

Why Do We Monitor?

- We put up boxes to attract bluebirds. When we do this, we assume responsibility for taking care of that trail. This includes:
 - Checking on the progress and success of nests and fledglings.
 - Checking on the health and safety of the birds we have attracted.
 - Keeping house sparrows from using the boxes and proliferating.
 - Watching for signs of vandalism and other predators.
 - Keeping detailed records of the history of each box on a weekly basis so that we can assist State and National organizations with understanding the status of our native birds by providing our recorded data.
 - Having fun, getting out into nature, and learning more about bluebirds and other cavity nesters.
 - Getting some exercise and fresh air.

Quick Tips/Reminders

- Know your birds and be able to recognize the nests of potential nest box residents
- Check boxes weekly – a lot can happen in a week
- If the nest is active, check the box quickly and quietly so not to frighten or overly stress the parents
- Don't touch eggs or babies unless there's a serious issue
- Don't open the box after day 13 after hatching since this could cause babies to fledge prematurely
- Clean out the nest box after fledging has occurred