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Late Nesting of Eastern Bluebirds in Mississippi

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On 31 July 1984, 15 days after five young fledged from a nest box in Starkville, Oktibbeha Co., Mississippi, a pair of Eastern Bluebirds (<u>Sialia sialis</u>) returned and the female began nest-building. By 8 August, 4 eggs had been laid. Of these, only two hatched (on 21 and 22 August). The two nestlings fledged within 5 minutes of each other on the evening of 7 September. The two unhatched eggs were infertile.

Throughout the incubation period, four juveniles from the previous brood were frequently on or near the nest box. The adults made only token efforts to drive them away the last two days before the late brood fledged. The four older juveniles and one of the late fledglings were seen together on 15 September. Although young of earlier broods are known to feed young of later broods in some species, such was never observed in this case.