

# How to Monitor a Bluebird Nesting Box

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1 You approach the box from the side.

2 You tap on the box gently. This tells the bird that you are there, and if it wants to leave, it will .

3 You unlock and open the door SLOWLY. Observe what is in the box—close the box and leave the area.

4 Write on your chart, under the proper date, what you just saw in the box.

EXAMPLE: Sticks, or grass, or trash, or moss. From the material in the box you can tell what species is nesting in the box.

5 If you see Red Ants, or wasps, or any bees nest, or little white worms in the bottom of the nest, have an adult call Ken, and I will explain how to deal with the problem.

6 DO NOT TOUCH THE EGGS IN THE NEST. DOING SO COULD KILL THE DEVELOPING CHICK.

7 The boxes are to be checked one time a week, on the same day if possible.

8 If you see chicks in the box for two (2) weeks. DO NOT OPEN THE BOX THE THIRD WEEK.

Go back the next week and you should find an empty nest. This nest should be cleaned out of the box and placed in a plastic bag and put in the trash. MAKE SURE THE BIRD HAS NOT STARTED A NEW NEST.

Any questions: My cell 610-724-3488 or [Kenapeg@aol.com](mailto:Kenapeg@aol.com)

Ken Leister

State C.C. for BSP

**BIRD**      **NEST MATERIAL**      **EGGS**      **INCUBATION**      **FLEDGE**  
 (approx.)

<b>EASTERN BLUEBIRD</b>	Grass; pine needles	2 to 7 light blue or white	12 to 14 days	15 to 20 days
<b>TREE SWALLOW</b>	Dried grass; feathers	4 to 6 white eggs; oval to long oval	13 to 16 days	16 to 24 days
<b>TUFTED TITMOUSE</b>	Bark; leaves; soft grass; snakeskin	4 to 8 white to cream; white speckled with brown	13 to 14 days	15 to 18 days
<b>BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE</b>	Vegetation; moss; feathers; hair; insect cocoons	5 to 10 white eggs with fine reddish-brown marks; oval to short oval	11 to 13 days	14 to 18 days
<b>HOUSE WREN</b>	Box filled to top with small twigs-sticks; lined with hair; cocoons; fine grass	5 to 9 white eggs with brown flecks; short rounded to oval	12 to 14 days	14 days
<b>HOUSE SPARROW</b>	Grass; straw; cotton; trash; twigs; feathers	3 to 7 light green or blue eggs, dotted with grays and browns. Oval to long oval.	10 to 14 days	14 to 17 days
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