



Identify Species & Nests

Understanding who's nesting in your boxes is one of the most important parts of monitoring. These quick guides will help you recognize the species you're seeing, identify their nests, and follow chick development from hatch to fledging.

Species Identification

Nest Identification

Each species builds a distinct nest:

- **Eastern Bluebird** — fine or coarse grasses, sometimes pine needles, lined with fine grasses.
- **Tree Swallow** — coarser grasses and straw, lined with feathers once eggs are laid.
- **Black-capped Chickadee** — moss base, topped with fine grass and animal hair.
- **House Wren** — sticks and twigs, often filling the entire box.

Species Identification of cavity nesters

Male & female Eastern Bluebird.



Female & male Tree Swallow.



Fledgling Eastern Bluebird



Black-capped Chickadee, sexes similar.



House Wren, sexes similar.



Nest Identification

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Eastern Bluebird — fine or coarse grasses, sometimes pine needles, lined with fine grasses.

Tree Swallow — coarser grasses and straw, lined with feathers once eggs are laid.

Each **Black-capped Chickadee**

House Wren— moss base, topped with fine grass and animal hair. — sticks and twigs, often filling the entire box.

Eastern Bluebird
Fine or coarse grasses,
pine needles, lined with fine
grasses.



Tree Swallow
Similar to bluebirds, coarser
grasses & straw, lined with
feathers when eggs are laid.



Black-capped Chickadee
Moss, fine grass, lined with
animal hair.





How They Grow

Bluebird chicks grow rapidly — from hatch to fledging in just 16 days. Use the daily photos to track development and confirm healthy progress.



Day 16

That's sure a lot of growing to do in just 16 days, don't you think?