

2016 CDLO NESTING BIRDS SUCCESS RATES

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

67 swallow / bluebird boxes available. First Tree Swallows arrived 01/28. First nest building observed 03/09, first egg observed 04/05, last young fledged between 07/24 and 07/29. Some birds nested twice. First nesters occupied 52 boxes. Second nesters occupied 33. 1st, 2nd and cumulative results:

| | EGG TO HATCH % * | YOUNG TO FLEDGING %** | MORTALITY*** |
|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| TS (1ST) | (251) 92.03% (231) | (231) 83.12% (192) | (39) 16.88% |
| TS (2ND) | (142) 91.55% (130) | (130) 52.31% (68) | (62) 47.69% |
| TS (CUM.) | (393) 91.85% (361) | (361) 72.02% (260) | (101) 27.98% |

WESTERN BLUEBIRD (*Sialia mexicana*)

Bluebirds are resident birds. First nest building observed 03/09, first egg observed 04/16, last fledged young between 07/06 and 07/12. A few birds nested twice. First nesters occupied 12 boxes. Second nesters occupied 2 boxes. 1st, 2nd and cumulative results:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| WB (1ST) | (59) 83.05% (49) | (49) 61.22% (30) | (19) 38.78% |
| WB (2ND) | (8) 75.00% (6) | (6) 100.00% (6) | (0) 00.00% |
| WB (CUM.) | (67) 82.09% (55) | (55) 65.45% (36) | (19) 34.54% |

VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta thalassina*)

Unknown when first birds arrived. First nest building observed 04/16, first egg observed 05/28, last fledged young between 07/12 and 07/18. First nesters occupied 2 boxes. One second nester. Surprisingly, some of these birds sometimes were found in boxes with Tree Swallows, either sharing or helping out. 1st, 2nd and cumulative results:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| VGS (1ST) | (10) 80.00% (8) | (8) 100.00% (8) | (0) 00.00% |
| VGS (2ND) | (15) 100.00% (15) | (15) 73.33% (11) | (4) 26.67% |
| VGS (CUM.) | (25) 92.00% (23) | (23) 82.61% (19) | (4) 17.39% |

HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Unknown when first birds arrived. First nest building, eggs and young sometime before 05/02. Last fledged young between 06/28 and 07/06. 3 nests, one a 2nd nest. All in special small bird boxes. 1st, 2nd and cumulative results:

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| HW (1ST) | (13) 100.00% (13) | (13) 100.00% (13) | (0) 00.00% |
| HW (2ND) | (7) 100.00% | (7) 100.00% | (0) 00.00% |
| HW (CUM.) | (20) 100.00% (20) | (20) 100.00% (20) | (0) 00.00% |

BLACK PHOEBE (*Sayornis nigricans*)

Probably resident. Not a box or cavity nester. Reuses previous nest when available. First eggs prior to 04/05. First young between 04/16 and 04/24. A single nest and a triple nester. 1st, 2nd and cumulative results:

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| BP(1ST) | (9) 100.00% (9) | (9) 100.00% (9) | (0) 00.00% |
| BP(2ND) | (4) 100.00%(4) | (4) 100.00% (4) | (0) 00.00% |
| BP(3RD) | (4) 100.00% (4) | (4) 100.00% (4) | (0) 00.00% |
| BP(CUM.) | (17) 100.00% (17) | (17) 100.00% (17) | (0) 00.00% |

* Some eggs don't hatch, some just disappear. Maybe they are eaten by stressed adults during periods of inclement weather when insects are hard to come by. Maybe unknown nest robbers take some. Lots of research opportunities here.

** Comparison of actual eggs hatched to those that become fledglings and leave the nest.

*** Some are found dead at various ages, die of abandonment, die from loss of a parent, and a few just disappear, usually when very small. Another research possibility. Fledging does not guarantee success. There is much to learn about getting your own food, avoiding predators and staying healthy enough to survive the rigors of the coming of winter or the challenge of long migrations.

There were other species that were not strictly monitored, but were still particularly noted. Our Tricolored Blackbird colony flourished despite several years of drastic declines in other areas. This could be called the year of the quail. Conditions apparently were just right for huge reproductive successes for our State bird.



As a young male Violet-green Swallow, I like to look my best when migrating. Its been a good spring and summer at the Reserve, but I'm on my way south. I may stop in southern California, but my wanderlust usually takes me from Mexico south to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Thanks for your hospitality and that comfy bird house. With a little luck, I'll see you again next spring.