bob Franz** hounded Huell Howser, producer of the popular PBS programs *California Gold*, *California Parks*, *California Green*, *Visiting*, and *Road Trips*, shown on PBS TV stations all over California. Howser came to several trails and filmed **Bob**, **Dick Purvis**, and **Sue Bolger** checking boxes, eggs, and bluebird pairs flitting about. As usual, Howser overplayed his role when he saw the eggs and hatchlings: "Oh, wow, look, Cameron! That's the most amazin' thing ah have ever seen!" The show on DVD or VCR can be purchased for club or individual use from [www.calgold.com](http://www.calgold.com).

The multiple showings of *Bluebirds* were seen by many people. At club meetings guests are asked

how they heard of the club, and the answer is often, "That Huell Howser show." (See Field Notes, p. 7)

Another way to find more enthusiasts is through radio and print media. **Dick Purvis** has been on more radio shows and in more newspapers than even he knows. *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Orange County Register* and their neighborhood newspapers have had several features in the past year. One reprint showed up in the *Buffalo (NY) News*, which prompted an email from Buffalo to **Sully Reallon**. New monitors saw these articles and showed up at club meetings or contacted a member to get started monitoring. When *Bluebirds Fly!* asked Dick how many monitors came as a result of the radio shows, news articles, etc., he said, "**All of them!**"

Many schools, churches, Boy and Girl Scouts, bird watcher groups, senior citizen centers are interested in presentations. **Jim Semelroth**, **Bob Franz**, **Bill Wallace** and others have a Power Point presentation with plenty of pictures and text to use with classes, clubs, or just friends. **Mike Gould**, **Sully Reallon**, and **Earl Garrison** had a booth at a *Character Counts* school fair in Orange County, which generated other presentations to groups. All of these create enthusiasm and identify potential and real monitors to increase all of our important numbers.

### 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 nest-boxes 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 nest-box 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.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 10. You can also contact **Dick Blaine** ([dick@theblaines.net](mailto:dick@theblaines.net)) or **Mike Spohn** ([mospohn@socalbluebirds.org](mailto:mospohn@socalbluebirds.org)).

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.

## 2008 – THE YEAR OF SIX-EGG CLUTCHES

By Bob Franz

For the past 13 years, I have monitored my bluebird trails without paying much attention to the size of clutches. Typically every year, most clutches had 5 eggs with a sprinkling of 6-egg clutches and I observed even a few 7-egg clutches occasionally. Although there appear to be minor fluctuations from year-to-year in the number of 6-egg clutches, no particular year seemed to stand out - until this year. Early in this nesting season, I noted what seemed to be a rather large amount of 6-egg clutches but I had no idea how it compared with numbers from previous years.

Being a curious sort, I decided it would be worthwhile to determine how this year compared with previous years by extracting the data from my weekly log sheets starting with 1997. Since the size of my trail has increased from year-to-year, I knew that using 6-egg nest totals would be inaccurate, so I decided to

compute the percentage of 6-egg clutched each year measured against the number of tries – a try being a nest with at least one egg. I computed these ratios for every year starting with 1997 and the results are shown the table below:

	<u>Tries</u>	<u>6-Egg Clutches</u>	<u>%</u>
1997	21	6	29
1998	48	6	13
1999	129	33	26
2000	181	37	20
2001	211	13	6
2002	220	18	8
2003	279	44	16
2004	274	51	19
2005	212	37	17
2006	285	61	21
2007	294	50	17
2008	283	115	41

As you can see from the data, there has been a rather large percentage swing each year from a high of 29% in 1997 to a low of 6% in 2001. I also computed the overall average for the 11-year span - and it is 17%.

But 2008 presents a whole different story with the percentage jumping from 17 in 2007 to 41 in 2008! The question becomes why such a large percentage rise this year over previous years? Weather might be one factor. Type of food available? Ages of adults? It will be interesting to see what the results are for 2009.



Following are the 10 top producers for 2008 (counts are for all counties/trails monitored):

Monitor	Primary County	#Trails	#Boxes Fledged	WEBL Fledged	Total Fledged
Purvis, Dick	Orange	10	375	2181	2295
Franz, Bob	Orange	4	192	928	1013
Tiessen, Irvin	Alameda	1	259	392	774
Bulger, Susan	Orange	2	134	603	603
Walsh, Bobby	Yolo	1	174	111	602
Violett, Linda	Orange	2	80	495	495
Tischer, Christine	Orange	2	100	76	422
Wiley, Richard	Santa Bar	3	62	239	316
Taylor, Mike	Orange	2	52	273	280
Pauser, Lee & Janna	Santa	9	139	107	279

**Dick Purvis of Orange County is top producer for 2008.**

This year 163 trail monitors reported results for 228 trails in 23 counties. There were 3739 boxes in these trails and a total of 14,104 fledglings of which 10272 were Western Bluebirds. See the 13 year results article elsewhere in this issue for overall data and the Annual Report for all of the details.

**Dick Purvis** monitored ten trails in three counties for a total of 2295 fledglings of which 2181 were bluebirds. Congratulations to him. Note that of the top ten, six are primarily of Orange County.

# California Bluebird Recovery Program Thirteen Year Results

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Counties</b>	21	31	33	37	33	26	28	30	25	25	19	22	23
<b>Reporters</b>	169	293	326	264	178	175	193	163	176	148	152	128	163
<b>Species</b>	16	17	16	20	20	18	18	18	18	19	20	20	18
<b>Boxes (N)</b>	2400	3642	4142	4596	4167	4209	4027	4055	4129	5139	3942	4032	3739
<b>Tries (T)</b>	1526	2442	3214	3527	3783	4023	3937	3514	4026	4177	4142	2789	3704
<b>T/N</b>	64%	67%	78%	77%	91%	96%	98%	87%	98%	81%	105%	69%	99%
<b>Eggs (E)</b>					20315	23470	23981	17816	19109	22879	24093	20729	20162
<b>E/N</b>					5.5	5.6	5.9	4.4	4.6	4.5	6.1	5.1	5.4
<b>E/T</b>					6.1	5.8	6.1	5.1	4.7	4.5	5.8	7.4	5.4
<b>Chicks (H)</b>					17204	18501	19250	14429	15500	17888	18707	15889	16475
<b>H/N</b>					4.1	4.4	4.8	3.6	3.8	3.5	4.7	3.9	4.4
<b>H/T</b>					4.5	4.6	4.9	4.1	3.8	4.3	4.5	5.7	4.4
<b>H/E</b>					75%	79%	80%	81%	81%	78%	78%	77%	82%
<b>Fledged</b>	5077	8393	11326	13122	15703	17399	16201	12720	13700	18414	17330	14188	14222
<b>F/N</b>	2.1	2.3	2.7	2.9	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.1	3.3	3.6	4.4	3.5	3.8
<b>F/T</b>	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.2	4.3	4.1	3.6	3.4	4.4	4.2	5.1	3.8
<b>F/E</b>					68%	72%	68%	71%	72%	80%	72%	68%	71%
<b>F/H</b>					91%	92%	84%	88%	88%	103%	93%	89%	86%

\*No data on T,E, H from Ventura or Merced Cos. in 2005

\* 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 did not report.

2008 notes ... 228 trails reported but several major producers did not report

## The Director's Chair

(Cont. from Page—2)

One goal is being accomplished. At the urging of several members I have added presentations contributed by other members as guides or complete, professional presentations using Power Point. These are suitable for garden clubs, Audubon Society and educational purposes. Each contributor has given permission for you to use the presentations as you see fit. These can serve as the basis for creating your own. If any of you have presentations that you would be willing to share, please email them or let me know if I can link to them. These appear in the

"Presentations" section of the CBRP web site, <http://cbrp.org/>. Shortly I will be adding references suitable for K-12 education. Most will be links to other web sites which have well developed curriculum; some will be references to sites which are useful for developing your own. If you have educational material which you are willing to share, please let me know.

Thanks for participating in our program, Happy New Year, and happy birding.

**Dick Blaine** -  
dick@theblaines.net

<http://cbrp.org> - CBRP Web site  
Annual reports and Newsletters going back to 1997 are available on the CBRP website, <http://cbrp.org>.



Two out, three to go



## WHERE O WHERE HAS MY LITTLE BIRD GONE?

We've all had questions like, "Where do the birds go in the winter?" We say, "Some go, some stay." Here's one explanation. Other articles indicate the same basic information.

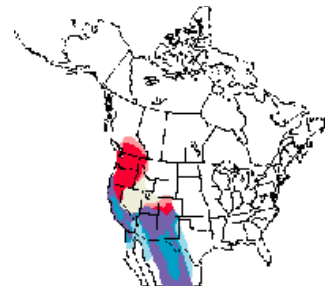
### Bluebirds migrate to find better weather and better resources

Western bluebirds share some migration traits with mountain bluebirds. As stated above, in areas where their ranges overlap, they will flock together. They will also remain in their breeding range in milder areas of the west. Those that do migrate move into open scrubby forests in the foothills and canyons of the southwest.

During the winter, some of their favorite foods are the berries of junipers and mistletoe. The availability of these plants determines the birds' movement throughout the colder weather; they can become very nomadic in their search for food. Western bluebirds consume so many berries that they are considered an important dispersal agent for the two species of plants.

All three species of bluebirds share some similar migration behaviors. They all migrate during the

day and many join up with resident flocks of bluebirds to find food, water and roost sites. Fall migration seems to be determined by the shortening of daylight rather than weather. Food is still plentiful and weather conditions are still pleasant when they begin to depart. Weather can influence migration, however. Birds may linger for longer periods at foraging sites when the weather is mild. When weather turns inclement, it may cause them to move south at a faster pace. **Sandy Siebert Originally published in Birds Across Nebraska**



Annual reports and Newsletters going back to 1997 are available on the CBRP website, <http://cbrp.org>.

## Latest news on the natural Bluebird cavity



On April 21<sup>st</sup> city tree trimmers were scheduled to trim or remove the tree that was home to our bluebirds. I waited at the tree and spoke to the Forman. I began by letting him know I was a member of the Audubon and the SC Bluebird Club. I showed him pictures, pointed out the cavity, and he witnessed the male flying out of the cavity and listened to the chirping of the chicks. He assured me they would leave the tree and

only do a minimum of trimming, however they would likely remove the tree in the fall. Sad to hear, I figured I could talk the resident into hanging a bluebird box in their front yard in the Spring of 2009 when the bluebirds returned. **Jo-Ann M. Collier**

## FIELD NOTES FROM 2008

Unlike other areas, the Western Bluebird population in San Diego County has never suffered any documented decline. Because WEBLs are common in oak and pine groves of our foothills and mountains, our three Audubon chapters haven't focused on nestbox trails. For decades the species' population remained static here. However, recently they have actually begun to extend their breeding range into urban areas. Full report at: <http://home.netcom.com/~bluebirds/SDCBirdAtlas-WEBL.pdf>.

**Carol Killebrew**, San Diego

---

Nest made from Redwood mulch ground cover. Backyard is in 300 year old blue Oak trees. "After viewing the Hewell Howser TV bluebird program, I contacted the Southern California Bluebird Club in Orange County. **Mr. Reallon** sent me 3 nesting boxes and a Purvis lifter. Right af-

ter I hung the 1st box, two adult bluebirds were checking it out, then right away they built their nest. We enjoyed feeding and watching them drink and taking a bath from our water bowl. It's been a great experience, can't wait until next season. **Tina Pavusko**, Sacramento

---

I have ten boxes with 52 bluebirds and 7 house wrens fledged in 2008 located in 3 sections of Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park with entrance office at 120 Via Verde Park Road, San Dimas 91773

**Richard Moore**, Los Angeles

---

Menlo-Atherton Fledges: 6 Bluebirds, 7 Titmice, 4 VG Swallows. 3 WEBL Abandoned nests this year.

**Laurel Clohossey**, San Mateo

### (Editor's Journal, Cont. from page 2)

began the next week, but with frequent email questions to Earl and another member, **Sully Reallon**. Later when Earl went on a short vacation, he asked me if I could monitor another trail of four boxes and if I wanted to keep them permanently since he had fifty-five boxes. I said yes again. So, now my nine boxes grew to fourteen in two weeks, since I also added a box in a friend's association green space.

After I got the hang of it, I contacted a local paper, the *Laguna Niguel News* and asked them if they wanted to do an article on our project. Writer Debbie Sklar interviewed me and an article on the CBRP and SoCal Bluebird Club appeared a couple weeks later.

I got the idea that my grandkid's school class might be interested, so I developed a Power Point presentation with some text and about forty bluebird pictures I got off the club site and the internet to show the fifth grade class. My daughter who volunteers at the school said the whole school wanted in on the presentation, so I showed it three times in the last week of school. Before I asked the principal if I could hang a box at the school, she asked me if they could have a nest box. After a nanosecond, I said, "YES! We'll make a school project out of it." She and the teachers were thrilled. Kids asked me for my autograph! A teacher came up later and said she had seen a bluebird at her brother's house. Then the school custodian asked me if he could have a box for his greenbelt. I asked him if he wanted to go with me to monitor and he couldn't wait. I believe I have him talked into being a monitor in a trail of five or six boxes I am planning near the school in green spaces in the neighborhood.

I emailed my enthusiastic reports of eggs, hatchlings, and fledglings to my sister, Maggie in Connecticut. She lives on a Colonial farm there and had had bluebirds before in a box near her lake. She got more interested in reestablishing the birds and visited our website, asked how she could get some boxes and one of our Purvis Lifters. We sent her two boxes and a lifter. She learned about mealworms, too. That week (Cont. on page 11)

## FAREWELL TO DON YODER



### Farewell to Don Yoder:

A modified version of the eulogy by **Georgette Howington** as read at his Memorial.

### Don Yoder

12/27/1921 – 7/9/2008

Founder of the California Bluebird Recovery Program

Each of us is here to share this celebration of **Don Yoder's** life, and I am grateful to have this opportunity today. Knowing Don he's looking at us saying, "Is all this for meeee? Aw shucks, what's all the fuss about anyway?" As his friend and nest box apprentice for almost ten years, I was always struck by his modesty and never once heard him utter an unkind word about anyone.

While all of us knew Don as a quiet, gentle man we also knew that his actions were strong, courageous, steadfast, consistent and deliberate. Don dedicated almost all of his time to working in the community and serving others – whether it was with Rotary, the Emergency Preparedness efforts (Don was a radioman in the military and worked hard to build and maintain CB communications in the community of Rossmoor where he lived), Mt. Diablo Audubon, his

church, or the California Bluebird Recovery Program. His tireless work in the founding and developing of CBRP will impact us for the rest of our lives and in the environment for generations to come.

Some years back when a Western bluebird pair showed up in the Presidio after 55 years of absence my first thought was of Don. CBRP has encouraged, maybe even saved, the population of the Western bluebird and all the secondary cavity nesters. His leadership encouraged the survival of an entire species and has been the catalyst for countless friendships, a central-hub for scientific data, a common bond for many, many associated groups and a source of education for those who sought it.

His life, in so many ways, teaches us that one person CAN make a difference. Your efforts through CBRP do make a difference.

I heard a quote by Benjamin Desarali that goes, "Most people leave this life with their music still locked up inside of them."

We shall hear our friend **Don Yoder's** music every February when the Western bluebird sings to win his mate; when the hatchlings hungry mouths chirp and when the last fledgling has flown from the nest box – finally free to sing his very own song.

### ARTICLES WANTED FOR

#### *Bluebirds Fly!*

As new editor of *Bluebirds Fly!* I had to review old issues to see what had been done so as not to repeat too much of what you had read before. I will now need more stories for the next issue. If you have some stories about your experiences with our beloved avians, we'd love to hear them. Send them along with any photos you might have to me at [jimsemweed@cox.net](mailto:jimsemweed@cox.net). Also, if you have any comments regarding this newsletter, good or bad, let me know. **Jim Semelroth**

### BLUEBIRDS FLY! ON EMAIL

With this edition of *Bluebirds Fly!* we intend to experiment by sending a PDF version to all whose email addresses we have on record, in addition to the standard mailing. You'll get to see the newsletter in living color. Of course, if we don't have your email, you'll still get the paper version as long as you want.

Let us know what you think of receiving the newsletter as an attachment to an email.

**Jim Semelroth, Editor**  
[jimsemweed@cox.net](mailto:jimsemweed@cox.net)





## DR. BLUEBIRD SPEAKS TO CBRP MONITORS



Dr. Janis L. Dickenson

Greetings. At Cornell Lab of Ornithology, we have worked hard to convey the importance of nest boxes, not just for bluebirds but for other cavity nesting species. One of the reasons we are trying to create a centralized database that includes historic records is that we are interested in learning more about the role that reproductive success plays in determining population trends of the whole suite of cavity nesters that use boxes.

In terms of bluebirds, individual survival probabilities and reproductive rates are the two things we need to know to understand what is happening in natural populations and, while I have a good handle on this in Carmel Valley, it is helpful to have this information throughout the range of a species and in a diversity of habitats so that we can analyze how landscape change influences western and mountain bluebirds in California. You can imagine if people put out boxes in habitat that has a high density of feral cats this might not be so good. What habitats are best for western bluebird reproduction? Where do adults survive best over the winter? But survival is harder and is also something we really need to know; in order to measure survival, you need to band birds. If people could work with local banding stations or university faculty to get permits to band their birds, obtaining their userid number from the lab to identify their data set, then we would be able to link the survival data with the reproductive success data. All that is needed for this is an excel file that has the userid, band#, year, first nest observation date in nestwatch, box number,

and columns labeled S2008, S2009, etc. that would have a 0 if the bird was not seen and a 1 if it was seen and a -2 in years before it was banded. This project also requires a commitment to recapture all the adults each year (or read band #'s or color bands) to check their survival. If people were able to recapture all of the adults to check their bands, then we would know if each bird survived from one year to the next and where the fledglings move when they disperse. These are the critical data needed to estimate population viability and this sort of concerted effort would require a master bander with a willingness to train people and a volunteer project coordinator in CA. If you could get someone to take this on it would make a huge contribution - and I have to say, there is nothing more wonderful than banding and identifying adults by banding so that you really know who they are. It's incredibly cool with western bluebirds because you know who is "family."

*Dr. Dickinson is currently Director of Citizen Science at Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. . She formerly was a professor at UC Berkeley and has published over 14 refereed journal articles on the Western Bluebird. CBRP trail monitors enter their data directly into our own database; these data will be uploaded into the Cornell database when that capability becomes available."*



"Roger, Tower, WEBL on final approach."

## California Bluebird Recovery Program County Coordinators

County	City	Name	Home#	Email
Alameda	Pleasant Hill	<b>Georgette Howington</b>	925-686-4392	georgette@birdscape.net
Amador	Plymouth	<b>Doris &amp; Bill Allison</b>	209-245-3135	allison@gotsky.com
Butte	Oroville	<b>Emily Harbison</b>		
Calaveras	Angles Camp	<b>Jack Lynch</b>	209-736-2349	jackplynch@sbcglobal.net
Contra Costa	Pleasant Hill	<b>Georgette Howington</b>	925-686-4392	georgette@birdscape.net
El Dorado	Somerset	<b>Hatch Graham</b>	530 621-1833	
Lassen	Susanville	<b>Tom Rickman</b>	530-251-4949	trickman@fs.fed.us
Los Angeles	Sylmar	<b>Doug Martin</b>	818-367-8967	
Madera	Coarsegold	<b>William Righ</b>		
Marin	San Rafael	<b>Ruth Beckner</b>	415 479-9542	jabeck1924@cs.com
Mendocino	Fort Bragg	<b>Michael &amp; Marybeth Arago</b>	707-962-0507	mbarago@mcn.org
Merced	Merced	<b>Steve Simmons</b>	209-722-3540	simwoodduk@aol.com
Napa	Napa	<b>David Graves</b>	530-755-1480	wavey@saintsbury.com
Orange	Anaheim	<b>Dick Purvis</b>	714-776-8878	dickersly@aol.com
Placer	Granite Bay	<b>Heath Wakelee</b>	916 797-4536	towa1@cs.com
Riverside	Cherry Valley	<b>Melissa Browing</b>		
Sacramento	Sacramento	<b>Vicki Butler</b>	916-448-8030	butlerrowe@sbcglobal.net
San Bernardino	Redlands	<b>Glen Chappell</b>	909-794-3470	glen.chap@adelphia.net
San Diego	Ramona	<b>Carol Killebrew</b>		bluebirds@ix.netcom.com
San Joaquin	Acampo	<b>Thomas Hoffman</b>	209 369-8578	
San Louis Obispo	Creston	<b>Paul &amp; Judy Burkhardt</b>	805 438-4491	tinhornranch@sbcglobal.net
San Mateo	Portola Valley	<b>Susan Kritzik</b>	650-851-4529	sgkritzik@sbcglobal.net
Santa Barbara	Lompoc	<b>Richard Willey</b>	805-733-5383	dick.willey@verizon.net
Santa Clara	Fremont	<b>Mike Azevedo</b>	510-792-4632	levinbluebird@comcast.net
Santa Clara	Palo Alto	<b>Tex Huston</b>	650-303-2777	tex009@sbcglobal.net
Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz	<b>Tonya Haff</b>	831-459-4763	
Shasta	Oak Run	<b>Larry Jordan</b>	530-472-3131	larrytech@frontiernet.net
Solano/Yolo	Davis	<b>Melanie Truan</b>	530-754-4975	mltruan@ucdavis.edu
Sonoma	Sonoma	<b>Mike Crumly</b>	707 996-7256	mikec@freixenetusa.com
Tehama	Red Bluff	<b>Pete Flower</b>	530-527-0392	
Tulare	Visalia	<b>Peter Morrison</b>	209-733-1154	
Tuolumne	Soulsbyville	<b>Kathleen &amp; Andrew Aldrich</b>	209-536-1515	
Ventura	Camarillo	<b>Jan Wasserman</b>	805-987-3928	jan@treeswallows.org
Yuba	Wheatland	<b>Helen Goforth</b>	530-633-4094	rhgobirding@comcast.net

### CBRP CONTRIBUTORS Feb - Dec 2008

\$977 was donated in this time period for a 2008 total of \$1242

Rachel Talbot	Amador	Jack & Bobbi Kent	Riverside
Ken & Lucille Morrison	Amador	Vicki Butler	Sacramento
Kenneth, Judie Cunningham	Calvaras	Gene & Jean Caggiano	San Diego
N.E. Norris	Calvaras	Jean Caggiano	San Diego
Judy Adler	Contra Costa	Sonja Davidow	San Mateo
Dick & Jan Day	El Dorado	Anita Marquis	San Mateo
Tony & Hilda Mindling	El Dorado	Philip Persons	Santa Rosa
Pauline Mitchell	Los Angeles	Paul Pels	Sonoma
Jean Casselman	Los Angeles	Lorette Bodiford	Tuolumne
Ruth Beckner	Marin	Unknown	Unknown
Ruth Beckner	Marin	Donna J. Thacker	Unknown
NABS	National	Dean L. Reeser	Unknown
Jo-ann Coller	Orange	Roger Yoder	Unknown
Sully Reallon	Orange	Woodrow F. Robbins	Unknown
Michel Spohn	Orange	Margaret J. Gibbens	Unknown
Tom Croom	Orange	Ronald Stutzman	Unknown
John & Robin	Orange	Dorothy Stutman	Unknown
Clark Leonard	Orange	Hazel Irvine	Unknown
Richard Brewster	Orange	Fern Klar	Unknown
Pat & Merle Ruggles	Placer	Helen Goforth	Yuba

(Cont from page 7) in July, after fighting off sparrows and other predators and after two eggs disappeared, she had at least four fledglings of Eastern Bluebirds and it was as if she had a child of her own.

I was asked to show the Power Point presentation at a local church and again at their children's social action program. The children accompanied me on a monitoring before the second nesting was completed. Several parents inquired about nest boxes and getting their kids involved. From those showings, a member of the Sierra Club asked to show it in the spring to a youth group he supervises.

At the club meeting a newcomer introduced herself and said she had seen the article in the local paper and was interested. She and her husband accompanied me on the next monitoring in the park and has ideas about a trail in the country club near her home. We now have more monitors and more trail sites.

So, with a little publicity like Huell Howser's show shown twice on several PBS stations, several news articles the club got in local papers, school and church programs, public interest in the birds and the increase in monitors, nest boxes, bird trails, successful nestings and fledglings are growing exponentially. All of this because I hadn't seen as many bluebirds in the local park this spring. And now, I'm your editor. I guess the work grows exponentially, too.

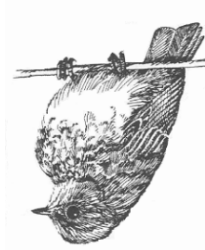
I am sure many of you have had similar experiences with these marvelous birds.

**Jim Semelroth**

Editor—*Bluebirds Fly!*

jimsemweed@cox.net





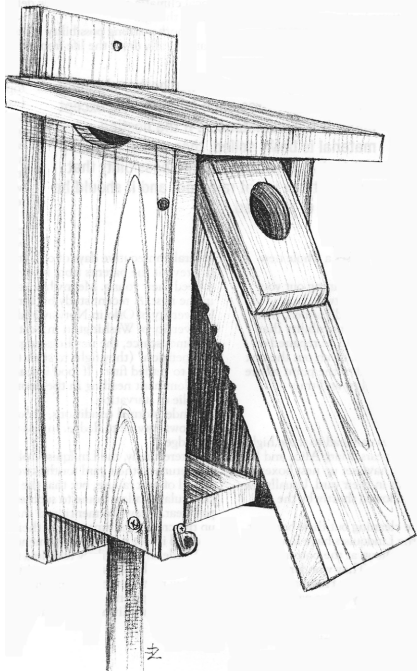
A service of  
 Mt. Diablo Audubon Society  
 P O Box 53  
 Walnut Creek CA 94597-0053

California Bluebird Recovery Program's  
 Newsletter  
 Vol. 15, No. 1 Spring-2009

**BLUEBIRDS FLY!**

Please send correspondence to CBRP  
 22284 N. De Anza Circle Cupertino, CA 95014

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Concord, CA  
 Permit 66



*“For the encouragement and preservation of cavity nesters—especially bluebirds—anywhere in the West”*

**California Bluebird Recovery Program**  
 A non-profit project  
 --Affiliate of North American Bluebird Society  
 --Sponsored by National Audubon Society – California

---

**Yes, I want to help encourage Bluebirds in California**  
**Please enroll me in the California Bluebird Recovery Program**

Here is my donation of:  
 \$10 Subscriber  \$15 Supporter  \$25 Contributor  \$35 or  \$\_\_\_\_ Sponsor

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 County \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible contribution payable to **MDAS BLUEBIRDS** and mail to:

**California Bluebird Recovery Program**  
**22284 N. De Anza Circle**  
**Cupertino, CA 95014**