

2022 Report

2022 report to VWF by Rob H.

Rube Johnston Bluebird Trail 2022 – Season Results

Maintained by Robert B. Hughes for The Vegreville Wildlife Federation

Fledged Birds: Mountain Bluebirds 15 in three boxes, Tree Swallows 283 in 61 boxes

Nest Boxes Disturbed by Other Species: House Wren 5, House Sparrow 1, Mouse nests 5

I checked the boxes on August 27, 28, 29, and 31, 2021.

Mountain Bluebirds (MB) nested in only three boxes this year, with one of these pairs having two clutches, for a total of 15 fledglings. I found 2 non-viable eggs in one box. I am still finding low nest box use by Mountain Bluebirds.

Tree Swallows (TS) initiated nests in 60 boxes. Two nests were started by TS but not used, one box contained 5 dead hatchlings, one box was taken over by House Sparrows, and one used by House Wrens. TS faired well overall with 283 fledged.

Roeben Test Boxes (horizontal design): Box SR3, at the VWF shooting range had 4 TS fledged. Boxes R10 and R19 both had TS nests, each having 6 TS fledged. I made no photos of these nest box results this year.

Maintenance: and nest box removal: As I worked along the trail, I re-marked all box identifiers, and tightened fence post screws. On a few of the boxes, the top-back seal has broken or is missing. To compensate, I've screwed down the lid at the back and left corner. Box Sm3 on Akasu Hill was missing (damaged last year), and box Sm2 was once again destroyed by vandals. Due to this repeated destruction by vandals to the nest boxes on Akasu Hill over the years, I decided to remove the remaining two boxes.