

Instructions for Monitoring Eastern Bluebird Nestboxes

- Clean out all nesting material before March 15
- Use gloves. Deposit old nest away from nestbox and in garbage can if possible. Do not litter manicured grounds.
- Try to check on houses at least once a week.
- Tap on house before opening it.
- **Record** all observations on **Nestbox Activity Form**.
- **Remove house sparrow nests and eggs.** It is illegal to interfere with any other species except starlings.
- If it is extremely hot, female won't spend a lot of time on nest incubating eggs. Don't think she has abandoned them. However, if you can determine that eggs are abandoned, remove all eggs *and* nesting material.
- Try to predict when nestlings will fledge by date of eggs laid or date babies hatched. Record success if nestlings are alive close to day they should fledge.
- Don't open box after day 14. Nestlings may make premature flight.
- Clean out all nests after babies fledge or nest fails for any reason.
- Be cautioned that there is a lot of heartbreak along the Bluebird Trail. Expect dead birds from predators or unknown causes.
- Email Sandy with news of bluebirds present (sandym10530@gmail.com)
- Please email me your nestbox observations after each visit—or record your observations on the NestWatch.org website. (Username: bbmonitor. Password: 4easternbluebirds)

Eastern Bluebird



Neat round nest
Grass or
Pine needles
4-5 blue eggs
(can be white)
Incub. 12-14 days
Nest. 16—22 days
Broods 2-3

Tree Swallow



Neat round nest
Grass or
Pine needles
FEATHERS on top
4-7 white eggs
Incub. 14-15 days
Nestlg. 16-22 days
Broods 1

House Wren



Nest built of sticks
6-8 brown eggs
Incub. 12-16 days
Nestlg. 15-19 days
Broods 2-3

Black-capped Chickadee



Nest built with moss
6-8 brown eggs
Incub. 12-13 days
Nestlg. 16 days
Broods 1

Tufted Titmouse



Nest built of moss
and bark
5-6 brownish eggs
Incub. 12-14 days
Nestlg. 15-16 days
Broods 1

House Sparrow



Nest built with
grasses and "trash"
material. Box full
and messy.
4-6 brownish eggs
Incub. 10-13 days
Nestlg. 14-17 days
Broods 3-4