

SEABROOK ISLAND BLUEBIRD MONITORING

THINGS TO BRING:

Bluebird Notebook

Monitoring Bucket

- **Gloves**
- **Ink pen**
- **Pliers**
- **Screwdriver**
- **Trash bag (for old nests and trash)**
- **Paper towels**
- **Band-Aids**
- **Irish Spring soap (to discourage wasps)**
- **Putty knife (to clean box after nesting)**
- **Nest Box Brush (to clean bottom of box)**
- **Box hole brush (to clean drain holes)**
- **Diatomaceous Earth bottle (against insects)**

Additions You Might Want

- **Tangle Foot Goo (for ants)**
- **apply 1" band to pole 6" above ground - otherwise birds can get caught**
- **Fire ant bait (Amdro Fire Ant Bait Granular)**
- **sprinkle a couple of tablespoons around fire ant mounds**
- **Wasp & hornet spray**
- **non-poisonous to birds – recommended by National Audubon Society**
- **Insect repellent**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Bottle of water**
- **Neosporin**

SAFETY ON THE TRAIL

- **Carry your cell phone**
- **Tell someone where you're going**
- **Watch for fire ants – no sandals or shorts**
- **Wear gloves**
- **Report problems to Dean Morr at 768-8278**
- **Watch for nest box intruders: wasps, bees, snakes**

MONITORING STEPS:

1. Check the bucket to be sure that contents are complete
2. Avoid monitoring in the early morning and late afternoon just before dark
3. Check-in at the golf shop to let them know you'll be on the course
4. Obtain a golf cart if you'd like. Walking is okay too.
5. Complete the Log In Sheet in the front of the book
6. Proceed through the golf holes in reverse order (as placed in the book)
7. As you reach a box, verify that you are using the correct monitoring sheet for that box
8. Review last week's comments on the sheet
 - a. If previous status indicates that there should currently be young 12 days or more old and there are cautionary notes, you may skip the box. Otherwise, proceed very carefully to minimize the risk that the young will fly out
9. Approach box from the side
10. Tap gently on the side of the box
11. Open box slowly
 - a. If one or more of the young escape, put them back in the nest.
 - b. Remain a few minutes to assure that all is well.
12. Assess status of box and clean if necessary
13. Close box and fasten
14. Update monitoring sheet
15. Proceed to the next monitoring sheet and repeat from "7" on
16. When all boxes checked return cart to storage area (far left side of the building)
17. Remove sheets for all completed broods
 - a. take to the recorder to Dean Morr, 3233 Middle Dam Court (768-8278)