

## STARTING YOUR ROLE AS A MONITOR

Thank you for becoming a volunteer to monitor nest boxes for Western Bluebirds and other cavity nesters. Your work makes a tremendous difference to the protection and safety of these cavity-dependent birds.

SAFETY is our number one goal:

- safety for yourself,
- safety for the public
- safety for the birds.

To achieve SAFETY the box must be in good condition. If you need a replacement box contact your area coordinator whom you can find listed on the website.

Monitoring usually follows this schedule:

1. Preparation for the season by early March to making sure the box is clean and free of defects such as sanding the hole if there are splinters and checking the bend in the hook.
2. Monitoring weekly April to mid-August.
3. Cleaning out the box at the last check in August.
4. Report results to CBRP state data base August-September.
5. Make repairs as needed to prepare for winter roosting.
6. Checking once or twice Oct-March looking for secure hanging and for bees (optional).

## ENDING YOUR ROLE AS A MONITOR

When you need to stop being a volunteer, be sure to let your coordinator know. A box abandoned by a retiring volunteer can quickly become dilapidated if not transferred to another monitor for care. The coordinator will help with this.

Turning over these items to the coordinator is essential to the process:

- Box records
- Maps or sketches of box locations
- GPS coordinates, if possible
- Lifter basket
- Extra boxes

**The most helpful time to retire from your trail is late August.** This gives everyone time to prepare for the change.