

Report for Don and Lowell Franks Nest Box Project

12/10/2025

The Franks Nest Box Project continues to be a viable resource used by many cavity nesters at varying percentages of occupancy depending on the type of terrain. For example, at Summer Lake where we have 104 boxes, the occupancy is about 98%. Many are the fine weave of Bluebird nests, the majority of which are occupied by Mountain Bluebirds. It isn't necessarily easy to speculate about species for some of the other boxes. We know that most boxes at Summer Lake are used by swallows. In locations like Sand Springs, some water is present for much of the year but it is generally dryer terrain with occupancy around 60%, mostly Bluebirds, demonstrated by their finesse in nest building. We have 9 boxes there. Areas adjacent to irrigated agriculture like Fort Rock have an occupancy rate of over 80%.

There are seven sites for nesting boxes between south Pine Mountain and Summer Lake that currently total about 170 nest boxes. The number is fluid because boxes disappear, get damaged or fall apart. These have been supplemented in the last three years by over fifty newly built boxes and a good number of repairs on still existing boxes. About a dozen and a half new boxes per year will probably be needed in the foreseeable future, and that is for the purpose of maintaining what exists without any further expansion. Expansion is always possible in other areas if additional volunteers have the desire to be involved. This could be anywhere in the area considered to be East Cascades Bird Alliance territory.

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