An easy do-it-yourself box/cavity camera for monitoring nestboxes

Carrying a ladder and climbing up to look in every box can be time consuming and a lot of work. Here is an example for creating an easy camera system to speed up checks, making things easier on you and any wildlife in the boxes.

Here’s what you need:

1) GoPro or similar style action camera **with wifi capability** (off-brand cameras are improving in quality and can cost fractions of what the name brand does. Here’s a link to one we’ve had good luck with that runs $60:
   https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B018E0P7ZA/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o09_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1
2) A 1.5 inch wide putty knife (you can get this from any hardware store, choose a flexible one as you will be bending the metal)
3) A small paint roller with a screw-in handle.
   http://www.homedepot.com/p/12-in-Frame-for-4-in-Mini-Roller-Covers-4RL-12/100397481
4) Velcro straps, or a small thick rubberband
5) Gorilla or duct tape
6) An extendable pole with screw-threaded top (painters pole)

Bend the putty knife at angle as depicted. Cut off the metal portion of the paint roller and tape the putty knife to the roller handle. (I also like to tape the blade of the knife as it protects the camera from the metal blade and adds some friction to reduce camera slip). **Tightly** attach the camera to the underside of the putty knife using either Velcro, a strong rubber-band, or tape *(if not tight you risk leaving the camera in the box if you catch the lens on the entry lip…)*. Screw the camera assembly onto your pole, turn on the camera, initiate wifi, and connect your phone or other device to the camera using your camera’s free app. Now you are ready to check away!