

Nest Box Monitoring in Genesee – 2020

Tom Kresse. January 2, 2021 :



Tree Swallows in a Bluebird nest box.

Photo by Sara Kresse

After monitoring nest boxes with Evergreen Audubon in 2017, I noticed that there are many nest boxes installed in the Genesee Foundation Open Space where I live. In talking with the Genesee Open Space Manager, I learned that there are 82 nest boxes and that the nest boxes have not been monitored recently. So in 2018, I started monitoring 21 nest boxes in Genesee. In 2019, another Genesee resident joined me in monitoring, and we monitored 31 nest boxes.

In 2020, volunteers were solicited to help monitor all of the nest boxes in Genesee. Fifteen individuals or couples monitored 82 nest boxes. The nest boxes were monitored every 7 – 10 days from late May through mid-August or until all the chicks had left the nests.

For the 82 nest boxes, 63 (77%) had a nesting attempt, and 38 (46%) were successful in producing fledglings. Seven species were observed nesting in boxes (Table 1). Of occupied boxes, swallows were the most prevalent (54%), and Tree Swallows were the most abundant box nester (Table 1). Although Bluebirds occupied only 27% of the nest boxes, they were more productive than swallows (2.35 fledglings/attempt vs 1.76). The remaining 19% of the boxes were occupied by Mountain Chickadees, House Wrens and House Finches. All of the results have been entered in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch site.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who made the 2020 season a success. We plan on continuing our nest box monitoring in 2021. If you live in Genesee and would like to participate in 2021, please contact me at tomkresse15@gmail.com.

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