



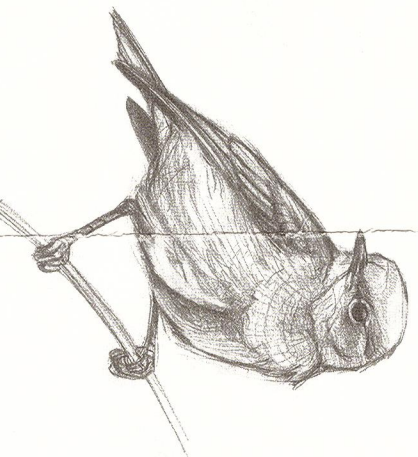


## Nesting

<b>Eastern Bluebird</b> <i>Sialia sialis</i>	Open field or lawn; orchards; open, rural country with scattered trees and low or sparse ground cover	East of the Rockies, throughout the eastern United States and Canada, and down to central Mexico	3-6' high; 1 ½" diameter hole; hole should face open field, preferring east, north, south, and west; space 300' apart	Built with fine grasses or pine needles with a fairly deep nest cup; eggs are powder blue or occasionally white	Clutch size: 3-5 Incubation: 12-14 days Nesting: 16-22 days # of broods: 2, sometimes 3
<b>Mountain Bluebird</b> <i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Same as Eastern Bluebird; also will use deciduous and coniferous forest edges	Western parts of Canada and the United States at elevations above 7,000'	3-6' high; 1 ¾" diameter hole; hole should face open field, preferring east, north, south, and west; space 300' apart	Same as Eastern Bluebird	Clutch size: 5-6 Incubation: 13-14 days Nesting: 17-22 days # of broods: 2, sometimes 3
<b>Western Bluebird</b> <i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Same as Eastern Bluebird; also will use deciduous and coniferous forest edges	Southwest and western coast of the United States	Same as Eastern Bluebird	Same as Eastern Bluebird	Clutch size: 4-6 Incubation: 13-14 days Nesting: 19-22 days # of broods: usually 2
<b>Tree Swallow</b> <i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Open fields near water, marshes, meadows, wooded swamps	Across the continental United States and Canada and parts of Alaska, absent from the south-east part of the United States	5-15' high; 1 ¾" east-facing hole; spaced 30-100' apart; on a post in open areas near tree or fence	Dry grasses or pine needles; nest cup is lined with feathers; eggs are pure white	Clutch size: 4-7 Incubation: 14-15 days Nesting: 16-22 days # of broods: 1
<b>Violet-green Swallow</b> <i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Open or broken deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forests; wooded canyons; edges of dense forest	West of the Rockies, from central Alaska and central Canada south to Mexico's highlands	9-15' high; 1 ¾" east-facing hole	Same as Tree Swallow	Clutch size: 4-6 Incubation: 13-15 days Nesting: 23-25 days # of broods: 1
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b> <i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Forests, woodlots, and yards with mature hardwood trees; forest edges; meadows	Northern two-thirds of the United States and much of Canada	5-15' high; 1 ½" hole facing away from prevailing wind; should receive 40-60% sunlight; space one box per 10 acres	Moss and fine plant material; cup lined with hair; eggs are white with brown speckles	Clutch size: 6-8 Incubation: 12-13 days Nesting: 16 days # of broods: 1
<b>Carolina Chickadee</b> <i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	Open deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests; rural woodlands, swamps, thickets, parks, suburban areas	Southeastern United States	Same as Black-capped Chickadee	Same as Black-capped Chickadee	Clutch size: 5-8 Incubation: 11-14 days Nesting: 13-17 days # of broods: 1
<b>Tufted Titmouse</b> <i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Deciduous forest; thick timber stands; woodland clearings; forest edges; woodlots; riparian and mesquite habitats; near swamps, orchards, parks, and suburban areas	Year-round resident of the deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests in the eastern United States	5-15' high; 1 ¼" hole facing away from prevailing wind; space one box per 8 acres	Leaves, moss, dried grass, and bark strips; lined with feathers, fur, wool, cotton, hair; smooth, non-glossy white to cream-colored eggs speckled with red, purple, or brown marks	Clutch size: 5-6 Incubation: 12-14 days Nesting: 15-16 days # of broods: 1 in North; 2 in South
<b>House Wren</b> <i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Variety of habitats: farmland, openings, open forests, forest edges, shrub lands, swamps, fields, suburban gardens, parks, backyards	Northern two-thirds of the United States and parts of Canada	5-10' high; 1 ¼" hole; place boxes near trees or tall shrubs	Cavity filled with small twigs; cup is lined with feathers, hair, wool, rootlets, moss and trash; eggs are glossy white, sometimes pinkish or buff, marked with reddish-brown or lavender blotches	Clutch size: 6-8 Incubation: 12-16 days Nesting: 15-19 days # of broods: 2, sometimes 3
<b>House Sparrow</b> <i>Passer domesticus</i>	Agricultural, suburban, and urban areas; tend to avoid woodlands, forests, grasslands, and deserts	Year-round throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico; distribution is closely associated with human habitation	This introduced species out-competes native cavity-nesting birds for breeding space. We recommend discouraging any nesting attempt by House Sparrows	Messy, dome-shaped nest made of grass, weeds, and paper; lined with hair and feathers; whitish to greenish-white eggs spotted with gray, bluish gray, black, and brown	Clutch size: 4-6 Incubation: 10-13 days Nesting: 14-17 days # of broods: as many as 4

## Quick tips for monitoring nest boxes

- **Place your boxes in appropriate habitat.** Refer to the chart above.
- **Check boxes every 3 to 4 days by following the NestWatch Nest Monitoring Protocol ([www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)).**
  - Always work slowly, quietly, and efficiently to minimize stress to the birds.
  - When opening the box, be prepared for a “nest box surprise” such as a mouse
- **AVOID** checking nest boxes
  - in the morning during the egg-laying period, or at night
  - during the first few days of incubation
  - when young are close to fledging
  - during inclement weather
- **Keep accurate notes on each nest box.** Record date, species, number of eggs, egg color, and number of chicks. Write down any unusual sightings.
- **Submit your data on the NestWatch website.**



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