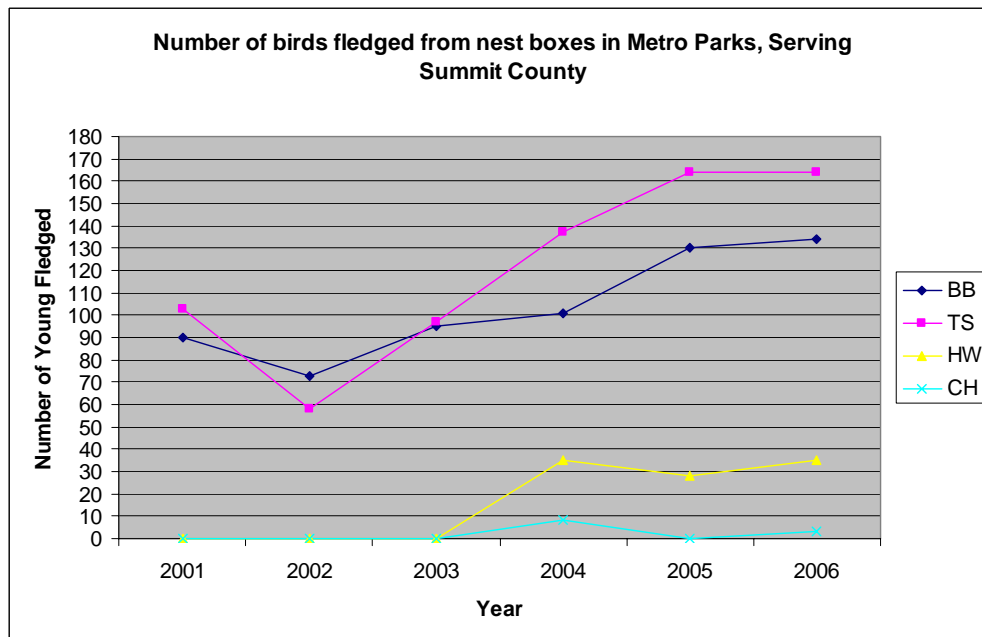


## Bird House Monitoring Summary 2006

Volunteers continued to monitor bird houses this year in the Metro Parks, managing for native cavity nesting species. Quick Road Conservation Area, Clinton Towpath, Cascade Valley, Hampton Hills, O'Neil Woods, Nature Realm, Firestone, Goodyear Heights, Silver Creek and Munroe Falls Metro Parks contain 108 bird boxes being maintained through this program. The boxes are checked once a week from late March through early August. Non-native cavity nesting species such as house sparrows are discouraged from nesting, while the nesting success of native species such as black-capped chickadees, eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, and house wrens is monitored.

In 2005, seven boxes were removed in Silver Creek Metro Park, leaving 25 boxes to be monitored in 2006. These seven boxes were not being utilized frequently, and were removed to make monitoring efforts more efficient. Four boxes were donated to the Metro Parks and placed in Clinton along the towpath trail.

The graph below illustrates the total numbers of birds fledges in all the boxes from 2001-2006. The numbers of eastern bluebirds, tree swallows and house wrens remained relatively stable from last year. There were no chickadees fledged in any boxes in 2005. However, three were fledged this year at the Nature Realm.



The numbers of birds fledged of each species from each park are listed in Tables 1 through 4. The percent success of each species is demonstrated by the number of birds fledged divided by the number of eggs laid. The nesting success varies slightly from year to year. Various factors effect nesting success such as unexpected weather events or changes in food availability. It was a particularly wet summer, and as expected nesting success is lower in most cases from last year.

The boxes placed along the towpath in Clinton did well. In the boxes where young were raised, all of the birds fledged. Both eastern bluebirds and tree swallows nested in these boxes along the towpath trail.

An interesting observation made by the volunteer monitoring these boxes was that bluebirds seemed to be deterred by the wooden predator guard placed around the entrance hole. Two of the boxes had these predator guards and two did not (see illustration in Appendix 1). The two boxes without the guard had birds in them. As soon as the wooden predator guards were removed from the other two boxes, birds occupied them within days. This preference has been reported in other parts of the county.

The bird house monitoring program will continue in 2007, with no additional boxes placed.



Table 3. Tree Swallow reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2000-2006.

Tree Swallows	F.A. Seiberling Naturealm		Firestone Metro Park		Hampton Hills Metro Park		O'Neil Woods Metro Park		Quick Rd Conservation Area		Silver Creek Metro Park		Cascade Valley Metro Park		Munroe Falls Metro Park		Goodyear Heights Metro Park		Clinton Towpath	
	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success
2000	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	100%	17	68%	10	77%	unk	unk	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	0	N/A	unk	unk	13	72%	38	60%	15	68%	37	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	N/A	N/A	3	50%	10	55%	27	56%	4	24%	14	70%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	0	0%	0	0%	15	71%	38	86%	12	67%	27	85%	5	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	11	100%	8	ukn	21	88%	39	83%	13	76%	37	60%	8	73%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	12	63%	unk	unk	23	82%	40	78%	15	94%	47	85%	13	93%	5	100%	9	100%	N/A	N/A
2006	16	73%	15	94%	15	75%	37	86%	12	71%	35	71%	15	79%	4	67%	6	75%	9	100%

Table 4. House Wren reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2000-2006.

House wrens	F.A. Seiberling Naturealm		Firestone Metro Park		Hampton Hills Metro Park		O'Neil Woods Metro Park		Quick Rd Conservation Area		Silver Creek Metro Park		Cascade Valley Metro Park		Munroe Falls Metro Park		Goodyear Heights Metro Park		Clinton Towpath	
	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success
2004	10	100%	15	unk	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	5	36%	5	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	5	42%	unk	unk	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	23	96%	0	0%	0	0%	N/A	N/A
2006	20	95%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	12	100%	17	77%	0	0%	0	0%	6	100%

## Appendix 1

Photo 1 – standard nest box with wooden predator guard around entrance hole.

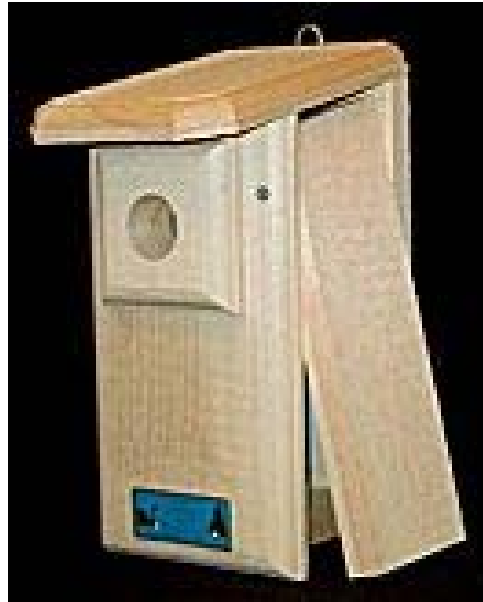


Photo 2 – standard nest box without wooden predator guard around entrance hole.

