

FINAL 2025 ANNUAL NESTBOX REPORT

FROM: The Bluebird Soc. of PA (BSP) -- P. O. Box 12 -- Exton, PA 19341

www.thebsp.org

PENNSYLVANIA RESULTS

Nestbox Reports from the 2025 nesting season are analyzed in this report. A total of 226 reports were received from BSP members (last year we received 235 reports). More than half of submissions were entered ON-LINE; others were mailed via USPS.

Data was analyzed with EXCEL by BSP Chairpersons Nancy Fraim and Marilyn Michalski. These results are available on BSP's website. This report will be published in BSP's Spring Newsletter (2026), and it will be sent to four conservation organizations: NABS (North American Bluebird Society), HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY, PA's DCNR (Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources) and the PGA (The Pennsylvania Game Commission.)

MONITORS and THEIR REPORTS

1. TOTAL REPORTS SUBMITTED (ONLINE AND U.S. MAIL): 226
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF MONITORS (estimate): 520
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF NESTBOXES MONITORED: 2,853
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF PA COUNTIES REPRESENTED 51 (this number includes reports from three (3) Counties who had zero bluebird fledges.)

FLEDGE TOTALS (number of new birds in four avian species for 2025):

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS fledged = 8,035 -- (previous year = 9,092)
TREE SWALLOWS fledged = 4,359 -- (previous year = 4,042)
CHICKADEES fledged = 569 -- (previous year = 528)
HOUSE WRENS fledged = 2,323 -- (previous year = 2,470)

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED A NESTBOX REPORT!

We need every BSP member to fill out and submit an annual nestbox report, even if that member monitors only one nestbox! NEXT DUE DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2026

PENNSYLVANIA'S EASTERN BLUEBIRD NESTING RESULTS 2025

2025	# OF NESTS	# OF EGGS.	# OF WHITE EGGS:	# of FLEDGED BIRDS:
	2,853	10,971	212	8,035

These numbers are within normal limits, considering nine fewer nestboxes were reported in 2025. Bad weather at key times contributed to lower egg and fledge totals. In 2024, 515 more bluebird eggs were laid. Sadly, in 2025 the number of FLEDGED BLUEBIRDS was 8,035 – which is 1,057 lower than 2024's 9,092.

CAUSES OF DECLINE IN BLUEBIRD FLEDGE NUMBERS:

The 2025 decline is unexpected, but we can account for lower fledge numbers considering these factors: 1.) FEWER REPORTS RECEIVED FROM BSP MEMBERS IN 2025 (9 fewer). 2.) INCLEMENT WEATHER - cold and rainy spells in March and April reduced the number of viable eggs and hatchlings. 3.) DISEASE and unknown illnesses may have reduced the number of viable eggs, nestlings and fledglings. 4.) HOUSE WREN PREDATION – the proliferation of House Wrens throughout Pennsylvania is detrimental to other cavity-nesters - especially bluebirds and chickadees. Although this 2025 REPORT indicates a slight reduction in the HOUSE WREN fledge number (147 FEWER WRENS FLEDGED IN 2025 than in 2024), this is NOT typical State-wide. With numerous households putting up nestboxes in yards and patios, House Wrens have many opportunities to nest, and their high fledge numbers are usually double that of other cavity-nesting species.

The highest House Wren fledge numbers occurred in Southeast Pennsylvania in Chester, Lancaster, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Cumberland, and Bucks Counties. Most BSP monitors are aware of the growth of the wren population and remove wren dummy nests of sticks and twigs BEFORE the appearance of nestcups or eggs. See the MBTA Law (Migratory Bird Treaty Act) posted earlier in this newsletter.

***** NO NESTBOX REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FROM THESE COUNTIES: Cambria, Cameron, Clinton, Crawford, Elk, Fulton, Greene, McKean, Monroe, Montour, Potter, Sullivan, Tioga, Washington, Wayne, and Wyoming. (16 Counties)**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT MARILYN MICHALSKI at emeraldmm@verizon.net or 610-933-0497

2025 FLEDGE NUMBERS BY PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

	COUNTY	# FLEDGED
1	Lancaster	1531
2	Chester	976
3	Allegheny	654
4	Delaware	614
5	Cumberland	578
6	York	534
7	Montgomery	412
8	Dauphin	398
9	Mercer	310
10	Franklin	218
11	Berks	217
12	Lycoming	127
13	Perry	123
14	Armstrong	116
15	Northumberland	90
16	Westmoreland	85
17	Blair	79
18	Butler	78
19	Centre	75
20	Carbon	71
21	Clarion	52
22	Beaver	46
23	Erie	44

	COUNTY	# FLEDGED
24	Schuylkill	42
25	Fayette	29
26	Snyder	29
27	Somerset	29
28	Luzerne	28
29	Lebanon	24
30	Mifflin	21
31	Northampton	17
32	Philadelphia	17
33	Bedford	14
34	Bucks	14
35	Crawford	14
36	Lawrence	14
37	Clearfield	13
38	Huntingdon	12
39	Adams	9
40	Jefferson	9
41	Monroe	9
42	Pike	6
43	Forest	5
44	Juniata	4
45	Lehigh	4

