



Figure 1. Blue tits often choose to breed in nestboxes, which makes them an ideal model for studying parental behaviour in a free-living animal.



Figure 2. A nestbox with fully-grown blue tit nestlings, which will fledge and leave the nestbox within a few more days. In blue tits it takes about three weeks from hatching to fledging, in which time the chicks obtain the same body mass as their parents. The parents have to work extremely hard during these three weeks, bringing tens of caterpillars per hour to their chicks during the entire day.