

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE VREDENBURGH BLUEBIRD TRAIL

The trail is a string of nest boxes beginning at the end of the pavement on North Wenas Road and stretching 13 miles to the intersection of Durr Road just above Ellensburg. Established by YVAS members in 1982, the trail now consists of 132 boxes.

On Feb 28, 1982 the first 47 of 58 nest boxes were put up on fence posts and trees along the road between the Wenas and Ellensburg with 21 club members contributing to the effort. Leaders of the project were Harold and Virginia Vredenburg.

Weekly monitoring of the nest boxes by members and friends started the next week and continued until mid summer when the last young birds were fledged. 72 Western Bluebirds and 54 Mountain Bluebirds were fledged from the 58 boxes in 1982. The number of boxes increased to 86 in 1983 when 125 Western Bluebirds and 66 Mountain Bluebirds were fledged.

By 1990 the trail had grown to 125 boxes and 304 Western and 118 Mountain Bluebirds fledged that year. Since its start, this trail has fledged over 11,000 Bluebirds.

In 1994 the trail was named The Vredenburg Bluebird Trail in honor of Harold and Virginia. The Yakima Valley Audubon Society continues to coordinate the efforts of volunteers to maintain and monitor the trail.

In addition to the Vredenburg Bluebird Trail, there are several other smaller trails in the Wenas and Naches Valley areas cared for by individual Audubon members. Fledge totals from these trails are probably equal to the Vredenburg Trail total.

Mountain Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatches, Tree Swallows and occasionally other species also utilize these nest boxes.