



BIRD OF THE MONTH - JUNE 2022



The Huntington Beach Tree Society proudly names the Western Bluebird as the official symbol, mascot, and spokesperson of the Urban Forest!

The Western Bluebird was selected because it's a perfect representative for the Urban Forest. Both entities manifest hope, resilience and renewal in the face of myriad challenges to our natural environment.

The Western Bluebird came close to entirely disappearing in Orange County in the last century due to destruction of its needed forested environment that was being rapidly urbanized without essential mitigation. An association of concerned birders arose 30 years ago to place customized nest boxes in key parks across the county providing a lifeline for a beloved species on the edge of disappearance in our urban areas. The Southern California Bluebird Club continues this focused mission throughout the southland to great success (see also: socialbluebirds.org).

Likewise, the Urban Forest rose from tiny seedlings planted a mere 20 years ago into a maturing, towering forest in a lush, vibrant environment providing ideal nesting opportunities for the

vulnerable Western Bluebird. The Western Bluebird thrives in this forested habitat offering natural crevices for nesting as well as abundant food sources. Urban Forest volunteers supplement tree crevices with customized nest boxes perfectly designed for Western Bluebirds breeding success.

A dedicated team of birders survey and tally all the birds and bird species each month producing a report viewable on the website. It's accompanied by extraordinary photos that can be a useful learning tool when preparing for a visit to the Urban Forest. It's great to know what birds can be expected each month, and a thrill to encounter them on your own.

To learn more about the fascinating range of distinctive birds appearing in the Urban Forest and along the Shipley to Shore Nature Trail, and about our new spokesperson, visit:

hbtrees.org/urban-forest-2/meet-the-urban-forest-spokesbird.