

Our Mission

The mission of the *Southern California Bluebird Club* is to preserve and protect the Western Bluebird and other cavity nesters in Southern California.

Our main goal is to provide a communication forum for active bluebirders in Southern California and to introduce new members to the joys of creating and monitoring nestbox trails.



We are a non-profit (501(c)(3)) organization managed by:

International Humanities Center
P.O. Box 923
Malibu, CA 90265
Phone: 310.579.2069
Fax: 206.333.1797
www.ihcenter.org

Southern CA Bluebird Club
www.socalbluebirds.org

Jo-Ann Collier, Treasurer
18132 Larkstone Dr
Santa Ana CA 92705



Southern CA
Bluebird Club

Western Bluebird Recovery Program

The Purvis Nestbox System



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The Purvis Nestbox System

Dick Purvis of Anaheim, CA is a long time bluebird enthusiast. In the last fifteen years, Dick has monitored more bluebird nestboxes than anyone in California.

After limited success with traditional nestbox and mounting systems, Dick heard about a new idea—hanging nestboxes in the branches of mature trees.

Typical of most revolutionary ideas, skeptics did not believe the system would work. In the eastern and central regions of the country, nestboxes are mounted on posts driven into the ground. The posts are protected with slick metal covers to prevent predators from climbing up to the box.. Hanging nestboxes in trees in the central and eastern US would invite disaster due to the abundance of raccoons and other tree climbing predators.

Despite warning from traditionalists, Dick felt strongly, hanging nestboxes in trees would work. First he reasoned, southern California metro-



Purvis Nestbox

politan areas do not have the types of predators found in other areas of the country. Second, in the mild California climate, the most serious predators are man made. Landscape workers, high-powered sprinklers, vandals, and curious passersby wreak havoc on post mounted systems.

Dick had to solve two main problems to make his system work. First, he had to figure out a way to support the weight of a nestbox from a tree limb. After much experimentation, the nine gauge wire loop hanger was adopted. To assure the nestbox was secure in the tree, the wire is secured to the back and top of the box with epoxy and heavy staples. The top is also securely glued to the box. The wire above the box is bent in a large semi-circle and the end is bent sharply inward. This configuration allows the box to hang from its center of gravity and the sharp bend protects the box from falling off the limb during storms.

The second problem was how to get the box in the tree and easily monitor it.. The solution to this problem is the genius of the Purvis system. A telescoping pool cleaning handle would provide an easy way to reach up to 20' in the air to hang and retrieve the nestbox. A simple and efficient PVC pipe mounting harness supports a box that swivels and keeps the box level so it can be monitored safely even with eggs and chicks inside.



The Purvis system has proved so successful it is used all over the western US. Need more information? Contact Sully Reallon (949)496-9618.



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P.O. Box 27744
Anaheim, CA 92809-0124**