

Sacajawea Audubon 2016 Bluebird Trail Summary

Overall, 2016 was a productive year for Mountain Bluebirds. A total of 676 bluebirds fledged from nest boxes on our 6 monitored trails. 181 boxes were used out of 272 available. The remainder were used by tree swallows and house wrens.

Because of a relatively mild spring, the bluebirds began laying eggs over a week earlier than usual. Even a mid-May snowstorm didn't slow them down. The Rocky Mountain Road trail had its earliest-ever nestling, found on May 4th.

On the Pass Creek Rd./Rocky Mountain Rd. trails, we banded a total of 310 birds, 268 nestlings and 42 adult females. We also recaptured 8 females, a couple of which had been banded as nestlings the previous year. It's nice to know they are coming back to nest in their natal area.

Predation of nests was up from previous years. The Rocky Mountain Rd. trail had a total of 24 predated nests (up from 18 last year). The Pass Creek trail had 34 nests predated (up from 32 last year). The causes were varied: snakes, raccoons, weasels, kestrels & house sparrows. In fact one box was found to have a complete house sparrow nest built on top of a dead female bluebird.

One of the most interesting events of the nesting season was an epic battle between a resident male bluebird (whose mate and nestlings had died), and another bluebird pair for the occupancy of Box 70 on Rocky Mountain Road. The three birds were so engrossed in their fight that they were oblivious to our presence and even slammed into my car on two occasions. In the end, the new pair won out and successfully raised six fledglings. And we thought bluebirds were such gentle creatures!

We took a total of 22 people out on the bluebird trails this summer, including 10 on the June 12th field trip. Everyone loves to see those little bluebird nestlings and hold one in their hands.

The bluebird nest box sponsorship program was a great success, and we plan to do it again for 2017. Following is a complete report of the success (or failure) of each box, along with its sponsor.

Lou Ann Harris

| Box # | Sponsor Name | Box Result |
|-------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Christine Gore-Masi (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 6, 2nd predated |
| 2 | Christine Gore-Masi (Paul Gore) | 2 nests: 1st fledged 5 bb, 2nd tree swallow |
| 3 | Helen Tolliver (Judy Tolliver) | 2 nests: 1st fledged 6 bb, 2nd tree swallow |
| 4 | Phyllis Woods (Roxanna McLaughlin) | 2 nests: 1st bb nest failed, 2nd tree swallow |
| 5 | Erna Smeets | Bluebird nest failed |
| 6 | Star Reiersen | 2 nests: 1st bb nest predated, 2nd tree swallow |
| 7 | Julie Catanese | 2 nests: 1st bb nest predated, 2nd tree swallow |

| Box # | Sponsor Name | Box Result |
|-------|---|--|
| 8 | Tonia Joy Jane (Roxanna McLaughlin) | 1 tree swallow nest |
| 9 | Rick Sanders | 1 successful tree swallow nest |
| 10 | Paul Gore, Jr. (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd fledged 2 |
| 11 | | |
| 12 | Lucille Craver (Beverly Fowler) | 2 nests: 1st predated bluebird, 2nd tree swallow |
| 13 | Julie Catanese | 2 nests: 1st predated bluebird, 2nd h. wren |
| 14 | Star Reiersen | 2 nests: 1st predated bluebird, 2nd tree swallow |
| 15 | Harry & Terry Milvid (Mary Lou Wild) | 2 nests: 1st bb nest predated, 2nd tree swallow |
| 16 | | |
| 17 | | |
| 18 | | |
| 19 | | |
| 20 | | |
| 21 | Stephanie Nelson, Mary Lee Reese | 2 nests: 1st bb nest predated, 2nd tree swallow |
| 25 | Michael Alexander McDonald (Fowler) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 6, 2nd predated |
| 26 | Sadie Palmer (Ashley Martens) | 1 successful bluebird nest, fledged 6 |
| 27 | Oliver Powell (Peg Osbourn/David Cole) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd fledged 4 |
| 28 | Nancy Kettle | 1 successful bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 31 | Kay Milligan (Patty Fraser) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 5, 2nd failed |
| 32 | Ronna Leon | 2 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd fledged 6 |
| 33 | Becky Foster | 1 bluebird nest: predated (snake) |
| 34 | John Edwards, Sheila Skinner | 2 abandoned bluebird nest cups, no eggs |
| 35 | Joe & Robin Evers (Audrey/Joe Evers) | 1 successful bluebird nest, fledged 2 |
| 36 | Michael Bernard Kelly, Auntie Hedwig Kinzli | 2 nests: 1st abandoned bb, 2nd tree swallow |
| 37 | William Hanson (Mel McCarver) | 2 nests: 1st fledged 4 bluebirds, 2nd tree swallow |
| 38 | Margaret Perryman | 2 nests: 1st bb nest predated, 2nd tree swallow |
| 39 | Emily Robinson (Suzan Strobel) | 2 nests: 1st failed bb, 2nd tree swallow |
| 40 | Star Reiersen | 2 bluebird nests: both failed |

| Box # | Sponsor Name | Box Result |
|-------|---|--|
| 41 | Michael Bernard Kelly (Kathryn Kelly) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd fledged 3 |
| 42 | Carol Anderson & Bob Swinth | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 43 | Evie Barnes (Glenda Barnes) | 1 tree swallow nest |
| 44 | Auntie Hedwig Kinzli, Alice Quinn Carey | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd failed |
| 45 | Margaret Perryman | Empty, no nests |
| 46 | Lila Hochberg (Lila Bishop) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd failed |
| 47 | Erna Smeets | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 5, 2nd predated |
| 47A | Ned Bixler | 1 predated bluebird nest |
| 47D | Jerry Taylor, Wild Birds Unlimited | 1 predated bluebird nest |
| 48 | Julie Catanese | 2 nests: 1st failed bb, 2nd succ. tree swallow |
| 49 | Beth Kaeding | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd predated |
| 50 | Kathy Williams | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd failed |
| 51 | John Edwards, Sheila Skinner | 2 nests: 1st fledged 5 bb, 2nd tree swallow |
| 52 | Mr & Mrs Ralph Goldman | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 1, 2nd predated |
| 57 | Ann Gore (Paul Gore) | 3 predated nests: 2 bluebird, 1 tree swallow |
| 58 | Ann Gore (Paul Gore) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 59 | Lila Hochberg (Lila Bishop) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 6, 1 predated |
| 60 | Marilyn Klockslem | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5, 1 tree swallow. |
| 61 | Mr & Mrs Ralph Goldman | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 4. |
| 62 | Colleen Gore (Paul Gore) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5. |
| 62A | Sharon Hanton | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 63 | Margaret Perryman | 2 bluebird nests: 1 predated, 1 fledged 4 |
| 64 | Mary Ann Byerly | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 4. 1 tree swallow |
| 65 | Richard Krawiec | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 65A | Mr & Mrs Ralph Goldman | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 65B | Oliver Palmer | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 4. |
| 66 | Sally Kratochvil (Peg Osbourn/David Cole) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 67 | Timothy Gore (Paul Gore) | 2 failed nests: 1 bluebird, 1 tree swallow |

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|-------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 69 | Christine Gore-Masi (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 7, 2nd fledged 4 |
| 70 | Evelyn Acton | 2 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd fledged 6 |
| 71 | Sophie Freeman (Leo Freeman) | 2 bluebirds nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd predated |
| 72 | Paul Gore, Jr. (Paul Gore) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 6 |
| 73 | Paul Gore, Jr. (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 74 | Ethan Hanson (Mel McCarver) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 75 | Timothy Gore (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 2, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 76 | Bob Schleicher | 2 bluebirds nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd failed |
| 77 | Becky Foster | 3 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd & 3rd predated |
| 78 | Richard Krawiec | 1 bluebird nest, failed. |
| 79 | Virginia Jakobe | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 5, 2nd fledged 3 |
| 81 | Jerry Taylor, Wild Birds Unlimited | No bluebird nests. Empty entire season. |
| 82 | Suzan Strobel | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 2, 2nd failed |
| 83 | Ann Gore (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: both failed |
| 84 | Harry & Terry Milvid (Mary Lou Wild) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 5, 2nd predated |
| 85 | Jerry Taylor, Wild Birds Unlimited | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 5, 2nd failed |
| 86 | Jim Bennett (Marilyn Klockslem) | 3 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd & 3rd predated |
| 87 | Sandy Pittendrigh | 2 bluebird nests: both predated |
| 88 | Adele Pittendrigh | 2 bluebirds nests: 1st fledged 6, 2nd predated |
| 89 | Auntie Hedwig Kinzli (Jenny Younger) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 5 |
| 90 | Kay Milligan (Patty Fraser) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 4, 2nd predated |
| 91 | Kay Milligan (Patty Fraser) | 1 bluebird nest, fledged 4. |
| 92 | Stephanie Nelson, Mary Lee Reese | 2 bluebird nests: Both fledged 5 (10 total) |
| 93 | Audrey & Joel Evers | 2 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 94A | John Edwards, Sheila Skinner | 2 nests: 1st predated bluebird, 2nd succ. wren |
| 94B | Stephanie Nelson, Mary Lee Reese | 2 nests: 1st predated bluebird, 2nd pred. swallow |
| 95 | Colleen Gore (Paul Gore) | 4 nests: 2 failed bb, 1 failed swall, 1 failed wren |
| 96 | Vern & Cis Craig (Debra Wheat) | 2 bluebird nests: 1 predated, 1 failed |

| Box # | Sponsor Name | Box Result |
|-------|-----------------------------|--|
| 97 | Lila Hochberg (Lila Bishop) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 2 |
| 98 | Timothy Gore (Paul Gore) | 2 bluebird nests: 1st failed, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 99 | Lynn Mugaas | 2 bluebird nests: 1st fledged 1, 2nd predated |
| 99A | Lynn Mugaas | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 100 | Evelyn Acton | 2 nests: 1st fledged 5 bluebirds, 2nd pred. swallow. |
| 106 | John Parker | 2 nests: 1st failed bb, 2nd failed tree swallow |
| 107 | Beth Kaeding | 2 bluebird nests: 1st predated, 2nd fledged 5 |
| 109 | Colleen Gore (Paul Gore) | 3 nests: 2 house sparr. (tossed), 3rd fledged 3 bb |