



MANAGING NEST BOXES IN TREES SCHEDULED FOR PRUNING OR REMOVAL



This nest box is too high for a monitor to reach

An active nest box should be protected like any other active nest. Please delay work in the tree until the birds have left. This is likely to occur by the end of August, or in some cases, sooner.

If it is necessary to relocate the box in the same tree, please try to place it at the same height from the ground. Monitors use 'lifters' to take down and check a box weekly during the nesting season; but also to clean it out and repair it. Lifters may vary in height, but a box placed beyond 20 feet from the ground is unreachable for a monitor.

Do keep in mind that monitors choose lateral branches to keep boxes level, and to prevent them from slipping down a limb or into the fork of a tree where a predator climbing up a trunk may have easier access to it.

The wire hook on a box is shaped to avoid the risk that wind might upend the box and cast it to the ground. Straightening the wire hook and wrapping it all the way



Avoid wrapping the box hook around a limb

around a limb means that a lifter cannot be used to lower the box. With rare exception, monitors do their work without ladders; and they do not climb trees.

If you have to remove a box between the months of February and August (when most birds breed), please do not open the box, especially if you hear the high-pitched chirping of baby birds inside, or see parents approaching you or the box as you near it. At a certain stage of development baby birds may bolt prematurely from an open box if they are alarmed.



Place nest boxes in shade to protect young from high temperatures

If no contact information for the nest box monitor is pasted to the box exterior, please immediately report the problem to the property owner (or client) and report specifically where you have re-hung the box.

Please include your name and phone number in your report.

As a last resort, relocate the box in a shaded area of the nearest tree, and out of public reach, while also making sure that the box will be visible to parents searching for it.

If the box is active and no other safe option can be found, please call the nearest wildlife rehabilitation center for advice. Delivering the baby birds to a licensed bird

rehabilitation center may be advised.

To find one near you:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Rehab/Facilities>

For questions: Southern California Bluebird Club. www.socalbluebirds.org