*RESULTS: 2023 NESTBOX REPORTS*

*from*

 ***The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania***

***P. O. Box 12, EXTON, PA 19341***

**\* SUMMARY OF REPORTS FROM 187 INDIVIDUALS REPORTING ON-LINE or BY MAIL.**

**\* 38 of PA’s 67 COUNTIES ARE REPRESENTED (57% of PA Counties).**

**TOTAL NESTBOXES MONITORED & REPORTED IN 2023: 4,399 (3,938 IN 2022)**

**I. EASTERN BLUEBIRDS FLEDGED: 8,260 (7,165 in 2022)**

**NUMBER OF BLUEBIRD EGGS LAID: 10,787 (9,000 in 2022)**

**NUMBER OF WHITE BB EGGS: 147 (155 IN 2022)**

**TREE SWALLOWS FLEDGED: 3,696 (3,329 in 2022)**

**HOUSE WRENS FLEDGED: 2,578 (2,002 in 2022)**

**CHICKADEES FLEDGED: 413 (342 in 2022)**

**HOUSE SPARROW NESTS REMOVED: 992 (876 in 2022)**

II. FLEDGE NUMBERS BY COUNTY – 2023.

1. LANCASTER = 1857 (1851 in 2022)
2. CHESTER = 1263 (1082 in 2022)
3. DELAWARE = 593 (564 in 2022)
4. DAUPHIN = 526 (433 in 2022)
5. YORK = 522 (400 in 2022)
6. CUMBERLAND = 488 (402 in 2022)
7. ALLEGHENY = 472 (442 in 2022)
8. MERCER = 458 (382 in 2022)
9. MONTGOMERY = 401 (225 in 2022)
10. CENTRE = 268 (233 in 2022)
11. WESTMORELAND = 194 (203 in 2022)
12. FULTON = 171 (166 in 2022)
13. LYCOMING = 163 (83 in 2022)
14. BERKS = 154 (32 in 2022)
15. BEAVER = 124 (94 in 2022)
16. FRANKLIN = 105 (144 in 2022)
17. SCHUYLKILL = 97 (74 in 2022)
18. LEBANON = 70 (33 in 2022)
19. CLARION = 61 (60 in 2022)
20. BUTLER = 60 (49 in 2022)
21. BLAIR = 51 (53 in 2022)
22. PERRY = 34 (30 in 2022)
23. ERIE = 31 (12 in 2022)
24. CRAWFORD = 16 (14 in 2022)
25. BUCKS = 13 (21 in 2022)
26. ADAMS = 12 (11 in 2022)
27. JEFFERSON = 10 (3 in 2022)
28. CARBON = 9 (new in ‘23)
29. HUNTINGTON = 8 (21 IN 2022)
30. SULLIVAN = 8 (5 IN 2022)

In addition to the 30 Counties listed above, we had reports from Cameron, McKean, Washington, Cambria, Clearfield, Pike (new in ’23), Armstrong, and Philadelphia. Thank you! \* Sadly, we had no reports from these Counties: Bradford, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lawrence, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northhampton, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Somerset, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Vendango. Warren, Wayne, and Wyoming.

 III. CONCLUSIONS

1. 2022 & 2023 nestbox reports show that the Eastern Bluebird population is rising slowly.
2. The number of Chickadee fledges (413 this year) is an increase of 71 over 2022’s report. We should promote the nesting of this small black and white bird. While we applaud this year’s increase, Chickadee numbers are, on average, declining.
3. The rising population of House Wrens is alarming, because they destroy nests of Chickadees and other cavity-nesters. Our data shows that their numbers grew by 576 this year. This expansion reduces nesting success by Tree Swallows and Chickadees. We also lose clutches of bluebird eggs and young to House Wren predation. If you find your bluebird eggs missing or on the ground, you are (most likely) the victim of wrens.
4. Our increase in BSP membership is excellent! As of December 1, 2023, our BSP membership total is 900 individuals! In addition, during the last 24 months we have acquired 15 new County Coordinators, who are doing excellent work.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We should monitor our nestboxes regularly and invite others to join us. We will replace nestboxes that are darkened with age and/or no longer protecting eggs and nestlings.
2. We should invite interested friends and neighbors to become BSP members.
3. We will share information about Eastern Bluebirds and their needs whenever the opportunity arises.
4. We will learn how to terminate House Sparrow adults. House Sparrows and European Starlings are destructive – they kill native birds. For information, go to [www.sialis.org](http://www.sialis.org). and click “House Sparrow Control” in the left column. Then click “Euthanizing,” where a complete discussion of the topic is found.
5. We will communicate with other members of BSP and join them in outreach programs such as the Farm Show, Box-Building events, bluebird talks, and the BSP Conference.

This report was written by Marilyn Michalski, BSP State CC and Nancy Fraim, BSP Membership Chair. They collected data and summarized results. Questions? Contact Marilyn at emeraldmm@verizon.net. or 610-933-0497. Publication date: 12/7/23.

NOTE: This report has been sent to Carly Broder at the PA Game Commission, Hawk Mountain Executive Dr. Laurie Goodrich, and Bet Zimmerman-Smith of North Am. Bluebird Soc.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR BSP PRESIDENT:

 THANK YOU to our BSP State CC, Marilyn Michalski and Nancy Fraim, our BSP Membership Chair, for compiling these important statistics for 2023. We had a marvelous year with native songbirds in 2023.

As President of BSP since 2012, I am reminded each year of all the hard work that our BSP members accomplish across the 67 counties in our great Commonwealth. I am truly grateful for the thousands of hours dedicated to nest box monitoring, care and maintenance by our volunteers. But we can do even better!!

Perhaps you noticed the 26 counties above with the RED LETTERS. Those are the counties who did not submit any nest box reports this year. To me that is sad - I think we can do much better going forward. I would like at least 13 counties to step forward and make a firm commitment to submit a nest box report next year. This must start with CC’s making some contacts in their county as to who is monitoring trails and then encouraging them to file a report at the end of the season. Check our BSP website for details.

Thank you in advance for helping us make 2024 the best year ever for BSP.

Dr. Dean C. Rust

President of the Bluebird Society of PA

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