Abstract of student research conducted at Green Wing Environmental Laboratory  
Research in Field Biology, a pilot course for Senior Inquiry  
June 2007

What is the feeding rate of nestlings by male and female Eastern Bluebirds and what anti-predatory behaviors are used by parents to intruders of a nest?

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While observing nest boxes containing active nests of the Eastern Bluebird, I noticed that parents were delivering food to nestlings and that they behaved very nervously and somewhat aggressively to animals, such as me, that approach the nest too closely. I became interested in wanting to know more about parental behavior of bluebirds in relation to food delivery and anti-predation. I monitored two Eastern Bluebird nests in nest boxes one each in Mink Meadow and the prairie of Green Wing Environmental Laboratory. For two days, I quantified (three two-hour sampling periods per day) feeding rate of the nestlings and protection behaviors. I found that nestlings were fed roughly every 3-5 minutes. In Mink Meadow, males mostly fed the nestlings, whereas females fed nestlings about as often as males in the prairie. The most common intruder of the bluebird nest box was the Tree Swallow. In response, the parents most often approached the intruder, perched on the nesting box, and vocalized, relative to other behaviors.