

BLUEBIRD NESTING GUIDE

FIRST NEST

- Female starts building nest first part of April.
- Usually builds nest in 3-4 days (may take as long as 12 days at times).
- One egg laid per day after nest complete (5 eggs first clutch usually).
- Female begins to brood eggs when all are laid – count this as first day of brooding.
- Female broods eggs for 12-14 days. Babies hatch all on same day.
- Babies fledge after 18 to 21 days (do not open box after 12th day of hatching).
- Male feeds fledglings for next two to three weeks.

SECOND NEST

- Female builds second nest about 5 days after first brood has fledged.
- Egg laying, brooding, and fledging follows as above.
- First group of fledglings may help feed second brood.

THIRD NEST

- May occur if there is adequate food and time.

COUNT GUIDE

DATE

1 st	Egg Laid	DAY 1	
2 nd	Egg Laid	DAY 2	
3 rd	Egg Laid	DAY 3	
4 th	Egg Laid	DAY 4	
5 th	Egg Laid	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			
1 st	Day After Hatching	DAY 1 Sparse black down mostly on head and spine, eyes closed	
2 nd	Day After Hatching	DAY 2 Weight double from first day - eyes closed	
3 rd	Day After Hatching	DAY 3	
4 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 4 Feathers develop under skin – dark areas along wings	
5 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 5 Feathers begin to break through skin on wings and head	
6 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 6	
7 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 7 Feathers start to open out of their sheaths. Eyes open as slits	
8 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 8 Eyes open all the way. Feathers continue to unsheathe	
9 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 9	
10 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 10	
11 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 11	
12 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 12 Birds are physically active, white eye ring around the eye	
13 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 13 DO NOT OPEN BOX THIS DAY FORWARD Opening box at this stage may cause babies to fledge too early.	
14 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 14 Adult may feed young from outside of box this point forward	
15 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 15	
16 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 16	
17 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 17	
18 th	Day After Hatching	DAY 18 Babies fledge sometime after this day Do not open the nest box until 22 days after hatching, unless you are positive there is no continuing feeding activity.	