



San Juan Islands Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project

Spring Update

March 2011

The Bluebird Project Needs Your Help

We are now raising funds to support our last year of the reintroductions! You can support the 2011 project by making a tax-deductible donation today. And, we've got a few goodies for you as our way of saying thanks for keepin' us flying!

For donations of \$40 or more, you'll receive one of our



coveted Bluebird Project hats

For donations greater than \$150, you'll receive a signed, numbered print of the pastel "Bluebirds and Garry Oak Spring" by San Juan Island artist Nancy Spaulding

They're Back!



Perhaps you've noticed that our spring is a little, well, late this year. However, the recent (short-lived) spell of warm weather has brought us our first bluebird sightings (although one intrepid pair did arrive during our snowfall in late February!) We are pleased to announce that so far, **10 pairs of birds and several 'singles' have appeared and are settling into territories on San Juan Island.** Included in this group is one female returning for a fourth(!) breeding season, and a few unbanded birds (which could either be new recruits from their wintering areas or birds born here we were unaware of). Regardless, we are thrilled to have them back and expect more to arrive in the coming weeks. **Remember to have your nest boxes cleaned and ready for them!**

In addition to returning birds, we have the return of a summer field technician, who gets the great task of monitoring and caring for the bluebird population while they are on San Juan. This year our tech is Sara Cendajas-Zarelli. Be looking for her in the white pickup with the



bluebird logo on the side and be sure to say hi!

As always, please report your sightings (especially during this critical time when we are trying to determine who has returned). Any sightings can be reported directly to Sara at 360-298-2822, or to Kathleen at 360-378-2461.

Happy Spring Everyone!

All proceeds will go directly to the Bluebird Project.

We greatly appreciate any and all contributions! Contact Kathleen Foley at kathleenf@sjpt.org or at 378-2461 if you would like to see these items. Checks can be made out to The San Juan Preservation Trust, PO Box 327, Lopez, WA 98261 (please write "Bluebirds" on your check so we know what it is for).

SAVE THE DATE!

**BLUEBIRD PROJECT
WRAP-UP CELEBRATION & PICNIC
SATURDAY, SEPT 10
SAN JUAN ISLAND**

DETAILS FORTHCOMING!

The San Juan Islands Western Bluebird Reintroduction Project is a partnership of the following organizations:

[The San Juan Preservation Trust](#)

[American Bird Conservancy](#)

[Ecostudies Institute](#)

[San Juan Islands Audubon Society](#)

A Harmless Little Brown Job?



Not exactly. While most LBJ's (or "Little Brown Jobs", as many of the small sparrows and finches are nicknamed) in our region are "harmless", you do need to be aware of the effects of one non-native species, the English House Sparrow (adult male pictured above). House sparrows, introduced from Europe, appear to be benign little creatures. However, they can wreak havoc on other cavity nesting species and can be lethal to bluebirds. They will destroy eggs and nestlings, and in some cases have killed adult bluebirds to gain access to a nest cavity.

The best prevention against house sparrows taking up residence in your bluebird nest box is to consider its placement. Keep boxes off and as far away from buildings as possible. Those who live in dense residential neighborhoods are discouraged from installing bluebird nest boxes as it is more likely that house sparrows will occupy it, leading to an increase in the population on the island.

in cooperation with:

Washington State Dept. of Fish &
Wildlife

Ft. Lewis Military Installation

The Nature Conservancy of
Washington

Pacific Coast Joint Venture

House sparrows are not a protected species (as they are non-native). If you think you have a house sparrow occupying a nest box you can legally remove the nest/eggs (you may prefer to do this before the eggs hatch). If you aren't sure if you are looking at a house sparrow or nest, we are glad to assist you (as we certainly don't want disturbance of any of our native cavity nesters!) Feel free to contact myself or Sara, our field tech, for help.

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