

Troubleshooting Guide

For Nest Box Landlords

What you might find:	What may be the cause:	What you could do:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs or nestlings missing, nest intact 	Snake, rodent, House Sparrow, House Wren	<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. 	Raccoon, cat, squirrel, human vandalism	<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. 	House Wren, House Sparrow Note: Dead adults and nestlings more likely due to House Sparrows	<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 	Infertile eggs, runt eggs, female disappeared, bad weather, chemical poisoning, nestlings or adults could not climb out of box	<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