

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