

CHECKING UNATTENDED BOXES

1. Make sure hook is well bent and replace box if you are unsure if it is safe. We have experienced boxes falling due to hooks becoming elongated. This is a safety issue and could result in serious injury to you or someone else.
2. Hang on a sturdy limb in the shade with hole facing North or East if at all possible.
3. Make sure box is high enough to be safe from vandalism.
4. Box should be hidden from view as much as possible.
5. Remove any leaves or twigs that may touch the box. This important to minimize the ability of ants to enter box.
6. Take several new or refurbished boxes with you to replace old or dilapidated boxes. Boxes are available from Dick Purvis in Anaheim (714) 776-8878.
7. Do not replace missing boxes until a new monitor is found.
8. Observe if the location is still good bluebird habitat and easy to access. (Irrigation in some turf areas may have been turned off and grass is dead or in poor condition. Sports fields/additional building etc has altered some locations. Some are far away and difficult to get to from the car.) Recommend removal if the box is in poor condition, clearly abandoned, in poor habitat/locations and a lone box i.e. if no others are found. In such cases, suggest removing the location from the master list.
9. Lone boxes are generally not encouraged if they are not being monitored, even if in good habitat. If you remove a box please notify Bill Wallace so that he can make note in our database. www.walrus58@att.net.
10. If location has high quality habitat (such as medium-large parks, golf courses, cemeteries) and the location has 3 (?) or more boxes in good condition, clean out boxes and leave inside a note with contact information to call us. We suggest a square piece of cardboard cut to fit the inside floor of the box rather than note paper which could fly away.
11. If a neglected box is at a cemetery do not remove unless it is clearly an imminent hazard because it may be a "memorial" box. Instead clean out and put note with contact information inside.
12. If possible, contact property owner to gather information about any known monitor, and explain that we want to update our nest box list and ensure boxes are well cared for, otherwise we prefer to remove them.
13. Get GPS of each box left in place if possible or note location of each box such as nearest house number, NW of Playground, S of Restroom etc.
14. Keep notes for each location; after doing several, it might be tough to remember what we observed and did.