

July 2, 2002.

How a Bluebird Family Settled in a Newspaper Box!



Initially the newspaper box was completely open. From past experience, the eggs and/or babies will fall out, and probably predators including larger birds and cats will eat them. Initially I waited for the female to lay down some eggs, then I put up a small barrier, just half way up the box. This was done so the female will get used to the barrier gradually. One week later I put this barrier with the entrance hole as you see in these pictures. The female and male went in and used the entrance hole right away! Note the



space around the wood, half inch all the way around. This is for ventilation. The box itself is well insulated due to the structure around the paper box. Fifth egg was laid on 6/21. It is expected babies will hatch any time now. Fledge time is around 7/21. The homeowner is so happy. She did not know the pine needles were put by a bird and she continued to remove them. When she went to New York to visit her husband (he works there three days a week) the female Bluebird had a chance to complete her nest. While the owner was away, I asked permission from her daughter to put up the first barrier, and she gave me permission. All is well now, and the neighbor is delighted for me to mount one of my nestboxes for her next season! The pictures show the condition of the nestbox (paper box) at the present time.