



BLUEBIRD NESTING GUIDE

BLUEBIRD NESTS – FIRST NEST

- Female generally starts building the nest in late March – early April. Nest construction takes 3 to 4 days on average, but may take as long as 12 days.
- One egg is laid per day after nest is complete. The first clutch is generally 5 eggs, but can be 6.
- Female broods eggs for 12-14 days beginning once all eggs are laid. Count this as the first day of brooding. All viable eggs will hatch on the same day.
- Nestlings fledge together approximately 17 to 18 days after hatching. Do not open box after 13th day of hatching.
- Male feeds fledglings for next 2 to 3 weeks.

SECOND & THIRD NESTS

- Female builds second nest about 5 days after first brood has fledged, but sometimes can be 1-2 weeks later.
- Egg laying, brooding and fledging follow as outlined above.
- First group of fledglings may help feed second brood.
- Third nesting may occur if there is adequate food and time.

COUNT GUIDE

DATE

1 EGG	DAY 1	
2 EGGS	DAY 2	
3 EGGS	DAY 3	
4 EGGS	DAY 4	
5 EGGS	DAY 5	
1 st Day of brooding	DAY 6 Female may not leave nest during cold or rainy days.	
2 nd Day of brooding	DAY 7	
3 rd Day of brooding	DAY 8	
4 th Day of brooding	DAY 9	
5 th Day of brooding	DAY 10	
6 th Day of brooding	DAY 11	
7 th Day of brooding	DAY 12	
8 th Day of brooding	DAY 13	
9 th Day of brooding	DAY 14	
10 th Day of brooding	DAY 15	
11 th Day of brooding	DAY 16	
12 th Day of brooding	DAY 17	
13 th Day of brooding	DAY 18	
14 th Day of brooding	DAY 19	
Babies hatch between 12th & 14th day of brooding – Start count all over again after hatching.		
Hatch Day	DAY 0	
1 st Day of hatching	DAY 1 Sparse black down mostly on head and spine, eyes closed.	
2 nd Day of hatching	DAY 2 Weight double from first day. Eyes closed.	
3 rd Day of hatching	DAY 3	
4 th Day of hatching	DAY 4 Feathers develop under skin. Dark areas along wings.	
5 th Day of hatching	DAY 5 Feathers begin to break through skin n wings and head.	
6 th Day of hatching	DAY 6	
7 th Day of hatching	DAY 7 Feathers start to open out of their sheaths. Eyes open as slits.	
8 th Day of hatching	DAY 8 Eyes open all the way. Feathers continue to unsheathe.	
9 th Day of hatching	DAY 9	
10 th Day of hatching	DAY 10	
11 th Day of hatching	DAY 11	
12 th Day of hatching	DAY 12 Birds are physically active. White ring around the eye.	
13 th Day of hatching	DAY 13 DO NOT OPEN BOX FROM THIS DAY FORWARD	
14 th Day of hatching	DAY 14 Adult may feed young from outside the box from this point forward.	
15 th Day of hatching	DAY 15	
16 th Day of hatching	DAY 16	
17 th Day of hatching	DAY 17 Nestlings fledge sometime after this day.	