

Nesting Guide of Common Birds

Species	Nest Height and Location	Eggs	Incubation Period*	Nesting Phase	Broods
American Robin	(10'-20') shrubs, tree forks, horizontal branches, nesting shelves.	4 light blue	F 12-14 days	14-16 days	2-3
Northern Cardinal	(1'-15') dense shrubbery, small deciduous or coniferous trees, thickets, vines	3-4 grayish or bluish white, spotted or blotches	F 12-13 days	9-10 days	2-3
American Goldfinch	(4'-14') upright forks of leafy bushes or deciduous trees	5 pale bluish white	F 12-14 days	11-15 days	1-2
Black-capped Chickadee	(4'-10') cavities excavated in rotting trees, natural cavities, birdhouses	6-8 white with reddish-brown spots	F 12-13 days	16 days	1-2
Blue Jay	(10'-25') crotches or outer branches of coniferous or deciduous trees	4-5 olive with dark brown and grayish spots	MF 17-18 days	17-19 days	1
House Wren	(4'-12') natural tree cavities, woodpecker holes, birdhouses	6-7 white, thickly speckled with minute reddish spots	F 12-15 days	16-17 days	2
Eastern Bluebird	(4'-20') natural tree cavities, woodpecker holes, birdhouses	4-5 pale blue or occasionally white	F 13-15 days	15-20 days	2-3
Northern Oriole	(15'-30') elm, apple, willow, cottonwood, maple, and other shade trees	4-5 pale grayish to bluish white, marked with dark colors	F 12-14 days	12-14 days	1
Purple Martin	(10'-20') martin houses in open areas	4-6 white	F 15-16 days	27-35 days	1
Mourning Dove	(10'-25') evergreens, tangles of shrubs or vines	2 white	MF 13-14 days	12-13 days	2-3
House Sparrow	(4'-40') birdhouses, building rafters, holes in walls, signs, tree holes, evergreens	4-6 white, greenish or bluish marked w/ gray or brown	F 12-13 days	14-17 days	2-3
Downy Woodpecker	(5'-40') holes excavated in live or dead trees	4-5 white	MF 12 days	20-22 days	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	(10'-15') natural cavities in trees, old woodpecker holes, birdhouses	5-8 white with reddish-brown spots	F 12 days	14 days	1
Wood Duck	(5'-50') natural tree cavities, wood duck boxes	10-15 dull white or pale buff	F 28-31 days	1 day	1

Tree Swallow	(5'-20') woodpecker holes, tree cavities, birdhouses	5-6 white	F 13-16 days	16-24 days	1
Common Grackle	(2'-12') deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs	4-5 greenish white to light brown, marked with dark brown and purple	F 11-13 days	12-13 days	1
Chipping Sparrow	(1'-11') evergreens, shrubs, vines	3-4 pale bluish green with dark brown, black, and purple spots	F 11-12 days	8-12 days	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	(5'-15') forks of deciduous trees	3-5 pale blue with brown spots	MF 13-14 days	9-12 days	1-2
Canada Goose	(0'-3') ground near water, nesting platforms, tops of muskrat houses	4-7 creamy or dirty white	F 26-29 days	1 day	1
Red-winged Blackbird	(3'-8') cattails, rushes, reeds, bushes (alder and willow)	3-4 pale bluish green, marked with dark colors	F 10-12 days	11-14 days	2
European Starling	(10'-25') natural cavities, woodpecker holes, birdhouses	4-6 pale bluish or greenish white	MF 12-13 days	18-21 days	2
Great Horned Owl	(30'-50') old nests of red-tailed hawks, crows, herons, eagles, squirrels	2-3 dull white	MF 28-35 days	35 days	1
Yellow Warbler	(3'-8') upright forks or crotches of shrubs, trees, briars	4-5 whitish with brown-gray blotches marked with brown/black	F 11-12 days	9-11 days	1
Cedar Waxwing	(6'-20') horizontal limbs of deciduous trees (avoids dense woods)	4-5 pale bluish-gray dotted with black and brown	F 12-14 days	15-17 days	2
Common Loon	(0'-2') near water on bare grounds, floating bogs, muskrat houses, shoreline vegetation	1-2 olive-brown, sparsely marked with brown/black	MF 26-31 days	1 day	1
Killdeer	(0') on ground in open areas with sparse vegetation (usually close to humans)	3-5 light brown with black and brown spots	MF 24-26 days	½ day	1-2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	(10'-20') attached to small twigs or branches of deciduous or coniferous trees	2 white	F 14-16 days	14-28 days	1-2
American Kestrel	(15'-30') natural tree cavities, old woodpecker holes, birdhouses, building eaves	4-5 white/pinkish white, marked with small brown spots	MF 29-31 days	30-31 days	1

* F = Female only

MF = Both male and female