

## Our Mission

The mission of the *Southern California Bluebird Club* is to preserve and protect the Western Bluebird and other cavity nesters in Southern California.

Our main goal is to provide a communication forum for active bluebirders in Southern California and to introduce new members to the joys of creating and monitoring nestbox trails.



Southern California  
Bluebird Club  
[www.socalbluebirds.org](http://www.socalbluebirds.org)

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Bluebird Club

## Western Bluebird Recovery Program

### Frequently Asked Questions



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Sully Reallon (949) 496-9618  
Mike Spohn (949)361-9913

## Questions and Answers

**Q.** What is the Southern California Bluebird Club?

**A.** The Southern California Bluebird Club is a group of individuals committed to the preservation and protection of the Western Bluebird and other cavity nesting birds.

**Q.** I have never seen a Western Bluebird. Are there any in my area?

**A.** Through the efforts of many dedicated individuals, the number of Bluebirds in Southern CA has increased in the last ten years. This has only occurred in areas where nestboxes are placed in strategic areas and monitored. There are still many areas in Southern CA that need nestbox trails in order to re-introduce bluebirds.

**Q.** Why are bluebirds so rare in my area?

**A.** Population growth. Bluebirds require an enclosed cavity for nesting. Commercial and residential building has reduced the number of natural nesting places for bluebirds. The reduction of old-growth trees has forced the bluebird to move to other areas.



**Q.** How can we get the Western Bluebird back?

**A.** The short answer—provide suitable nesting locations. The best way to do this is to hang and monitor bluebird nestboxes in trees along greenbelts, golf courses and in parks. Bluebirds eat insects and they thrive in open spaces with close-cut grass.

**Q.** How can I help?

**A.** If you own or manage park land, golf courses, cemeteries, or have a very large grass yard, you can support us by allowing bluebird enthusiasts to hang nestboxes in trees on your property. We are professionals and will treat your property as if it was our own.

If you are interested in hanging and monitoring one or more nestboxes—great! We can provide you the nestbox, Purvis lifter, monitoring forms, and advice to get you started. The only thing you *must* provide is enthusiasm for our mission and a commitment to monitor your boxes at least once a week from February to August.

We must warn you—Bluebirding is very rewarding and just plain fun. We guarantee you will get hooked!

**Q.** What is nestbox monitoring and why is it important?

**A.** Hanging a nestbox is not enough. It is critically important you *maintain* your box. As you will quickly learn, nestboxes are very dynamic environments. Your goal is to convince a mating pair of bluebirds to take up residence. Unfortunately, your nestbox is also very attractive to other bird species as well as ants, bees, wasps, and other interesting characters. If you don't monitor your boxes every week during the breeding season, it can be taken over by predators. You must keep your nestboxes in prime condition so bluebirds have a safe environment to rear their young. There are people in Orange County who monitor hundreds of boxes!

**Q.** What is a nestbox trail?

**A.** A nestbox trail is defined as five or more nestboxes placed along prime bluebird territory. We recommend you space your nestboxes at least 100-150 yards apart because nesting bluebirds are quite territorial.

**Q.** How do you know the bluebird population in Southern California is growing?

**A.** We know the number of bluebirds is increasing because we keep count. Once you commit to monitoring your boxes we ask you to keep track of the number of bluebirds that fledge from your boxes each year. The California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP) is a statewide organization that collects and publishes the number of young bluebirds and other cavity nesters that fledge each year.

Bluebird enthusiasts from all over the state of California send in their numbers to the CBRP at the end of the breeding season. The collected statistics are totaled, published and distributed.

It is interesting to note, Orange County hosts one of the most active and successful bluebird restoration programs in the entire state of California.

**Q.** Who can I contact for more information about this exciting program?

**A.** You can contact Sully Reallon (949)496-9618 hippolyte@cox.net or Mike Spohn (949)361-9913 mspohn@socalbluebirds.org for more information.

We also have a web site:  
<http://www.socalbluebirds.org>

You can also find more information about bluebirds at the North American Bluebird Society web site: <http://www.nabluebirdsociety.com>



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