

## 2025 Final Bluebird Monitoring Report

Abbott Park	LFOLA Derwen Mawr
Almond Marsh FP	LFOLA Deerpath Farms
Berkeley Prairie FP	LFOLA Everett Farms
Bonnie Brook GC WPD	LFOLA Northshore Bike path
Brae Loch GC FP	LFOLA Skokie River Nature Preserve
Buffalo Creek FP	LFOLA Westfork Savannah
Bull Creek	LFOLA West Skokie Nature Preserve
Calahan Park WPD	LFOLA Middlefork Farm
Casey Trail	Lyons Woods FP
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. AOL Trail	McDonald Woods FP
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Bear Trail	Merit Club GC
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Webelos Trail	Nippersink FP
Chain-O'Lakes St. Pk. Wolves Trail	Oak Openings
Countryside GC FP	Old School FP (East)
Cuba Marsh FP	Old School FP (West)
Dutch Gap FP	Pine Dunes FP
Flint Creek FP A	Prairie Wolf FP Dog Park
Flint Creek FP B	Prairie Wolf Slough FP South
Grant Woods FP	Ray Lake FP
Grassy Lake FP	Renwood GC RLPD
Grayslake Golf Course	Rollins Savanna FP South
Grigsby Prairie	Ryerson Woods FP
Half Day FP	Singing Hills FP
Heller Nature Center HPPD	Skokie River Reserve LBOL
Heron Creek FP	St. Francis Woods / IG FP
Highland Memorial Cem.	St. Mary's Seminary
Highmoor Nature Preserve	The Preserve of Highland Park PD
Ivanhoe Cemetery	Thunderhawk GC FP
Lakewood FP	Van Patten Woods/Sterling Lk FP
LFOLA Carruthers Nature Preserve	Wadsworth Savanna FP

### Greetings Monitors.

I received the final data reports for the above 60 trails. These trails consisted of 767 bluebird boxes throughout Lake County which was 33 less boxes monitored than last year. I am happy to report that this nesting season we had **620** bluebirds fledge from our trails. Quite a bit less than last year's record of 946, which was our best year. As always, the number of fledglings depends upon the weather and food supply. March had some cooler than average lows with some nights into the freezing temps. We had a warmer than average Spring and the last couple weeks of June and beginning of July we had some 90-degree temps. I had 3 boxes with young that died, a loss of 15. Luckily some of the boxes started second broods which helped.

One thing I found interesting was that even though we monitored 33 boxes less than last year we had more bluebirds start a nest with more than one egg 305 vs 286; it's not like they weren't trying. As you can see in the following data, out of the 898 bluebird eggs that were laid 157 didn't hatch, and 278 of the eggs didn't make it to fledging. There are many reasons this could happen including predation, drastic weather changes, and loss of one or both parents.

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 = 305  
BB Broods with 1 plus fledged = 169  
BB Eggs Laid = 898  
BB Eggs Hatched = 741  
BB Fledged = 620

Number of boxes used by other birds = 526  
Number of TS fledged = 1789  
Number of Wrens fledged = 149  
Number of Chickadees fledged = 47  
How many sparrows were prevented = 854

It's interesting that all the other species listed above fledged almost exactly the same amount as last year.

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 1144 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