

Kestrel Nest Box Project

Season Summary 2019

Hello Kestrel nest box monitors and hosts!

Apologies for this belated season summary. We finished banding the kestrel chicks a month ago, on July 9. I hope you enjoy this overview, which includes band numbers for this year's large, green field readable bands—please keep an eye out for these bands on kestrels in our area!



2019 Season Summary

19 boxes were available for use by kestrels. European starlings attempted to use 6 of them (32%). Based on our volunteers' monitoring reports, kestrels were seen on or near 12 boxes (63%). Based on direct box checks, 9 boxes (47%) were occupied by kestrel pairs, with eggs laid. Of those, 6 (32%) were successfully occupied, with chicks hatched and banded.

As we previously reported, we observed eggs in boxes 14, 16, and 22. However, the eggs and adults disappeared before we saw chicks in any of those boxes. Because of the three failed boxes, we started out with 37 eggs observed in the boxes; of those, 27 hatched and were banded by us.

Having three boxes fail lent a sad note to the season. However, when I looked at this year's results in comparison to previous years, I realized this was a very good year! The total occupancy rate (successful and unsuccessful - 47%) was the highest ever (previous high was 39% in 2017). The successful occupancy rate (32%) was essentially the same as our highest year (33% in 2017). All the chicks that hatched this year (27) survived -- 27 chicks hatched and banded matches our previous

high in 2017! Lastly, we banded 5 adult kestrels this year, the most yet for the project.

THANK YOU ALL for your contributions to this successful breeding year for the kestrels! We will keep up our work with the nest boxes, hoping for better and better years to come for these wonderful little falcons.

Please enjoy the details and photos below. We hope to see you again next year!

Best,
Chris

2019 Season Summary – Details & Photos

Banded Chicks

Box #	Sex	Field-readable band #	Date Banded
3	2M, 2F	X4, Z4, A5 NOTES: 1 chick was not given a field readable band; 1 chick was not banded due to a slight eye issue	6/27
5	3M, 2F	W5, X5, Z5, A6, B6	7/8
8	3M, 2F	B5, C5, D5, E5, H5	6/27
13	2M, 1F	C6, D6, E6	7/8
18	3M, 2F	R6, U6, V6, A7, B7	7/9
19	3M, 1F	R5, S5, U5, V5	7/2

Banded Adults (all on 5/21 except Box 19 on 5/22)

Box #	Sex	Field-readable band #
5	F	S3
8	M	S4
13	M	U4
22	F	V4
19	F	W4

Box 3

Banding Day 6/27/19

In the bucket, banded and ready to go back home



Box 5
Box Check 6/27/19

Five healthy chicks in the box



Box 5
Banding Day 7/8/19

Chris checking a band



Sitting tall for a photo



Box 8
Banding Day 6/27/19

Chris banding



A quick close-up after banding



Box 13

Box Check 6/27/19

Out of the box for a look at the world



With siblings in the box



Box 8
Banding Day 7/8/19

Anthony banding



Saying hello after banding



Box 18

Box Check 7/2/19

Getting a look around - nice view out here!



Box 18
Banding Day 7/9/18

Snug in the bucket



Posing after banding



Box 19
Banding Day 7/2/19

Eli proudly holding the chick he banded!



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