

Bird Houses – Results from Quiet Water – 2019 Season – Jim Welch

With the help from Wally and with the approval of our Board, I placed 9 birdhouses around Quiet Water, seven which were on common areas such as along the river. In addition Wally has some of his own which I am including in this report.

There are essentially 3 different birdhouse designs, that are distinguished by the size of the opening to attract different cavity nesters. There are:

1 ¼ inch	Chickadees
1 ½ inch	Swallows, Bluebirds
2 inches +	Flickers, Woodpeckers

As you will see below we had great occupancy rates up on the hill, but less success along the river. Next year I will move some of them up to higher ground. It should be noted that that several of the swallow boxes and perhaps chickadees, could have had two clutches, though I wasn't around early summer to determine the success.

Many of you have expressed concern about the barn swallows who nest under eaves, in the open garages, etc. Suffice to say, I had an inadvertent success with a light shade (box) above one of our garage lights, which was used as a barn swallow nest. Perhaps we can use that as a model for next year encouraging the barn swallows away from less desirable areas. Put small platforms around the outside of garages and buildings under eaves.

Here is a list of their locations and results.

Above the river:

Location	Hole Size	Results
236 Jennifer (my house)	1 ¼"	Chestnut-backed Chickadee
236 Jennifer	2"	Starling
Garage 236 Jennifer	1 ½"	Violet Green Swallow
480 Combs Circle (Scott)	1 ½"	Tree Swallow
480 Combs Circle	1 ¼"	None
300 Jennifer (Orchard)	1 ¼"	Black-capped Chickadee
300 Jennifer (Orchard)	1 ½"	Tree Swallow
300 Jennifer (Orchard)	various	None

Along the river:

Location	Hole Size	Results
Near Tennis Court	1 ¼"	None
River	2"	Unknown
River	1 ½"	Tree Swallow
River	1 ¼"	None

I also put up some swallow houses up the Yachats river in the meadow areas at two different friends' properties. Both were occupied. I notice the elk refuge has a couple of houses as well. Long term I will be focused on getting more houses up the river. If you have any friends with property who might enjoy having bird houses... let me know.

Added by Wally Orchard: I placed five birdhouses (some for swallows, some for chickadees) on my property. One swallow house and one chickadee house were occupied. I suspect that better success would result if the birdhouses were to be located further apart. I also installed two ledges on my house for barn swallows, but these were ignored. Instead, barn swallows nested under our neighbor's eaves! We noticed that starlings spent a lot of time inspecting our nesting boxes. I am sure they would have used them if the holes had been bigger.

If you would like a nesting box on your Quiet Water property next year, please contact Jim or Wally. We may be able to help.



Violet-green swallows at a nesting box on the side of the LCA IV garage. Photos by Jim Welch.

