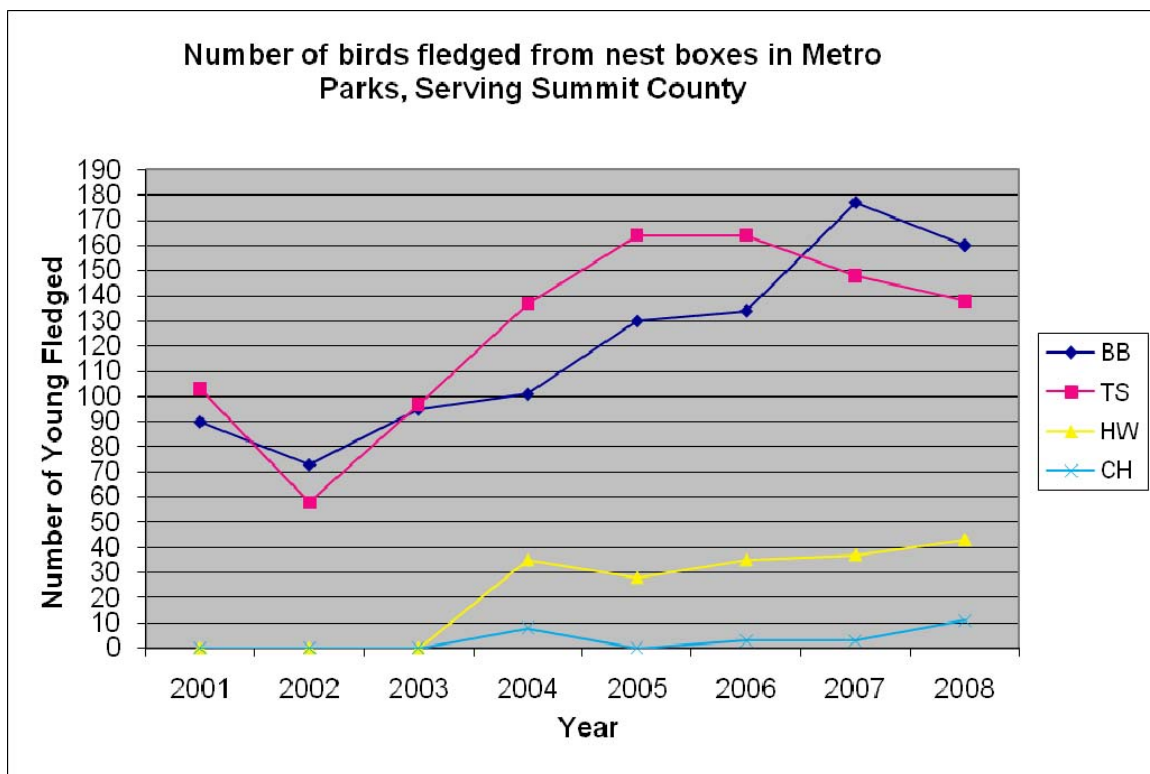


Bird House Monitoring Summary 2008

Volunteers continued to monitor bird houses this year in the Metro Parks, managing for native cavity nesting species. Quick Road Conservation Area, Clinton Towpath, Liberty Park, Nature Realm, Cascade Valley, Hampton Hills, O'Neil Woods, Firestone, Goodyear Heights, Silver Creek and Munroe Falls Metro Parks contain 116 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.

The graph below illustrates the total numbers of birds fledges in all the boxes from 2001-2008. As you can see, the numbers of tree swallows and eastern bluebirds are declining and house wren and chickadee numbers are on the rise. This trend is very likely caused by the succession of many of the natural areas where boxes occur. This trend may continue as succession of these areas continues.



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.

While the total number of eastern bluebirds fledged only dropped by 10%, there was a marked decline in nesting success for the species in several parks. Many more eggs were laid than were successfully reared and fledged. This may be due to our very cool and rainy spring. These weather conditions are difficult for early nesters like the eastern bluebird, who typically start their first brood in early April.

Chickadees did not nest in boxes at the Nature Realm as in previous years. However, they did nest successfully at Firestone and O'Neil Woods Metro Parks, a clear indication that the habitat around the boxes is changing. Chickadees only nest in heavily forested habitat under the protection of canopy cover.

House wren numbers also increased. They nested in Firestone and Munroe Falls Metro Parks this year where they hadn't had success in recent past. However, nesting success in Firestone Metro Park fell by 50%.

Tree swallow numbers also decline from 2007, but only by 7%. Firestone, O'Neil Woods and Cascade Valley Metro Parks actually saw an increase in nesting success for this species in 2008. This decline may not warrant any concern.

The bird house monitoring program will continue in 2009, with no additional boxes added to the program. Some nesting boxes at Silver Creek Metro Park may be removed due to accessibility concerns.

Table I. Eastern Bluebird reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, 2000-2008.

Bluebirds	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		Liberty Park	
	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success	# fledged	% success
2000	0	0%	N/A	N/A	9	69%	38	76%	9	90%	unk	unk	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2001	0	N/A	unk	unk	15	52%	39	61%	4	67%	32	unk	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	N/A	N/A	0	0%	5	31%	40	65%	5	19%	23	51%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	3	60%	0	0%	15	83%	35	80%	10	59%	32	76%	0	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	6	86%	5	100%	14	93%	30	88%	14	78%	29	74%	3	23%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2005	9	100%	unk	unk	19	70%	39	64%	13	76%	27	66%	8	62%	14	82%	1	25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2006	3	75%	4	80%	16	47%	46	71%	18	78%	10	100%	12	67%	7	100%	9	60%	9	100%	N/A	N/A
2007	21	100%	0	0%	20	56%	25	66%	10	56%	53	85%	8	73%	14	78%	8	57%	10	67%	8	100%
2008	14	70%	4	0%	17	85%	35	64%	10	31%	43	90%	3	18%	8	75%	0	0%	16	100%	10	53%

Table 2. Black-capped Chickadee reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County, 2000-2008.

[illegible]

Table 3. Tree Swallow reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2000-2008.

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		Liberty Park	
	# fledged	% success	# 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	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	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	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	N/A	N/A
2004	11	100%	8	unk	21	88%	39	83%	13	76%	37	60%	8	73%	N/A	N/A	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	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%	N/A	N/A
2007	6	100%	14	78%	17	94%	22	48%	13	57%	38	100%	13	72%	6	100%	6	67%	3	100%	10	90%
2008	6	60%	8	89%	18	64%	27	73%	20	91%	34	89%	12	100%	5	83%	0	0%	0	0%	8	53%

Table 4. House Wren reproductive success in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2000-2008.

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		Liberty Park	
	# fledged	% success	# 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	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	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%	N/A	N/A
2007	0	0%	11	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	22	88%	15	94%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2008	9	90%	3	50%	N/A	0%	0	0%	0	0%	19	83%	5	100%	7	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%