

2024 Annual Report - BSP NESTBOX RESULTS, **STATE-WIDE AND COUNTY-WIDE**

FROM The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania -- P. O. Box 12 -- Exton PA 19341.

The numbers used in this report are based on submissions by BSP members. All data was collected/analyzed by Nancy Fraim and Marilyn Michalski, with support from Irene West.

1. TOTAL NESTBOXES MONITORED AND REPORTED (2024): **4,649**

In 2023 we had 4,399; in 2022 we had 3,938

2. Number of BSP members who submitted RESULTS: **235**

In 2023 187 individuals reported data. In 2024 - 48 more individuals reported.

3. EASTERN BLUEBIRD NUMBERS (2024):

A. NUMBER OF EGGS LAID: 11,486

B. NUMBER OF WHITE EGGS: 196

C. NUMBER OF BLUEBIRDS (EABL) FLEDGED: **9,092**

In 2023 members fledged 8,260.

4. CHICKADEES FLEDGED: 528

In 2023 – 413 fledged

5. TREE SWALLOWS FLEDGED: 4,042

In 2023 – 3,696 fledged

6. HOUSE WRENS FLEDGED: 2,470

In 2023 - 2578 fledged

7. HOUSE SPARROWS ELIMINATED: 1,101

In 2023 - 992 House Sparrows eliminated

8. OTHER BIRDS NESTING SUCCESSFULLY: Carolina Wren, Tufted Titmice, Purple Martins, Nuthatch, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Mockingbird, House Finch, Cowbird, Prothonotary Warbler.

WHAT OUR 2024 DATA TELLS US:

- 1.** THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD POPULATION is stable. With 48 additional reports in 2024, all categories increased. With more Counties submitting results, numbers of bluebird nests, eggs, and fledges reached all-time highs. Only 11 PA Counties (out of 67) had no reports. 2024 TOTALS indicate a wide-spread population of Eastern Bluebirds. Our monitoring work is essential in the continuing success of EABL.
- 2.** CHICKADEES – Our cavity-nesting bird of “greatest concern.” There are two inter-breeding species – the “Black-capped Chickadee” and the “Carolina Chickadee”;

both inhabit Pennsylvania. This report combines them under the heading “Chickadees.” Although the 2024 fledge number of 528 is higher than 2023’s (413), this bird needs our help to regain its former population level. We should promote and protect Chickadee nests whenever possible.

3. TREE SWALLOWS (TRES). The fledge numbers of TRES (Tree Swallows) are slowly rising. Because they are beneficial native birds - helpful to farmers and gardeners - we encourage their nesting. NOTE: A Tree Swallow nestbox can be “paired” with a bluebird box by placing two nestboxes (one for each species) 12 to 20 feet apart.
4. HOUSE WRENS (HOWR): Rapid population rise. Our monitors logged in about 2,500 new House Wrens in 2024. Although a native bird, it has a deadly habit of poking holes in the eggs of chickadees and bluebirds. When eggs disappear (vanish) from nestboxes, with no disturbance to nesting material, we can be sure a House Wren poked the eggs and tossed them out. We find ejected eggs on the ground. We urge everyone to remove House Wren nests made of sticks and twigs before eggs are laid. We can then remove or relocate that nestbox. NOTE: Another species, the Carolina Wren, does NOT harm other birds’ eggs or young.
5. HOUSE SPARROWS (HOSP): A national problem – they are NOT native birds in North America; they are NOT protected. In 2024 BSP members removed/eliminated 1,100 HOSP. We support efforts to reduce this species. For further information we recommend searching www.sialis.org., and BSP’s website – www.thebsp.org.

WHO GETS THIS REPORT?

This report is sent to all BSP members in our 2025 Spring Newsletter – “Bluebird Trails & Tales.” It is also posted on our website www.thebsp.org. In addition, this report is sent to three organizations: 1. PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), c/o Carly Broder. 2. Hawk Mountain, c/o Dr. Laurie Goodrich. 3. The North American Bluebird Society, c/o Bet Zimmerman-Smith.

A SINCERE “THANK YOU” TO EVERYONE WHO SUBMITTED A 2024 NESTBOX REPORT. WITHOUT THESE REPORTS WE COULD NOT HAVE COMPLETED THIS TASK, NOR WOULD WE ENJOY THE HEALTHY BLUEBIRD POPULATION WE HAVE TODAY!

Questions? Contact Marilyn Michalski, emeraldmm@verizon.net – 610-933-0497.

PLANNING FOR 2025:

THE REVISED 2025 BSP NESTBOX REPORT FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT. PLUS, A COPY HAS BEEN PLACED ON OUR WEBSITE: www.thebsp.org. The 2024 Nestbox Report Form will be printed in the SUMMER issue of our BSP newsletter “Bluebird Trails and Tales.” Please use the 2025 version and submit your data on-line (to save us hours of typing your data).

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR DATA ON-LINE:

Start by filling out a copy of the “2025 Nestbox Report Form.” This will be your personal copy of your 2025 results. USE IT to type in data on a computer.

2025 DEADLINE – OCTOBER 31, 2025:

First, go to a computer with internet access and click on a search engine like Google, Firefox, or Safari.

Second, type in and click on: www.thebsp.org

Third, when the site comes up, look for “**Helping Bluebirds**” at the top of the page and click on it. A list will drop down.

Fourth, scroll down this list and click on **Annual nestbox Forms and Summaries**” – then click on **2025 Annual nestbox online form**.

Fifth, when this form appears, type in your information in the spaces provided. There are four short pages. Then read over your answers to make sure they are accurate and complete.

Sixth, click SUBMIT at the bottom of the last page. As soon as you click this, your results are on their way to BSP’s Master Computer. Do NOT type in a duplicate version. Do NOT mail in a paper copy.

NOTE: If you don’t have a computer, you can mail in a hand-written copy of your 2025 Nestbox Report to Marilyn Michalski, 31 Beacon Dr. W., Phoenixville, PA 19460,

DEADLINE FOR ALL 2025 NESTBOX REPORTS

HALLOWEEN – OCTOBER 31, 2025

FINAL 2024 BSP BB FLEDGES BY COUNTY

1. Lancaster	1,769	27. Armstrong	37
2. Chester	984	28. Somerset	37
3. Delaware	768	29. Perry	36
4. Cumberland	705	30. Forest	35
5. York	577	31. Crawford	29
6. Allegheny	592	32. Luzerne	26
7. Dauphin	541	33. Bedford	25
8. Montgomery	459	34. Northampton	24
9. Mercer	419	35. Columbia	20
10. Centre	337	36. Erie	15
11. Westmoreland	277	37. Clearfield	14
12. Berks	238	38. Wayne	14
13. Fulton	170	39. Adams	13
14. Clinton	113	40. Jefferson	13
15. Franklin	96	41. Huntingdon	11
16. Lycoming	90	42. Lehigh	11
17. Clarion	81	43. Pike	10
18. Blair	76	44. Mifflin	9
19. Carbon	65	45. McKean	7
20. Washington	64	46. Lawrence	6
21. Butler	59	47. Cambria	4
22. Schuylkill	54	48. Tioga	4
23. Snyder	54	49. Wyoming	3
24. Lebanon	47	50. Juniata	2
25. Northum'nd	40	51. Beaver	0
26. Fayette	38	52. Cameron	0
		53. Philadelphia	0

SUPPLEMENTAL COUNTY INFORMATION:

BEAVER, CAMERON, AND PHILADELPHIA COUNTIES (#51 thru 53) submitted reports, but no Eastern Bluebirds fledged in them.

BRADFORD – CC Rich Gulyas is the Education Coordinator at a State Park in Bradford County; he reports Bluebird fledge data to DCNR.

GREEN – CC Samantha Lambert, resident of Fayette, covers Green County, which has NO BSP members. No fledge reports were received.

LACKAWANNA – CC Carol Soemer reports bluebird fledge data to the DCNR Rep. at Lackawanna State Park; her boxes there fledged 30 BB. She submits all data to DCNR.

MONROE – CC Maryann Custard has 20 nestboxes ready for use on land owned by The Nature Conservancy; her monitoring there was approved for 2025.

SULLIVAN – CC Kat Clark resigned; we have no other BSP members in Sullivan County.

SUSQUEHANNA – Our CC Evan Mann has health issues and can no longer serve.

NO NESTBOX REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FROM 11 COUNTIES:

BUCKS - ELK – FOREST - GREEN - INDIANA – POTTER – SUSQUEHANNA – SULLIVAN - UNION – VENDANGO – WARREN. *(2023 had NO reports from 26 Counties).*

For questions, contact Marilyn Michalski, emeraldmm@verizon.net – 610-933-0497