

2024 Final Bluebird Monitoring Report

Abbott Park
Almond Marsh FP
Berkeley Prairie FP
Bonnie Brook GC WPD
Brae Loch GC. FP
Bull Creek
Casey Trail
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. AOL Trail
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Bear Trail
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Webelos Trail
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Wolves Trail
Countryside GC FP
Cuba Marsh FP
Dutch Gap FP
Flint Creek FP A
Flint Creek FP B
Flint Creek FP C
Grant Woods FP
Grassy Lake FP
Grayslake Golf Course
Grigsby Prairie
Half Day FP
Hastings Lake FP
Heller Nature Center HPPD
Highland Memorial Cem.
Ivanhoe Cemetery
Lakewood FP
LFOLA Carruthers Nature Preserve
LFOLA Derwen Mawr

LFOLA Everett Farms
LFOLA Mellody Farms
LFOLA Northshore Bike path
LFOLA Skokie River Nature Preserve
LFOLA Westfork Savannah
LFOLA West Skokie Nature Preserve
LFOLA Middlefork Farm
McDonald Woods FP
Merit Club GC
Nippersink FP
Oak Openings
Old School FP (East)
Old School FP (West)
Pine Dunes FP
Prairie Wolf FP Dog Park
Prairie Wolf Slough FP South
Private trail Fort Hill
Ray Lake FP
Renwood GC. RLPD
Rollins Savanna FP South
Ryerson Woods FP
Singing Hills FP
Skokie River Reserve LBOL
St. Francis Woods / IG FP
St. Mary's Seminary
The Preserve of Highland Park PD
Thunderhawk GC FP
Van Patten Woods/Sterling Lk FP
Wadsworth Savanna FP

Greetings Monitors.

I received the final data reports for the above 58 trails. These trails consisted of over 800 bluebird boxes throughout Lake County. I am happy to report that this nesting season we had **888** bluebirds fledge from our trails. What a fantastic year, this is the best year we've ever had as far as I know. Over 240 more bluebirds fledged than last year. I'm not sure what contributed to the higher number, but I'm sure a lot of it had to do with the early spring and food supply. Many of us had two broods in the same box which added to the increase. As you can see in the following data there were a lot of eggs that didn't hatch and many that did, didn't make it to fledge. There are many reasons this could happen including predation, drastic weather changes, loss of one or both parents. I'm hoping with the increase of fledglings this year we will have many more returning next spring to nest.

In reading your reports some of you listed various predation problems with mice and ants as well as sparrows and possibly house wrens. As I've mentioned in the past, habitat will change over the years around your boxes. Many can be relocated and repaired from damage. I hope to get out to some of those trails this fall or late winter to replace/repair and move some of the boxes in need. Please let me know if some of your boxes need replacing. I am in the process of securing another grant from Lake County Audubon Society for supplies. Youth Conservation Corps Youth Build of Waukegan will take on the project again this year of building more boxes for us. This is a great endeavor for these groups to come together to support the volunteer bluebird monitoring program.

At this point all of your boxes should be left open for the winter, unless you see bluebirds hanging around for the winter in which case you could leave some closed for them to roost in at night.

(See below for compiled data).

BB nest starts with 1 plus egg = 286
BB Broods with 1 plus fledged = 216
BB Eggs Laid = 1228
BB Eggs Hatched = 1015
BB Fledged = 888

Number of boxes used by other birds = 482
Number of TS fledged = 1792
Number of Wrens fledged = 145
Number of Chickadees fledged = 42
How many sparrows were prevented = 882

Besides the Lake County Forest Preserve using this data for conservation and research, this data is shared with the East Central Illinois Bluebird Society which also shares all their data with the North American Bluebird Society (NABS) with whom we form a confederation of equals working together in a partnership in international bluebird conservation. There are also many advocates for bluebirds in Lake County.

Thank you all again for being dedicated volunteers and doing a great job monitoring this nesting season. We logged 1268 hours monitoring the trails this year.

Enjoy the rest of this year. I will contact you in the Spring. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.

Jack Nowak