

3 Birds and their Nests Sometimes found In Bluebird Nest Boxes

English House Sparrows And the Type of Nests They Build



Wendell Long Photo



Bet Zimmerman Photos (Sialis.org)

English House Sparrows: Female, front, and male, and typical nests.

English House Sparrows are an introduced species and are not protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Act. They are very predatory and will destroy bluebird eggs and kill adults and nestlings trapped inside the nest box. In order to promote the conservation and protection of bluebirds in Florida, English House Sparrows must be controlled when they attempt to take over a nest box.

Carolina Chickadee Nest

(Tufted Titmouse nests are similar to Chickadee nests and difficult to tell apart)



Florida Bluebird Society Photo



Wendell Long Photos of Carolina Chickadee (top) and Tufted Titmouse (below)

The moss base quickly identifies the nest in the above box as being made by either a Carolina Chickadee or a Tufted Titmouse. While there likely are exceptions, bluebird nests in Florida usually are made of pine needles.

Because Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse nests are similar, caution often dictates delaying recording a positive identification until the adult bird is seen. That, of course, isn't difficult to do once the female titmouse starts incubating the eggs. She normally sits tight, refusing to leave the nest, even when the door of the nest box is opened.

For the record, that is a Carolina Chickadee nest in the photo above.

