

# Southwest Montana Kestrel Nest Box Project



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# Bozeman, Montana





# Results were disappointing at first

1st year : No Kestrel use  
2<sup>nd</sup> year : 3 Kestrel nests  
3<sup>rd</sup> year : 2 Kestrel nests







Nest of an  
over -  
achieving  
house wren



Nest boxes and  
habitats that  
were ignored by  
kestrels





Success eventually !





High, dry, short grass prairie and  
sage-steppe habitats work best





# Start of Egg Laying: April 23<sup>rd</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>





Start of  
Incubation:

May 1<sup>st</sup> to  
June 12th





Hatching :

May 30<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>





Fledging :

June 29<sup>th</sup> to August 4th





Incubating adults are  
captured when  
possible for banding





# Awaiting Banding







2016  
9 occupied nests:  
2 failed,  
33 young hatched  
and 30 fledged

26 young banded





# Collecting body feathers for the Kestrel Genoscape Project







About 50% of  
the kestrel  
nests were  
built on  
material  
brought in by  
starlings



# Evidence of a starling eviction





This nest had a complete starling nest with 4 eggs buried beneath it





We had a problem with some of the corner ventilation cutouts being too large





Our solution to prevent shavings from falling out.





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