

# Violet-green Swallow Nest Box Project



Violet-green and Tree swallows are in decline across Alaska. This population drop has been noted by local birders in Homer. Birds that eat insects may not be getting enough to eat with the dramatic reductions in insect populations and changes in the climate.

In existence now for 40 forty years, the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies' staff is excited to expand

habitat conservation and programs through the generous donation of the Inspiration Ridge Preserve (IRP) in Homer, AK. We are set to begin a new program this year - the Violet-green Swallow Nest Box Project. This program expands our ability to provide effective experience-based field science instruction to Alaskan youth, residents, and visitors alike.

Additionally, the data collected from the Violet-green Swallow Nest Box Project will provide much-needed scientific data to help the public and decision-makers with science-based information on critical environmental issues. It will also help to deduce why there has been a decline in the Violet-green and tree swallows population within the area.

In April 2022 we will construct and place 33 new swallow boxes around Inspiration Ridge Preserve at specially chosen and mapped locations. In the summer of 2022, IRP Naturalists and student interns will begin work on a simple swallow box occupancy monitoring project.



In summer of 2023 we will launch a Swallow Box Nest Monitoring Academy aimed at Middle School and High School students and offer the following:

- Methodology of swallow box monitoring using established scientific protocols
- Mentoring in the scientific methods of data gathering, recording, and interpreting information
- Bird banding of chicks and adults using USFW approved methods

We also hope to add a nest box that can accommodate a camera to monitor chick development in the nest and broadcast to the public.

Our mission is to foster responsible interaction with our



natural surroundings to generate knowledge of the unique marine and coastal ecosystems of Kachemak Bay through science-based environmental education and stewardship. To successfully meet our mission and provide services to the community and beyond Alaska, we rely heavily on the contributions of individuals and businesses for support. Your generosity will make a difference within our community by allowing us to continue our work.

We invite you to participate in one or more of the exciting events and/or programs we offer this year. Experience firsthand the joy and pride we have here at the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.

