Photograph by Deb Beazley

**Bluebirds are symbols for happiness, love and renewal. Their colorful plumage and expressive songs have delighted Warner Parks' visitors for as many years as the Parks have existed. But bluebirds have more to offer than their good looks. They help control insect populations and provide valuable scientific data to researchers who track their population and movements. After decades of decline, Warner's bluebirds are on the rebound, thanks to the long-running Amelia Laskey Bluebird Nesting Box Trail program and its dedicated volunteers.**

Photograph by Deb Beazley

# Take action!

**Partner with *The Bluebird Cafe* and Friends of Warner Parks to support Warner's bluebird programs through a designated contribution to:**

Friends of Warner Parks
50 Vaughn Road
Nashville, TN 37221

**All gifts are fully tax deductible.**
**Call 615.370.8053 with questions.**

Photograph by Deb Beazley

**Warner Park Nature Center** is a place where people and nature come together. It serves as a gateway to Nashville's Percy and Edwin Warner Parks, as well as a natural history and education reference center for individuals, groups and schools. Its mission is to provide quality environmental education and responsible recreation; help protect, preserve, restore and manage the park ecosystem and natural resources; and raise awareness, foster respect and share enthusiasm for the natural environment. The nature center and its staff have received numerous awards on local, state and national levels.

**2015 Bluebird Nesting Box Team**

**Friends of Warner Parks** is dedicated to the protection, preservation and stewardship of the Warner Parks. Founded as a 501(c)3 in 1987, FOWP has raised over 30 million dollars to help fund improvements and programs benefiting all who enjoy the Warner Parks.

# Eastern Bluebirds in Warner Parks

Photograph by Diana McLusky

*A legacy of conservation and research*

# Then and now

In 1936, ornithologist Amelia Laskey started Warner's bluebird nesting box program, installing and monitoring nesting boxes throughout the parks. For more than 40 years until her death, she kept meticulous records on the number or eggs laid and hatched, the number of birds fledged, repeat and return banding records, movements and matings of individual birds, and predation statistics. Following in her footsteps was Virginia Price, who introduced the study of bluebirds to Warner Park Nature Center in 1976. Since then, WPNC staff and volunteers have continued this research, making the Amelia Laskey Bluebird Trail among the oldest programs of its kind anywhere.

Today, volunteers continue to monitor and care for the bluebird boxes around Warner Parks. Hatchlings are banded and all data recorded are shared with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, putting Warner on the map as an important avian research site.

***It takes a village*** to ensure Warner's beloved bluebirds are protected through a better understanding of their life cycle and habitat. Learn more about how you can be a part of this legacy.

# What you can do

- Make a donation to Warner Parks' ongoing bluebird research and conservation programs.
- Volunteer and support the Amelia Laskey Bluebird Nest Box trail in Warner Parks.
- Install nest boxes at home and monitor them regularly to prevent non-native species from using them.
- Provide and protect suitable habitats including dead standing trees, and plant native trees, shrubs and vines for winter food.
- Avoid using pesticides.
- Keep your cats indoors! Domestic cats kill millions of birds each year, including bluebirds.
- Learn more about Eastern Bluebirds: visit a Nature Center, contact the TN Ornithological Society, TN Wildlife Resource Agency, or the North American Bluebird Society
- Contact Warner Park Nature Center at 615.352.6299 for more information.

*Photograph by Diana McLusky*

**Bluebirds have broods of three to six babies, and often have multiple broods in a nesting season.**

*Photograph by Deb Beazley*

# A bluebird calendar:

**February-March:** Bluebirds are out searching for nesting sites, singing, establishing territories, and pairing off.

**March-May:** Nesting season begins. You may see courtship, nest-building, or parents carrying food to and waste from nests. Warner's bluebird volunteers begin to monitor next boxes frequently.

**May-August:** Nesting cycles are repeated; second and even third broods are possible. Males care for the young of previous broods. Number of eggs per clutch and incubation period may decrease. Bluebird volunteers continue to monitor nests, record data, and remove old nests promptly.

**September:** Nesting winds down. Family groups are frequently seen, and both parents and young birds help to feed the final broods of the season.

**Fall-Winter:** Warner's bluebird volunteers compile records and compare yearly summaries. Boxes are cleaned and repaired, and new ones added. Winter is a crucial survival period, with local flocks living off native fruits and berries and roosting in boxes or natural cavities. Bluebirds can still be seen as brilliant azure flashes among the Parks' bare trees!