



Bella Vista Bluebird Society

Bluebird Eggs, Bluebird Chicks & Birds That Use Bluebird Nest Boxes



Tony Pratt



Bluebird Eggs

- *Clutch size 3-5 eggs, usually blue, can be white*
- *Female lays 1 egg a day*
- *Incubation starts after last eggs is laid*
- *Incubation period: 11-19 days*
- *Remove abandoned eggs & nest after 21 days*



Bluebird Chicks



- *Brooding/nesting period: 15-18 days*
- *Count by looking for mouths*
- *Carefully open box after 12 days so chicks don't fly out prematurely*
- *Usually won't see chicks fledge (leave the nest)*
- *Clean out nest after all have fledged*

Overview of Bluebird Nest Activities

Nest Building:

1–10 days

remove after 21 days if unused

Egg Laying:

1 egg per day

remove after 21 days if unhatched

Incubation Period:

11–19 days

starts after last egg is laid

Brooding Period:

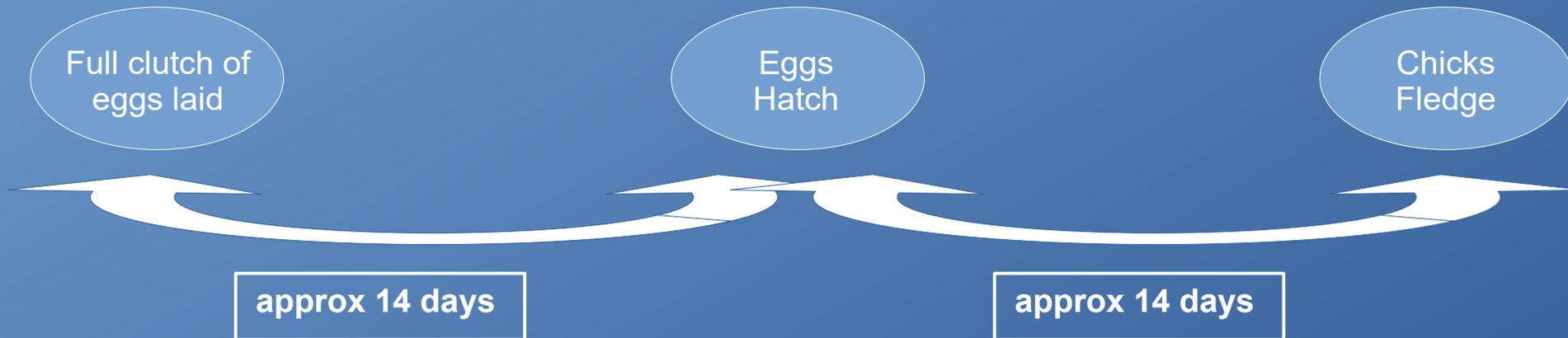
15–18 days

after eggs hatch

Number of Broods per Season:

1–3

Timeline from Eggs to Fledged



This cycle takes **about a month** to go from egg to fledged, baby birds leaving the nest.

If **anything** breaks this cycle, such as eggs disappear, or eggs have not hatch after 21 days, or chicks disappear too early, the nest has been invaded or abandoned

Birds That Use Bluebird Nest Boxes

In order of most common to least common

*(from **NABS Factsheet: Monitoring Bluebird Nestboxes**)*

- *Eastern Bluebird*
- *Tree Swallow*
- *Carolina Chickadee*
- *House Wren*
- *Tufted Titmouse*
- *Carolina Wren*
- *House Sparrow*

Eastern Bluebird



Joda Taylor

Male (upper) & Female (lower)

Bluebird: Relatively neat nest built with fine grasses and/or pine needles. Usually 1-4 inches tall. Eggs (3-5) are powder blue or occasionally white.



Bet Zimmerman

Bet Zimmerman

Marion Ball

Tree Swallow



Tree Swallow: Their nest is also made of grasses, but they may use coarser fibers than bluebirds, and the nest is lined with feathers, usually white. Eggs (5-7) are white, pointy on one end, and smaller than those of a bluebird.



Jim Williams



Bet Zimmerman



Marion Ball

Carolina Chickadee



Chickadee: Chickadees build a nest of moss and plant down, with a small, deep nest cup lined with hair, fur or plant down. They lay 5–8 white or cream non-glossy, tiny eggs that are covered with reddish-brown speckles. Eggs are often covered with a plug of hair or fur when the female leaves the box.



Marion Ball



Marion Ball

House Wren



House Wren: House Wrens fill a nestbox with sticks and then line the deep nest cup with fine plant fibers or feathers. “Dummy nests” without the nest cup are often built in other cavities within the male House Wren’s territory to reduce competition for resources. The tiny eggs (6–8) are glossy white/tan, heavily speckled with pinkish-brown spots.



Bet Zimmerman



Marion Ball

Tufted Titmouse



Tufted Titmouse: The nest of moss, fur, and soft plant fibers is similar to that of chickadees; may be made primarily of crumpled dried leaves with grass, also bits of snakeskin, cellophane, and bark strips. The cup may be padded with hair, fur, bits of string, or cloth. The eggs are similar to the House Wren's but larger and less heavily marked.



Bet Zimmerman



Bet Zimmerman

Carolina Wren



Carolina Wren: These are the birds who will nest in an old boot, your gas grill or a flower pot. In a bluebird box their nesting material takes up a good part of a nest box, but the eggs are laid in a bottom corner. Nest very messy, almost looks like someone has taken a handful of leaf litter and put it in the box. Tiny eggs (3-7) are hard to see as they are tucked away in the bottom of the nest, look similar to Carolina Chickadee eggs.



House Sparrow

Never let a House Sparrow nest in a bluebird box. They are destructive, non-native species that will destroy eggs and kill baby & adult bluebirds. Remove House Sparrow nests before eggs are laid or hatched.



Adam Kumiszczka



J.M. Garg

Male (upper) & Female (lower)

House Sparrow: House Sparrows build a tall, sloppy nest of coarse grasses (usually with seed heads), often with feathers and pieces of scrap paper, cloth, cellophane, or other garbage. The nest in a large box or in the open forms a canopy with a tunnel-like entrance. The 5–7 cream- or greenish-colored, non-glossy eggs have heavy brown markings.



Bet Zimmerman



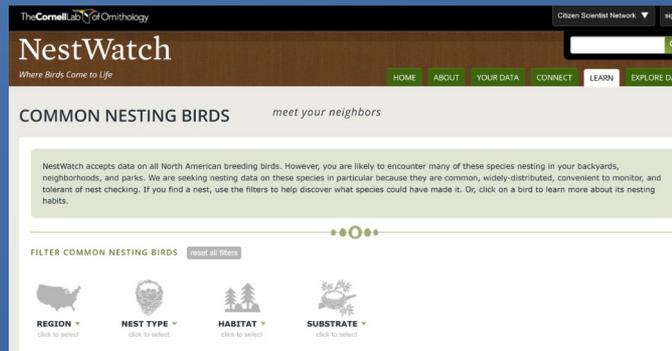
Bet Zimmerman

Links to Helpful Information

NAB Factsheet Monitoring Bluebird Nestboxes



NestWatch Common Nesting Birds



Visit
bvbluebirds.com
for:

Bella Vista Bluebird Society Dedicated to increasing & protecting the bluebird population of Bella Vista, AR

About Us - About Bluebirds - BVBBS Business - Support Us - Trails & Boxes - Photos - Other Sites

Welcome to the Bella Vista Bluebird Society



The Bella Vista Bluebird Society (BVBBS) builds, installs and monitors almost 600 bluebird nesting boxes in Bella Vista, Arkansas. Since the founding of the BVBBS in 1980, we have contributed to the fledging of over 50,000 new bluebirds.

With these web pages we hope to inform our community about the Society's activities and to provide the information needed to build and maintain bluebird nestboxes and habitat. -- Laura Claggett, President BVBBS -- Join us on [f](#)

Buy a Nest Box

Monitor Your Home Box


About Bluebirds

About Bella Vista




Photo courtesy of Quin Warsaw

Latest News:

- [Feeding Bluebirds](#)
Dec 6, 2021
Some say offering food to bluebirds could make the difference between them surviving
- [AmazonSmile](#)
Nov 19, 2021
When doing your holiday shopping online, consider using AmazonSmile every time you order
- [2021 Fledgling Results](#)
Oct 17, 2021

- ***Information about bluebirds***
- ***Our Newsletter - The Bluebirder***
- ***BVBBS statistics***
- ***Bluebird Factsheets***
- ***Links to other helpful sites***
- ***Lots more***