

Bird House Results From The Uxbridge Countryside Preserve 2019  
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**History**

This marks the eleventh year that bird houses have been available for nesting in the Preserve. In 2015 the Scouts assisted by adding a predator control piece to eleven of the wooden boxes . In 2017 and again in 2018 a total of four metal ( mouse proof ) bird houses were added, so that now twenty nine artificial cavities are available for the Tree swallow, House wren, Eastern Bluebird, and Black Capped Chickadees. In 2015 local residents volunteered to assist in monitoring nesting attempts. At that time swallow numbers were up and wrens were down indicating positive changes since 2013. Bluebirds preferred the metal boxes and wooden boxes without predator control covers over the holes. Swallows and wrens had no observed preference. This summary now looks at the five years since 2015

**Results**

Generally the populations of swallows appear to be dropping as indicated by lower nesting attempts despite the increase in nest boxes. Wren numbers are slightly up. Bluebirds peaked in 2017 and dropped this year.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Boxes	24	24	26	28	29
Tree Swallow	20	21	16	11	13
Eastern Bluebird	2	4	7	6	2
Black capped Chickadee	2	0	1	0	0
House Wren	6	4	8	7	9
Nesting attempts	30	29	32	24	24

Notes: Numbers of each species means pairs nesting which does not imply success  
Attempts may include more than one species in the same box

**Discussion and Nesting Success**

This years fledgling estimates are : forty nine swallows , eight bluebirds and over thirty wrens. Last year forty four swallows, fifteen bluebirds, and only eighteen wrens counted. In 2016 sixty one swallows fledged twenty one bluebirds and sixteen wrens. This data indicates an overall drop in nest success over the five years.

Determining how successful a family of birds is requires opening the box to count eggs and young and determining if the young fledged, ( flew from the nest). Accurate data is only possible if the bird box is visited regularly which was not always the case. Volunteer help is inconsistent but appreciated . Thanks to all those that helped out.

Anyone interested in participating in future monitoring please contact  
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