

## Hot Springs Village Audubon Society

### 2016 Bluebird Committee Report

It was another “interesting” Bluebird breeding season in Hot Springs Village. Our spring weather seemed to linger for longer than normal. We had the normal heat and humidity during the summer months, but one of the wettest Augusts on record. That probably affected those Bluebirds that sometimes build second, third and sometimes fourth nests. Predation was up this season also.....about 20 incidents of unidentified predators, several reports of snakes in boxes, a roosting bat, chipmunks, ants, wasps, the pesky buffalo gnats and several reports of infertile eggs. All in all it was a pretty tough season. Our Bluebirds were resilient though and gave us a good number of fledglings.

Karen Geiger and Adolph Juarez took the initiative to move 10 boxes from the Good Samaritan campus to the area around the Woodlands and Grove Park. As you may recall Good Sam’s had been unproductive for several years due to the overabundance of very aggressive house sparrows. This new location fledged 14, a good start and should improve in future years.

All monitors, except 7 reported a decrease in their numbers. Our total numbers therefore were slightly less than the past few years, 1401, 203 less than 2015. The percent fledged was also down, 72.9%, 5.5% less. Other birds (chickadees, nuthatches and titmice) were up by 10, at 258. Please refer to the attached supplemental data report for more details. This report lists the HSV Audubon Bluebird locations on each of our 9 golf courses, Woodlands/Cedar Grove, and the Coronado Center and the respective results for 2016.

Following is a five year recap:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Boxes</i>	<i>Used</i>	<i>Eggs</i>	<i>Fledged</i>	<i>% Fledged</i>
2016	305	275	1921	1401	72.9
2015	305	271	2045	1604	78.4
2014	306	n/a	1902	1653	82.6
2013	305	262	2238	1609	71.9
2012	312	255	2238	1542	68.9

A special thanks and a job well done to all of our monitors and back-up monitors listed below. Their hard work and dedication are what make the program so successful. We hope all of our monitors will sign up again for next year. If you would be interested in being a bluebird monitor for 2017 please contact Kathy Jurek, 915-9344 or [golferstwo@prodigy.net](mailto:golferstwo@prodigy.net), there are always openings. Monitors, please continue to send requests for box repair, replacement or relocation to Kathy also.

Balboa - Garrett, Baal, Sackett, Geiger  
Coronado - Gunderson, LaBove, Mueller, Hopper  
Cortez – Moeck, Elliott, Wallick, Cukjati, Higby  
DeSoto – Bienstadt, Wieker, Baldwin, Fickes  
Diamante – Fremstad, Callicott, Krone, Hopper  
Granada – Kroetz, Barnoske, Sherman, Johnson

Isabella – Esch, Franks, Voss, Cervenka, Kubica, Vanauken  
Magellan – Rector, Raymond, Montgomery, Jones  
Ponce – Williams, Trabant, Taylor, Biddle  
Coronado Center – Riedel, Condon  
Woodlands – Geiger, Baal

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Jurek, Bluebird Monitor Chair