

Tree Swallows Double-Clutch in Southern California

Since 2001, Tree Swallow Nesting Projects, Inc. (TSNP) has documented several instances of double-clutching Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) in southern California.

TSNP maintains 111 nest boxes at settling ponds managed by the United Water Conservation District in Saticoy, California. This project was started in 1991 primarily as a conservation effort, with the goal of restoring the species to its breeding territories in southern California; science was a secondary concern. TSNP monitors nest boxes at Saticoy and at several other sites around Ventura County and elsewhere. Data are collected and individual birds are banded (nestlings as well as adults); a database of recaptures has been maintained since the beginning of the project. In 2001, with the conservation effort having become successful, a change in direction took place.

The more moderate climate of southern California allows for a much longer breeding season than the climates of the East and Midwest. The Tree Swal-

lows arrive in Ventura County usually in mid to late December. Nest building begins from early March through mid April. TSNP has observed first egg dates as early as 14 Mar and as late as 25 Apr. In all 12 years of this project (with the only exception being 2002), there have been two entirely distinct nesting periods. In 2001, a concerted effort was begun to capture as many adults as possible in both periods to determine that the clutches were, in fact, double clutches and not different females nesting in the second period.

In 2001, there were 11 documented double clutches, with females nesting in the same box during each period. One double-clutch pair was also documented in 2001. Due to drought, there was no second nesting in 2002. In 2003, six double-clutches were documented in Saticoy—two of the females had also produced double clutches in 2001; and one double-clutch (the first for this location) was documented at a site in Orange County, 100 miles south.

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Collated Tree Swallow Data												
Original Banding Data					Double Clutch Data							
					First Known Double Clutch				Second Known Double Clutch			
Band No.	Band Date	Box No.	Age	Sex	Sex	Recap Date	Year	Box No.	Recap Date	Year	Box No.	
1651-36393	5/31/01	70	AHY	F		5/1;6/30	2003	70				
1651-95447	6/17/99	101	L	U	F	5/4;6/29	2001	6A				with 2101-30596
1651-95960	7/1/99	18	AHY	F		4/20;7/3	2001	45				
2000-65498	5/11/01	31	AHY	F		5/11;6/29	2001	31				
2000-86619	3/28/00	2A	SY	F		3/28;6/17	2001	2A				
2000-86660	5/18/01	4A	AHY	F		5/18;6/29	2001	4A				
2000-86684	5/25/00	7A	L	U	F	5/8;6/14	2003	25				
2101-30596	5/22/98	63	L	U	M	5/11;7/3	2001	6A				with 1651-95447
2111-00861	6/30/00	A16	L	U	F	4/20;6/15	2003	B10				San Joaquin Marsh, Orange County
2121-34081	5/26/00	20	L	U	F	3/23;6/19	2001	10A				
2171-43803	5/23/97	10A	L	U	F	4/27;6/17	2001	11A				Also recaptured in 1999, Box 11A
2171-43942	7/14/98	49	L	U	F	4/13;7/6	2001	7A				Also recaptured in 2002, Box 7A
3101-23577	5/5/00	9	L	U	F	5/8;7/3	2003	119&118				
3101-98621	5/18/96	7A	L	U	F	5/4;6/22	2001	2	5/5;6/30	2003	39	Also recaptured in '98 and '99, Box 2
3101-98891	5/25/98	15	L	U	F	4/6;6/15	2001	1A	5/5;6/23	2003	1B	Also recap. in '00, Box 9 & '02, Box 1B