Carol Race - *Chatelaine*
Jim Murlin - *Housecarl*
Ron Robinson - *Housecarl*

FOR THE BIRDS

With grateful support
from selected residents
of Sanctuary on the Park

A Thousand Thank Yous

We would be remiss if we didn't extend our grateful thanks to all who donated to the ***For The Birds Maintenance Fund*** at the last Home Owners Meeting. It is already being used towards our work for the coming season.

With a little help from our friends

We started , 15 years ago, with 12 habitats; 5 Flicker/Kestrel, 4 Swallow & 3 Wren. We added 2 more since then to try to entice the Mountain Bluebird. The boxes are throughout the com - munity. This makes it difficult to monitor closely, specially those on Carson & Maplewood. We ask those who live close to these to give a glance and let us know the type of activity or any problems. You can call or e-mail any of us. It will give us info and, if there's a problem, we can correct it.

Hey Mom, what do we do now ?

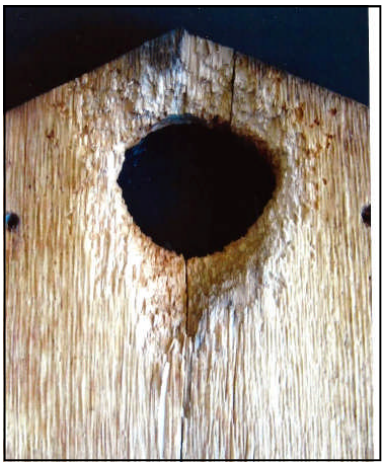
This great shot from Carol Race of 3 Western Kingbird Fledglings on their first venture from the nest in the gutter above their deck. The Kingbirds have come back to the same nesting spot to raise their young for the last 3 years.

Fighting the Predators

It's a continuous battle against those predators on constant alert for food. The Stanchion Guards do their job from the ground up i.e. Raccoons, Snakes etc. but we also have attacks from the air, the Kestrel Hawks, among them. Their curved and sharp beaks can systematically enlarge the 1 1/2" opening giving easy access to the defenseless young chicks. The larger opening, then gives access to those who like the eggs.

The Swallow boxes come with an added wood collar that gives some protection. Over time, though these also suffer the same fate. Recently we started adding a more permanent hard PVC plastic guard.

Below are pictures of a Swallow box opening enlarged by Kestrel Hawks (with some help by Flickers) to their required size and a rebuilt box using the new indestructible guard. Take that you devils !



Ornithic Discrimination

We truly enjoy all birds, but there are times when we must take steps to prevent the intrusion of unwanted .Such is the case of Starlings, Blackbirds and Grackles. We make no effort to give them encouragement.

To counter them we take special steps before the mating season. We simulate the natural condition by filing the Flicker/Kestrel boxes with wood chips and banding the opening with a soft wood (think paint stirrer). Kestrels & Flickers will spend The time & effort to tear it off, then protect the box. The Blackbirds do not have either the instinct nor the tools to do so.