

2018 BLUEBIRD NESTBOX SURVEY RESULTS

The Oklahoma Wildlife Diversity Program has been requesting information from those who monitor bluebird nestboxes since 1985. Through this citizen science effort, the Wildlife Diversity Program uses the information to better understand the use of nestboxes by cavity nesters and to provide a “peek” into the breeding activities of these birds. We are so thankful to the participants that take the time to help the Eastern Bluebird and other native cavity-nesting birds and for the information they share with us. For the 2018 breeding season, 10 nestbox survey reports were received. The number of nestboxes monitored in 2018 was **160**, representing eight counties. Table (1) provides a ten year comparison (2008-2018) of survey results. Please note that the comparison focuses primarily on Eastern Bluebird breeding activities.

The following species attempted nesting in nestboxes in 2018: **Eastern Bluebird (170)**, **Carolina Chickadee (5)**, **Carolina Wren (3)**, **Tufted Titmouse (3)**, **Bewick’s Wren (4)**, **House Wren (1)**, and **House Sparrow (24)**. The House Sparrow was again an unwelcome species on the list as noted by the 24 nesting attempts reported. However, not one chick fledged out of the 24 nesting attempts! This demonstrates how continual monitoring helps to alleviate competition from these non-native species. Congratulations!

As in previous years, not all nesting attempts were monitored throughout the breeding season, and therefore, the number of eggs laid, hatched, and young fledged represent the minimums for the Eastern Bluebird. Monitors reported at least **534 Eastern Bluebirds fledged from 160 clutches**. Figure (1) is a map of Oklahoma showing bluebird data by county for the 2018 breeding season. Included are the number of monitored nestboxes and the number of fledged bluebirds reported by county.

The data, based on submitted reports, reflects the Eastern Bluebird breeding success rate of **3.5** fledged per clutch for 2018 which is slightly below the 10-year average (2007-2017) of fledged/clutch for the Oklahoma Bluebird Nestbox Survey (3.67) . This is still good news!

The **total number of fledged bluebirds reported to the Oklahoma Bluebird Nestbox survey since 1985:** **64,727**



From Lori Fry (Okmulgee County)

TABLE 1. Ten year comparison of breeding success reported for Eastern Bluebirds using monitored nestboxes.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Counties Reporting	19	18	12	9	9	11	12	10	9	6	8
Reports Submitted	39	35	25	13	12	15	19	13	14	10	10
Species Using nestboxes	13	9	10	7	6	8	8	7	6	5	7
# Nestboxes Monitored	628	566	471	284	268	286	408	165	168	138	160
Nesting Attempts	467	483	318	223	191	189	260	171	228	145	170
Clutches	434	419	286	213	176	176	248	159	194	159	160
# Eggs	1885	1892	1321	929	771	730	1111	762	889	741	703
Eggs/Clutch	4.3	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.4
# Chicks	1609	1409	1017	688	597	561	903	649	760	621	586
Chick/Clutch	3.7	3.4	3.6	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.7
Chicks/Eggs	85%	74%	77%	74%	77%	77%	81%	85%	85%	83%	83%
# Fledged	1530	1406	963	658	560	469	867	614	700	540	534
Fledged/Clutch	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.1	3.2	2.6	3.5	3.9	3.6	3.4	3.3
Fledged/Eggs	81%	74%	73%	71%	72%	64%	78%	81%	79%	73%	76%
Fledged/Hatched	95%	99%	95%	96%	94%	74%	96%	94%	92%	87%	91%

Over 300 Bluebird Boxes are constructed at Wildlife Expo!



Families first learn about bluebirds & how to monitor the nest boxes.



Then the construction begins!



Happy families ready to participate in bluebird conservation!

2019 UPDATE

We would very much like for you to use the updated form available online at:

<https://wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity-program/Oklahoma-Nest-Box-Trails-Project>

You can attach the completed form to an email to Melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov or you can submit your data online at the same link listed above. Please use this form to record the results of your bluebird nestbox monitoring **and discard any older forms you may have.**

Annual reports are posted on the OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation's website under "Citizen Science" and a summary is provided in the monthly e-newsletter, *The Wild Side*. If you have not subscribed to this free newsletter you may do so at:

<https://wildlifedepartment.com/wildlife/wildlife-diversity/wildside-old>

One really great resource online for information on bluebird nestbox monitoring is www.sialis.org. It is all about bluebirds and there is even a pictorial representation of the different ages of the chicks in the nest. I think you will enjoy the website.

The Oklahoma Bluebird Society offers more specific information about bluebirds in Oklahoma through 2 meetings per year and a newsletter. For meeting and membership information, check out www.oklahomabluebirdsociety.org (link below) or follow them on Facebook.

http://oklahomabluebirdsociety.org/?fbclid=IwAR1_eSC7NChasfi7MZtPDCYclpOEPXeUj3KycZObzcASD8SKvCaGaZfxa3o

One more tool for your toolbox is the Nestwatch app from Cornell University. The app has lots of features including digital record-keeping and GPS mapping.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

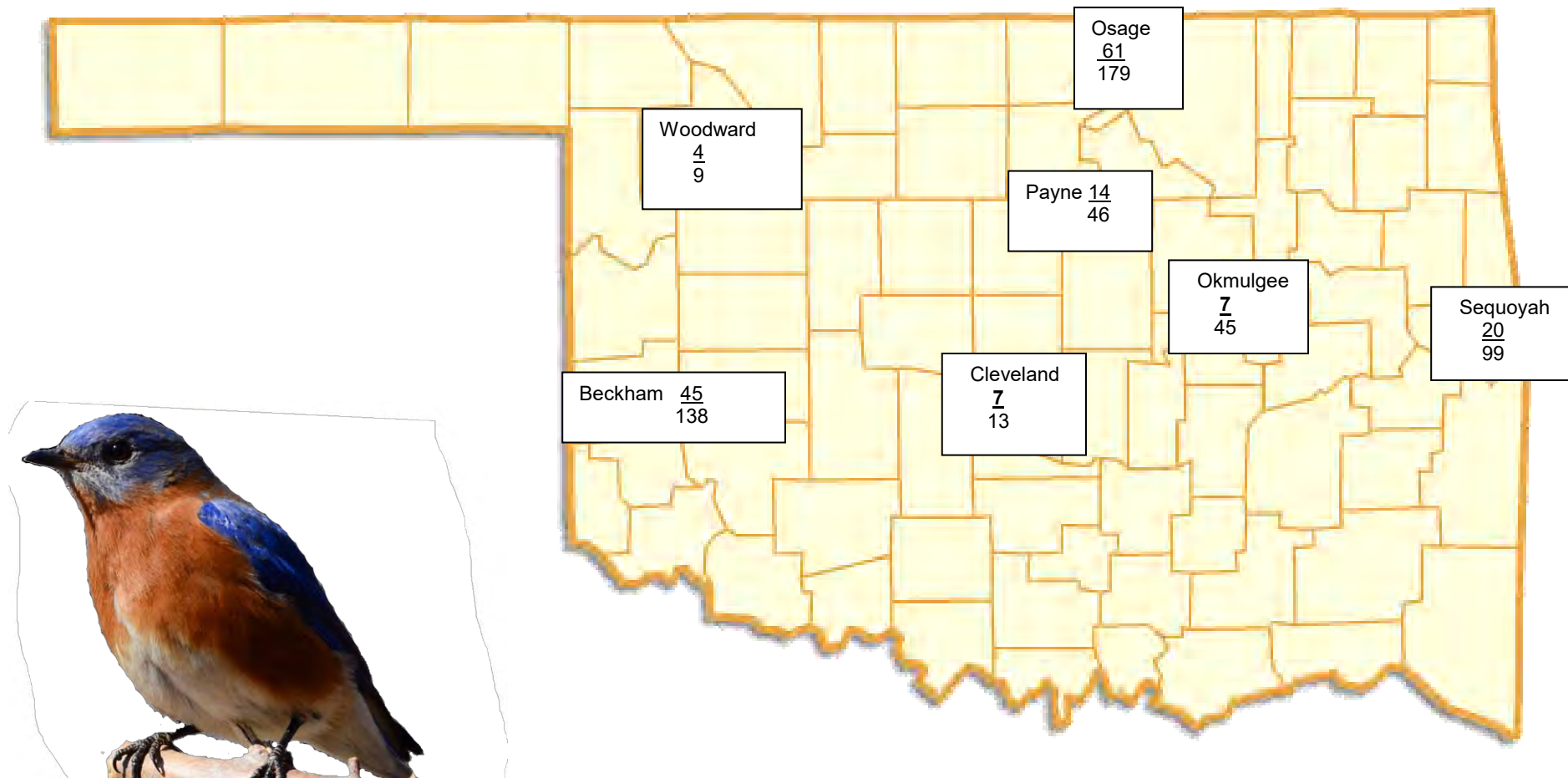


Figure 1. 2018 Bluebird Nesting Results by County

Top number is # of boxes monitored:

Bottom number is # of bluebirds fledged