

Feeding of Nestlings by Juvenile

Eastern Bluebirds

Tina and Curtis Dew

Rt. 1, Box 108-A
Pachuta, MS 39347

On 12 August 1985, at a late Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nest in Pachuta, Mississippi, we observed juvenile bluebirds feeding the 10-day-old nestlings. The first brood from this box fledged 24 May. The three nestlings were being fed exclusively by young bluebirds; no adults were in sight. The weather was very hot.

The feeding was done by two young males and one young female, with the young being fed at least every 15 minutes. The two males seemed to be feeding more often than the female and would often arrive to feed at the same time. One would go in and feed and the other would wait patiently on top of the box for his turn to feed. The three juveniles would often perch close together on utility wires near the box, looking for insects in the field below to feed the babies. They showed no rivalry toward each other, but softly warbled and wing-fluttered among themselves. The young were being fed mostly grasshoppers and spiders from the dry pasture. All three nestlings fledged.