



Musing

May 2017 - "Return of the Tree Swallows"

Thom Storm

From the Sweet Lake Journal

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This morning my wife, son, and a few neighbors, went down to the lake with me, to roll in our dock and push in the pontoon boat. I was in my waders, and when the boat and dock were in the water, I started putting in our tree swallow houses.

We have four tree swallow houses, each on the top of a metal post that each spring I put out in the water. I twist the posts into the bottom of the lake, and move them back and forth until they go down about a foot, and feel solid. The bird houses are then 3 to 4 feet above the water, and safe from land critters that might like to raid them for a meal.

Within a few moments of me grinding the first post and nesting box into the sand, the deep blue tree swallows started checking it out. They flew around it, lit on the roof, and went in and out of the entrance hole while singing to each other. There was a sense of jubilation, that they were back home.

Later that afternoon, I counted 25 tree swallows soaring around the end of our dock and their bird houses. They were doing all kinds of acrobatic moves and singing their watery songs with cheerful delight.

It was the highest number of swallows I have ever seen at one time on our end of Sweet Lake.

It was magnificent to breathe in deeply this enchanting moment.

I am tremendously grateful for all the wonders of Mother Nature and the peace and serenity of our precious Eau Claire Lakes.

What a wonderful place this is.