

NestWatch

Trouble-shooting guide for nest box landlords

<i>What you might find:</i>	<i>What may be the cause:</i>	<i>What you could do:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs or nestlings missing, nest intact 	<p>Snake, rodent, House Sparrow, House Wren</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Install predator guards or baffles on the box pole ◆ Move boxes away from areas where House Sparrows are prevalent ◆ Place House Sparrow deterrents or excluders on the nest box. ◆ Move boxes away from prime House Wren habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs or nestlings missing or on ground under box. ◆ Nest disturbed, partially pulled out of hole, or on ground under box. ◆ Adult feathers scattered on ground below box. 	<p>Raccoon, cat, squirrel, human vandalism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Install predator guards or baffles on the box pole ◆ Install boxes high enough so cats can't leap from the ground to the box roof ◆ Place box away from trees or fences to prevent raccoons and cats from climbing or jumping to the box ◆ Securely close box with screws or nails
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs on ground under nest, nest intact and tiny holes pecked in eggs. ◆ Nestlings dead in box and with signs of trauma, especially around the head. ◆ Adult dead in nest, signs of trauma, especially around the head. 	<p>House Wren, House Sparrow</p> <p>Note: Dead adults and nestlings more likely due to House Sparrows</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Move boxes away from areas where House Sparrows are prevalent ◆ Place House Sparrow deterrent or excluders on the nest box. ◆ Move boxes away from prime House Wren habitat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs fail to hatch. ◆ Nestlings or adults dead in box, no signs of foul play 	<p>Infertile eggs, runt eggs, female disappeared, bad weather, chemical poisoning, nestlings or adults could not climb out of box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Don't use lawn, garden, and insect chemical products ◆ Discuss possible chemical application problems with neighbors, golf courses, etc. ◆ Install fledgling ladder or roughen up the inside of the nest box directly under the entrance hole ◆ Some things are beyond our control

