

TO Kevin Fazzini, Park Region 5
Alan Lichtenwalner, Park Region 1
Mary Lorah, Park Region 3
Jeremy Rekich, Park Region 2
Jason Zimmerman, Park Region 4

FROM Teresa A. Kromel *Teresa A. Kromel*
Chief
Outdoor Programming Services Division

DATE December 18, 2015

RE 2015 Cavity-nesting Trails Summary Report

Attached is the 2015 Bureau of State Parks Cavity-nesting Trails Summary Report. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff, 52 state parks monitored 2,017 boxes and fledged a total of 7,155 birds, including eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, purple martins, wood ducks, and several other species. Despite colder than normal temperatures and drier weather from the beginning of the year through early spring, then above normal temperatures and precipitation into June, and severe weather throughout the rest of the nesting season there was an increase in fledgling numbers compared to 2014. Since the program's beginning in 1980, volunteers have fledged over 117,000 individual birds and over 19 species.

This year's annual Cavity-nesting Monitors Meeting was scheduled for Saturday, October 10 at French Creek State Park in Elverson, PA. However, due to the state budget impasse and travel restrictions the meeting was cancelled. Next year's meeting will take place at French Creek State Park.

Shirley Halk was awarded the 2015 Monitor of the Year. A dedicated volunteer at Memorial Lake and Swatara state parks for over 27 years, Shirley has played a major role in the increase of the eastern bluebird population not only within the parks, but also the surrounding Fort Indiantown Gap area. Yearly, she monitors over 100 nest boxes within the park, as well as more than 200 nest boxes locally. When she isn't counting eggs and fledglings, Shirley can be found doing bat counts and educating youth on being environmental stewards of park resources. We thank Shirley for her time, energy, and dedication to the cavity-nesting trail program.

The following monitors were also recognized for their seasons of service to this program.

- Christine Shiber, Frances Slocum, 20 seasons
- Ida Parry, Raccoon Creek, 15 seasons
- Scott Parry, Raccoon Creek, 15 seasons
- Gladys Price, Jacobsburg, 15 seasons
- Ken Price, Jacobsburg, 15 seasons
- Kathy Sieminski, Jacobsburg, 15 seasons

- Gary Armbrust, Yellow Creek, 10 seasons
- Jane Armbrust, Yellow Creek, 10 seasons
- Diane Bortner, Codorus, 10 seasons
- Gary Campbell, Oil Creek, 10 seasons
- Judy Campbell, Oil Creek, 10 seasons
- Judy Letso, Prince Gallitzin, 10 seasons
- Dave Roberts, Black Moshannon, 10 seasons
- John Slipka, Tyler, 10 seasons
- Gail Beidler, Fort Washington, 5 seasons
- Pete DiSabella, Hickory Run, 5 seasons
- Donna Gordon, Tyler, 5 seasons
- Maria Hess, Fort Washington, 5 seasons
- Dean Rust, Susquehannock & Samuel Lewis, 5 seasons
- Richard Shovestull, Prince Gallitzin, 5 seasons
- Ron Young, Mt. Pisgah, 5 seasons

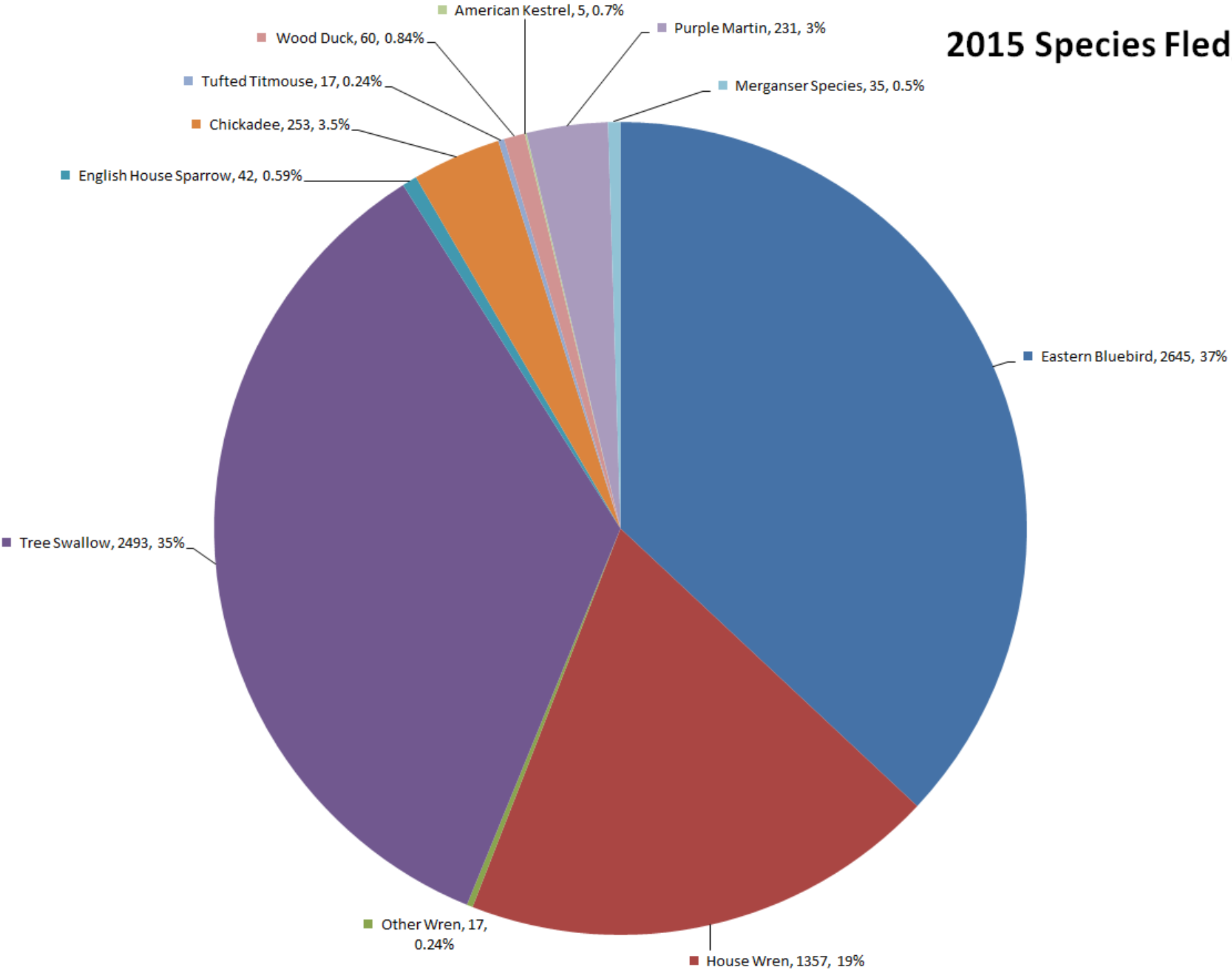
A copy of this memo and report will be sent electronically to all parks and EE centers to share with volunteers involved in the Cavity-nesting Trails Program. Please extend a sincere thank you to all volunteers in your region; without them the cavity-nesting program would not be this successful!

Feel free to contact Carly Hitzfeld (chitzfeld@pa.gov, 717-783-3344) with any questions or concerns related to your trail. Remember that the annual report is due by November 1 each year.

Attachment(s)

cc: Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary, DCNR
John Hallas, Director, Bureau of State Parks
Ryan Dysinger, Assistant Director, Bureau of State Parks
Matt Azeles, Chief, Resources Management and Planning Division, Bureau of State Parks
Rex Lord, Chief, Park Operations and Maintenance Division, Bureau of State Parks
Christina Novak, Director, Office of Education, Communication and Partnerships, DCNR
Greg Czarnecki, Director, Natural Heritage Program, DCNR
Dan Brauning, Biologist, Pennsylvania Game Commission
Dean Rust, President, Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Nancy Putt, Secretary, Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania
Headquarters, Ohio Bluebird Society
Ellen Brockwell, Executive Director, Purple Martin Conservation Association
Terry Brady, Press Secretary, DCNR
Daily
File

2015 Species Fledged



*Percentages rounded. Total does not equal 100%.

Cavity-nesting Trails Program Annual Totals of Fledged Young 1997-2015

