

# 2020 Bluebird Report

## Cumberland County Bluebird Club of the Tennessee Bluebird Society

### Summary

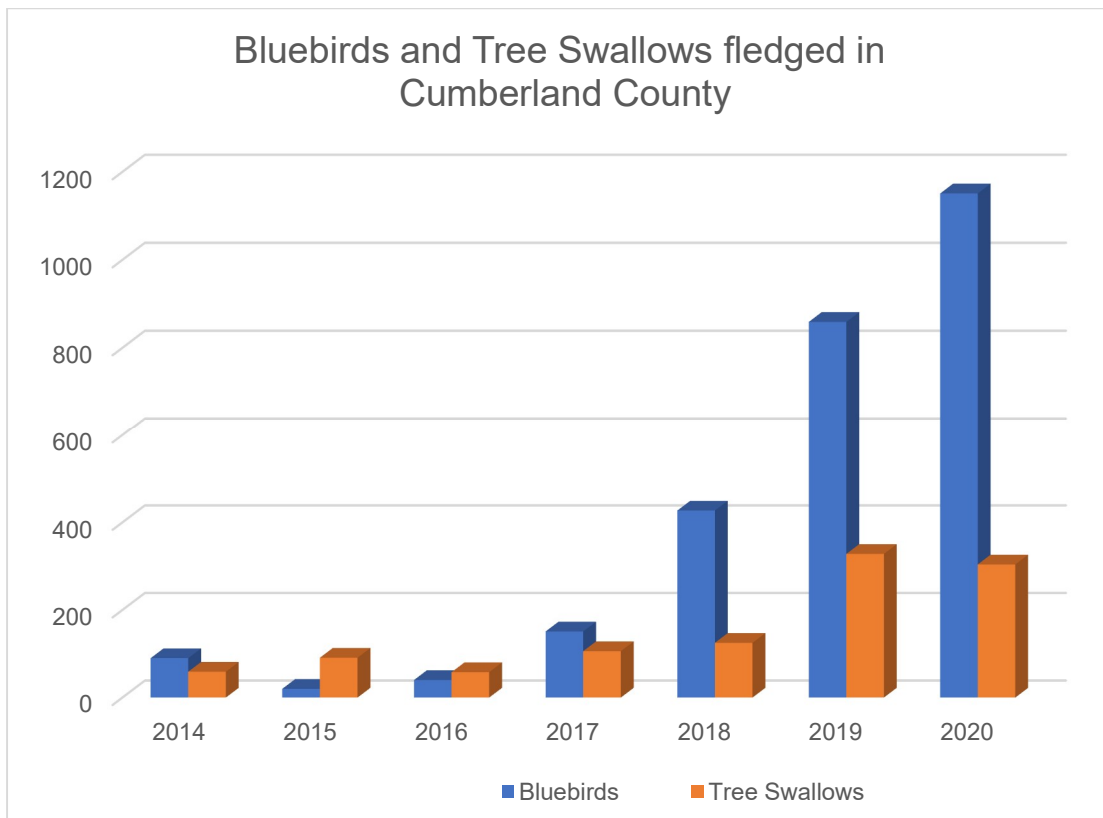
2020 was another successful year for native cavity nesting birds in Cumberland County. Man-made nest boxes are critically important for bluebirds and tree swallows to be able to compete with non-native house sparrows and starlings.

2020 had more than enough abnormal challenges, on many fronts, and that included for bluebirds. A number of young birds and eggs did not survive the extreme cold snap in early May, and raccoons and rat snakes continued to raid a number of boxes.

We installed Noel guards, a wire enclosure that surrounds the hole, on many boxes and will install more in 2021. These guards keep raccoons from being able to reach into the nest box to eat eggs or babies. We also, plan to install Kingston guards, a stovepipe on the poles, were possible, to stop rat snakes from climbing to the boxes. Bear Trace golf course has Kingston guards on all 35 boxes and raccoon and snake predation at Bear Trace was near zero.

Members of our Cumberland County club partnered with a Putnam garden club and the City of Cookeville to establish nest boxes in 2 Cookeville city parks. And thanks to Bob Weber at Fairfield Glade and Sam Hicks at Cumberland Cove golf course for allowing us to add 15 new bluebird nest boxes in each of those locations this year. In addition, we began to count the nest boxes in our club member's backyards this year where 268 bluebirds fledged. Our Cumberland County club added over 70 additional nest boxes that we monitor this year.

The charts that follow show many locations had a reduction in birds fledged, year over year, but the total was up due to new locations and the counting of club members nest boxes. We believe that a normal weather year in 2021 and additional predator guards will improve results next year.



<b>2020 Cumberland County Bluebird Report</b>	<b># boxes</b>	<b>BB fledged in 2020</b>	<b>BB fledged last year</b>	<b>TS fledged in 2020</b>	<b>TS fledged last year</b>
Bear Trace	35	102	115	104	124
Crag	14	47	28		9
Brae	16	66	63	8	10
Druid Hills	15	86	80		5
Dorchester	28	94	117	16	23
Water Treatment	21	88	104	4	8
Pleasant Hill	13	51	40	8	14
Crossville parks	19	46	42	52	29
Stonehenge GC	20	60	96		5
Meadow lake park	14	38	48	20	28
Fairgrounds	15	39	53	15	28
Roane State CC	12	11	15	28	32
UT Ag Center	19	40	58	22	13
FFG Central	15	63	0	9	new in 2020
Cumberland Cove	15	52	0	11	new in 2020
CC Monitors	54	268	0	7	new in 2020
<b>Totals</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>328</b>