Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania

Junior Member Spring News

April 2026

Nesting Season Timeline

Bluebirds begin house shopping in February and March. When the male finds a suitable spot, he will try to attract a female's interest by waving his wing, going in and out of a nest box, and by feeding her insects.

By April the female bluebird has built a nest of fine grasses or pine needles. She will lay one egg a day until her clutch is complete - usually four or five eggs. She may not start to incubate them right away, but once she does, she will stay on the eggs for two weeks. The male bluebird brings her insects to eat since she can only leave the nest for short periods of time.

The chicks are born mostly bald and unable to see. The female pulls feathers from the center of her chest to expose an area with many blood vessels called a brood patch that she uses to keep the hatchlings warm until they are about one week old when their feathers form.

During the next two weeks the chicks will get bigger and their feathers will grow until they are ready to fledge. When they are ready to leave the nest box, you might see one of them poking a head out of the box. They usually fledge on different days and the parents are kept busy feeding them. Cats are now especially dangerous since fledglings do not fly well.

I encourage you to mail your bird stories, drawings, or photos to BSP, Box 756, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 or email susandurgin@gmail.com.