

Bluebird News – Annual Clean-out Starts the Bluebird Season

Hello, Bluebird Enthusiasts!

It's most definitely spring, and the birds are getting busy. A great group of volunteers joined Joe and I for the annual box clean out on April 3. The weather was beautiful, with very little wind and NO mud. We checked and cleaned out all of the boxes on the Vredenburgh and the Durr Road trails.

The Vredenburgh Trail had 29 nests started – most of them on the upper trail – and two nests with eggs. One of the nests with eggs was on the upper trail and one on the lower trail. That was a nice surprise. Along Durr Road, 13 of the 21 boxes there had nest starts, none with eggs. That is a bit unusual, as the Mountain Bluebirds on Durr Road tend to start nesting earlier. This Mountain Bluebird hen (below) was checking out one of the Durr Road boxes with her mate.

We found that one box on the Vredenburgh was missing, one had been shot into pieces and a few needed repairs. We replaced both of those boxes and made needed repairs to others. There are also a few boxes missing along the lower trail, but we have those boxes and will put them back up when it is possible to do so. Last fall, we learned that a local cattle ranch will be replacing some of the existing barbed wire fencing along the trail with new fencing. In the process of doing so, they were removing the wire from the posts and in the process of that, a few of the boxes were temporarily displaced. We plan on trying to contact them to get a timeline for their project, but until then we will not put the boxes up unless we can find a suitable alternate location. If you have one of these boxes and they do not get re-installed this year, we will add a year to your sponsorship and let you know. We are hoping to get them back up soon, though.



Thank you to volunteers Jan and Judy Gano, Sara and Ron Montgomery, Richard Repp and Sue Wright. You make the clean out fun while getting the job done!

We will be starting our monitoring the first week of May. Here's hoping for a great season!

Karen Zook,
Vredenburgh Caretaker AKA Chair



View of the Stuart Range and windmills from Durr road.