

Outline of the CD Bluebird Program

1. Introduction of the Three Bluebirds Native to the United States of America
Mountain – Western – Eastern
2. Basic facts of the Eastern Bluebird
Secondary nest cavity bird –Sialia Sialis- Thrush Family – 1oz, 7inches long
3. Bluebirds -arrival as early as late February or early March
4. Courtship display- male feeding the female
Copulation 30feet of nesting area- takes only second – external sex organs alike- Cloacas
5. Nest building – dried grasses, pine needles and rootlets possibility of three nesting attempts a year.
6. Egg laying- one a day generally mid-morning
7. Clutch sizes 4 to 7 eggs
8. Colors of eggs - sky blue to off- white –(called albanistic eggs)
All blue or all off white, mixing caused by egg dumping
9. Brooding, and females brood patch blood vessels near surface under belly.
Regulating body temperature of nestlings - adult birds temp 105degrees- egg temp. 99 to 100degrees
10. Hatchlings - just born or being a day old
11. Nestlings – a bird in nest until 18 -22 days.
12. Fledglings – young birds outside of nest box but still dependent on parents care.
13. Juvenile- a birds that's feeding on their own - after 3 to4 weeks
14. Adult- after their first molt they get their true colors.
15. Other nest cavities birds that will use their nest cavities,
Tree swallow- white breasted nuth - Tufted Titmouse- Great Crested Flycatcher- Wrens- House Sparrow
16. House Sparrow – is really not a sparrow at all but an Old World Weaver Flinch
House sparrow control –Van Ert Sparrow Trap placed inside nest box
17. Food chain – insects and berries
Summer time 80% insects and 20% berries / winter time mostly seeds and berries
18. Predators – hawks- raccoons-chipmunks-squirrels-snakes-blow fly larva –cats and dogs
Mankind has been the worst influence on the destruction of bluebirds
19. How to attract bluebirds to your yard.
Installing a nest box, flower gardens –bird baths with running water- meal worms
20. Photo of nestling in hand - Inspecting the nestling for blow-fly larva and mites.
21. Photo of Fecal Sac in hand – Don't what to leave you with a crappy picture, so my last photo is the one that sums up why we install Nest Boxes. (Photo of cavity in a tree) Natural nest cavities are hard to find and competitions for those cavities are severe. This is why we install nest boxes today.

*Be a good Landlord and monitor your nest boxes weekly, and please do not let house sparrows use your nest box.