

The Star Prairie Nest Box™

U.S. Patent No. 11,363,882

At the offices of Star Prairie Birdhouse Company, LLC, there are solar-powered, wireless cams installed in four nest boxes. Nest boxes are placed in pairs. Each pair is separated by approximately 250 feet. The following results are from the first year of installation. By the end of the breeding season, broods of bluebirds (2), tree swallows, and chickadees successfully fledged in all four nest boxes.

	SE	NE	SW	NW		SE	NE	SW	NW		SE	NE	SW	NW			
April 27					Notes: Bluebirds begin excavating NW nest box.	May 23					Notes:	June 18					Notes: First chickadee egg hatches in NE nest box.
April 28					Notes:	May 24					Notes: There is a tree swallow under the feathers in the SE nest box.	June 19					Notes: All four chickadees hatched.
April 29					Notes: Tree swallows and chickadees show interest.	May 25					Notes:	June 20					Notes:
April 30					Notes:	May 26					Notes: First bluebird hatches. Chickadees take an interest in the former tree swallow NE nest box.	June 21					Notes: First bluebird egg of second brood is laid.
May 1					Notes: Bluebird nest building begins in NW nest box.	May 27					Notes: All five bluebirds hatched.	June 22					Notes: Four tree swallows hatched.
May 2					Notes:	May 28					Notes: Chickadees begin building a nest in the NE nest box.	June 23					Notes: Last two tree swallows hatched (six of six hatched!).
May 3					Notes:	May 29					Notes:	June 24					Notes: Bluebirds begin incubation of second brood.
May 4					Notes: Cedar chips were added to SW nest box to encourage chickadee use.	May 30					Notes:	June 25					Notes: Last bluebird egg of second brood is laid—five total.
May 5					Notes: Tree swallow nest building begins in NE nest box. Bluebird defends SW nest box from a house wren.	May 31					Notes:	June 26					Notes: Male bluebird continues to clean out unoccupied nest boxes.
May 6					Notes:	June 1					Notes: First chickadee egg is laid—kept covered by a fur blanket.	June 27					Notes: Northwest nest box cleaned, re-chipped, and offline.
May 7					Notes:	June 2					Notes:	June 28					Notes: Southwest nest box (continued)
May 8					Notes:	June 3					Notes: First tree swallow hatches.	June 29					Notes:
May 9					Notes:	June 4					Notes: All six tree swallows hatch.	June 30					Notes: Chickadees begin sleeping by themselves.
May 10					Notes: First bluebird egg laid in NW nest box.	June 5					Notes: Despite special care by the female, the smallest bluebird perishes. Chickadees begin incubation.	July 1					Notes:
May 11					Notes:	June 6					Notes: Last chickadee egg laid—six total.	July 2					Notes:
May 12					Notes:	June 7					Notes:	July 3					Notes: One bluebird egg of second brood lost to a house wren.
May 13					Notes: Bluebirds begin incubation. Tree swallows start building a new nest in the SE nest box.	June 8					Notes: While active in the NW nest box, the bluebirds kept watch over the nearby SW nest box.	July 4					Notes:
May 14					Notes: Last bluebird egg laid—five total.	June 9					Notes:	July 5					Notes: Southwest nest box cleaned and offline. All four chickadee hatched (four of four hatched).
May 15					Notes:	June 10					Notes: Bluebird hatchlings begin sleeping by themselves.	July 6					Notes:
May 16					Notes: A transient house sparrow stops in the NE nest box. First tree swallow egg in the SE nest box.	June 11					Notes:	July 7					Notes: Northeast nest box finished. Three of four bluebird eggs hatch (second brood).
May 17					Notes:	June 12					Notes: Female chickadee defends against intruder.	July 8					Notes: Fourth bluebird egg hatches (second brood).
May 18					Notes:	June 13					Notes: Bluebirds hatched (four of five hatched). Tree swallows begin sleeping by themselves.	July 9					Notes:
May 19					Notes:	June 14					Notes:	July 10					Notes: One bluebird hatched on July 25 (second brood).
May 20					Notes: Tree swallow incubation begins.	June 15					Notes: Male bluebird aggressively defends the vacant SW nest box from a house wren intrusion.	July 11					Notes: Northeast nest box cleaned and offline. Three remaining bluebirds hatched on July 26 (second brood).
May 21					Notes: Last tree swallow egg laid—six total.	June 16					Notes: Last three days after their first brood hatched, the bluebirds begin a new nest in the SW nest box.	July 12					Notes: Female bluebird performs final nest cleaning on July 27 (second brood).
May 22					Notes: Male bluebird solicits tree swallows and chickadees, but not house sparrows or house wrens.	June 17					Notes: Two chickadee eggs are lost to a house wren.	July 13					Notes: Southwest nest box (continued on right next to June 29 images) — cleaned and offline on June 28.