

## 2012 BLUEBIRD NESTBOX SURVEY RESULTS

Twelve (12) nestbox survey reports were received for the 2012 breeding season. The number of nestboxes monitored was 268, representing nine counties. Table (1) provides a ten year comparison (2002-2012) of survey results. Please note that the comparison focuses primarily on Eastern Bluebird breeding activities.

The following species attempted nesting in nestboxes: **Eastern Bluebird (191), Carolina Chickadee (11), Tufted Titmouse (6), Carolina Wren (4), Bewick’s Wren (4), Great-crested Flycatcher (3) and House Sparrow (3)**. In 2012, the House Sparrow was again an unwelcome species on the list. However, **NOT ONE CHICK** fledged out of the 3 nesting attempts reported! 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 **560 Eastern Bluebirds** fledged from **176 clutches**. Figure 1 is a map of Oklahoma showing bluebird data by county for the 2012 breeding season. Included are the number of monitored nestboxes and the number of fledgling bluebirds reported by county.

The data, based on submitted reports, reflects the Eastern Bluebird breeding success rate of 3.2 fledged per clutch for 2012, which is above the 10-year average of fledged/clutch for the Oklahoma Bluebird Nestbox Survey (3.28).

The **total number of fledged bluebirds reported to the Oklahoma Bluebird Nestbox survey since 1985:** **60,703**

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

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>Counties Reporting</b>	22	21	21	28	21	15	19	18	12	<b>9</b>	9
<b>Reports Submitted</b>	40	44	51	71	48	31	39	35	25	<b>13</b>	12
<b>Species*</b>	7	9	10	12	10	12	13	9	10	<b>7</b>	6
<b># Nestboxes Monitored</b>	714	780	767	973	744	545	628	566	471	<b>284</b>	268
<b>Nesting Attempts</b>	650	664	110	734	754	386	467	483	318	<b>223</b>	191
<b>Clutches</b>	588	641	612	736	715	367	434	419	286	<b>213</b>	176
<b># Eggs</b>	2611	2863	2676	3309	3253	1653	1885	1892	1321	<b>929</b>	771
<b>Eggs/Clutch</b>	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.6	<b>4.4</b>	4.4
<b># Chicks</b>	1998	2250	2165	2708	2519	1203	1609	1409	1017	<b>688</b>	597
<b>Chick/Clutch</b>	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.6	<b>3.2</b>	3.4
<b>Chicks/Eggs</b>	76%	78%	81%	82%	77%	73%	85%	74%	77%	<b>74%</b>	77%
<b># Fledged</b>	1879	2128	2092	2551	2317	1133	1530	1406	963	<b>658</b>	560
<b>Fledged/Clutch</b>	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.4	<b>3.1</b>	3.2
<b>Fledged/Eggs</b>	72%	74%	78%	77%	71%	68%	81%	74%	73%	<b>71%</b>	72%
<b>Fledged/Hatched</b>	94%	94%	97%	94%	92%	94%	95%	99%	95%	<b>96%</b>	94%

## COMMENTS

Following are the comments provided by the trail reporters. Thank you so much for taking the time to provide some thoughts, ideas, and concerns:

- First attempt: first egg laid March 30<sup>th</sup> and all 5 fledged May 4<sup>th</sup>. Second attempt: first egg laid May 26<sup>th</sup>, 5 eggs laid and none hatched. 2 of the 5 eggs appeared fertilized. Maybe parents disappeared? Too hot? Nest in direct sun so will move for next year. Predators do not appear to be the problem. (McCurtain County)
- I had problems with ants and wasps. The major problem was the weather. (Oklahoma County)
- The worst year ever for Bluebirds on the trail. Only had Eastern bluebirds, Carolina Wrens, and Great-crested Flycatchers. Usually we will also have Carolina chickadees, Tree swallows and Tufted titmouse. Not sure why. (Comanche County)

## 2012 UPDATE

Enclosed please find a survey form that can be used to submit 2013 results. Please use this form to record the results of your bluebird nestbox monitoring and discard any older forms you may have.

This report will be posted on the OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation's website under "Citizen Science". If you misplace your survey form, the form is available on the same site to download and save. Go to:

[http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/citizen\\_science.htm](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/wildlifemgmt/citizen_science.htm)

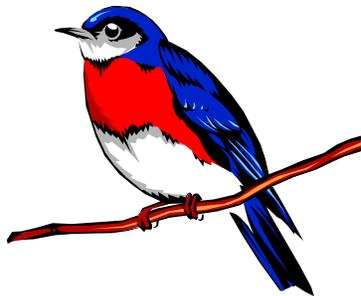
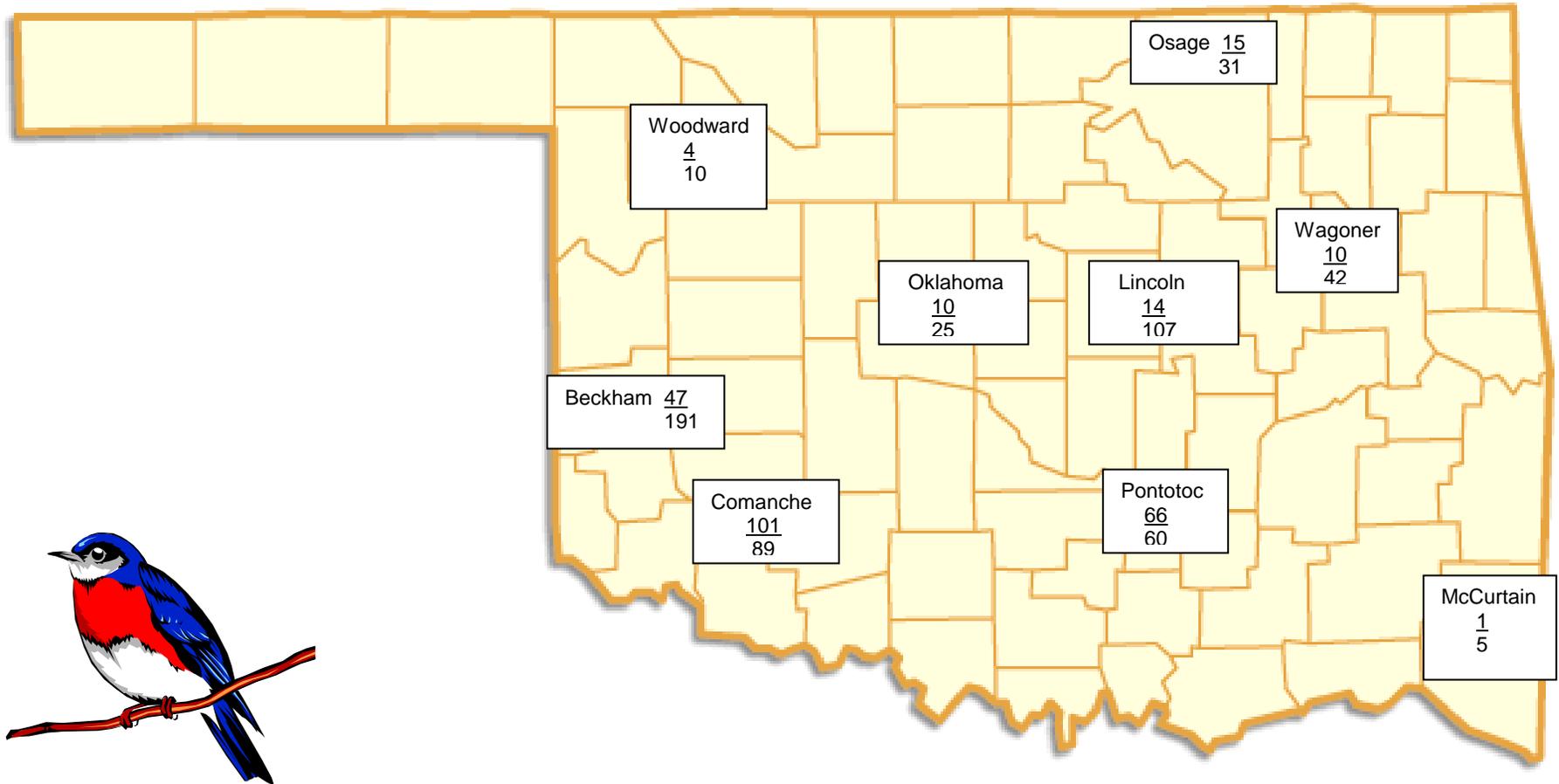


Figure 1. 2012 Bluebird Nesting Results

The top number is the number of nestboxes monitored;

Bottom number is the number of bluebirds fledged