

Nest Box Monitoring in Genesee – 2021

Tom Kresse November 1, 2021 :



Tree Swallows in a Bluebird nest box. Photo by Sara Kresse

All 83 nest boxes located in Genesee were monitored in 2021 by 17 persons or couples. There has been much community interest in conducting nest box monitoring, and many of the volunteers in 2021 participated for the first time. Thanks to all who volunteered!

There were 41 nest attempts (49%), and 31 pairs (37%) had successful nests (Table 1). Swallows were most successful, producing 34 fledglings, followed by Mountain Chickadees (32 fledglings) and bluebirds (30 fledglings).

Compared to 2020, all numbers were down; there were 29% fewer nesting attempts, 18% fewer successful nests, and 11% fewer fledglings. This pattern was also reported from Evergreen nest box monitoring sites in 2021. The cool and snowy late spring delayed many of the initial nesting attempts, which may have had an effect, or last fall's disastrous fall migration may have reduced the number of birds this spring. After a quick re-installation of a box destroyed by a bear, mountain bluebirds re-nested and successfully fledged five chicks.

| | Mountain Chickadee | Swallows | | | House Wren | Bluebirds | | House Finch | Pygmy Nuthatch |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------|--------------|---------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------------|
| | | Tree | Violet-green | Unknown | | Western | Mountain | | |
| Nesting Attempts | 6 | 2 | 12 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| Successful Nests | 5 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Clutch Size | 7.2 | 5.0 | 4.2 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 8.5 | 6.2 | 4.3 | 7 |
| % Hatched of Eggs Laid | 94% | 50% | 60% | 50% | 100% | 47% | 97% | 100% | 71% |
| % Fledged of Eggs Laid | 89% | 30% | 60% | 43% | 100% | 47% | 71% | 100% | 57% |
| Chicks Fledged/ Nesting Attempt | 5.3 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 2 | 1.8 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 4 |
| Total Number of Fledglings | 32 | 3 | 25 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 22 | 13 | 4 |

Table 1. Occupancy and breeding success of birds using nest boxes in Genesee, Colorado, 2021.