



NEW JERSEY MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION

## Open house for tree swallows

Tree swallows are arriving in North Jersey for their breeding season – and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has greeted them with new homes.

The commission has installed some 250 nesting boxes through a 30-square-mile area of wetlands to attract the iridescent-blue birds.

“We can’t seem to put up the boxes fast enough,” said Robert Ceberio, the

commission’s executive director.

Last year, more than 60 percent of the boxes were occupied by nesting pairs, which laid 610 eggs and successfully fledged 485 nestlings.

The Meadowlands’ 8,000 acres of urban wetlands provide a year-round or seasonal home to more than 270 bird species.

— James M. O’Neill