

2018 Report

2018 report to VWF by Rob H.

Three nest boxes of a different design were tried this year. The new design boxes were built by a Vegreville resident. The design is a larger box with a flat roof. They also have a piece of foam mounted inside them for the birds to place their nest on.

Two boxes were placed on the fence line across from the Vegreville “Buck for Wildlife” property located on Range Road 152 by Highway 16, and one box was located along the roadside near the VWF outdoor range.

The swallows arrived on April 26 and tried the nest boxes but had trouble entering the boxes with the entry hole placed on the bottom front of the boxes. Perches were added but these did not solve the entry problem either. The lower holes were then covered and a new hole placed higher up on the box fronts. Within a day the swallows were entering the boxes and nested in all three. Fledging of young was completed by July 4 and the boxes were cleaned out on July 15. These boxes were later sealed for the winter.

Results of the new boxes were:

- A large amount of grass and feathers was used in all of the boxes.
- two had nests built by the hold, not on the foam.
- The third box had two nests built in it, of which only one had been used for egg laying and nesting.
- The new boxes are larger and heavier than the normal boxes thus can be mounted only on the thicker posts.
- The new boxes protrude from the posts quite a bit further than the normal boxes.

Conclusion – VWF will stay with the original design box – the “North American Bluebird box” design.