RECORDING AND REPORTING YOUR DATA

Recording Your Observations

Keeping good notes on weekly visits to your nest box is a good habit to get into. Each time you visit you will be able to look at your notes to remind yourself what you saw the week before and any notes you made on things to watch out for. It's also the best way to keep track of the entire process. Date your notes so you can track the date of the first egg laid and date of last egg laid (and incubation start). That allows you to estimate the hatch date, and note when the eggs actually hatched. From there you'll know when to stop opening the box and when the estimated fledge date is.

> Date last egg laid + 14 days = the estimated hatch date
> Hatch date + 14 days = your "do not open the box" date
> Hatch date + 21 days = the estimated fledge date

You'll want to record:
- The number of eggs laid
- The number of eggs hatched
- The number of chicks that successfully fledged

For your own use, these records provide a year-over year history of your bluebird nest box.

Reporting Your Data

We encourage you to contribute the data you collect to NestWatch, a project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is designed to collect the nesting data collected by "citizen scientists" like you, amassing a database for research to track and study bird nesting trends. Their website is full of helpful information and guides you through the entire process of setting yourself up as a "NestWatcher." Reporting your observations is not difficult, and you'll have the satisfaction of adding your valuable data to thousands of others just like you. You can enter your data online, and they also have an app so you can enter data right on your phone.

Visit their website @ www.NestWatch.org