
NOTES and LETTERS

NEWLY FLEDGED TREE SWALLOWS WHICH VISITED OTHER NESTBOXES

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Young tree swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) do not usually return to the natal cavity/nest box after first flight.¹ Data gathered from nest boxes located near the Rocky Mountain foothills west of Calgary suggests that some young birds may occasionally enter other boxes in the days after fledging. Boxes here are generally located on roadside fenceposts widely spaced in habitat suitable for the target species, mountain bluebird (*Sialia currocoides*).

Bill Taylor banded nestling swallow 2321-99569 on August 2, 2009. He found it dead, along with a dead hatchling in another of his boxes about 4 km east August 26. Taylor banded a nestling swallow 2511-85400 (estimated 15 days old) in a brood of six in a box NW of Water Valley on July 14, 2013. It was recaptured in another of his boxes with six unbanded young N of Millarville on July 17. Straight-line distance between the boxes is 89 km directly South.

Notes from the late George

Loades, a longtime nestbox monitor west of Calgary, indicated that on July 24, 2007, he banded 11 nestlings in one box that on the previous visit(s) had seven young. That same day he found another box with 10 unbanded young that had previously contained only six.

The attached picture, taken by Dick Stauffer on July 24, 2005, late in the season, shows seven Tree Swallows congregating around an active TS nest.

Editor's note: see the Dawson article p. 133 in this issue of Blue Jay for a discussion on this behaviour at sites near Prince George, BC.

References:

1. Winkler DW, Hallinger KK, Ardia, DR, Robertson RJ, Stutchbury BJ, Cohen RR (2011) Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/011>