

Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)



Adult male, bright blue on the back with a rusty orange throat and chest and white belly



Adult female, more grayish and subdued in color than the male



Chicks are black/brownish and spotted/speckled with more blue becoming visible as they grow their adult feathers in

Juvenile with some blue



Eastern bluebird (*Sialia sialis*)

Eggs are usually pastel blue, occasionally whitish, and are a little bigger than a dime, 3-7 eggs per clutch. Eggs incubate for about 12-14 days, though sometimes longer, chicks usually fledge about the 18th day after they hatched. Both parents care for chicks, though generally only the female incubates the eggs.



Nest in a box, side view, made mostly of fine grasses and some feathers to line the nest, relatively tall nest; top view of nest shows cup about two inches deep and a little more than two inches in diameter

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)



Males are greenish blue above, with a white belly

Females are a bit duller and grayer than the males



Juveniles are brownish above instead of bluish, with more blue showing as their adult feathers grow in



Chicks are a dark brown/black

Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Tree swallow eggs are white, but when recently laid may look pinkish, as in this photo

Nests are generally made of grass or pine needles, cup is 1-2 inches deep and 2-3 inches in diameter. Tree swallows often collect feathers that have fallen off of other birds and use them to line their nests, these feathers tend to curl up and over the eggs.

Eggs are about the size of a dime, 4-7 per clutch, one laid per day

Incubation usually lasts about 15 days, though it can last 11-20 days. Both parents care for chicks, though mostly the female incubates the eggs. Birds usually fledge about 20 days after they hatch, though it can take from 15-25 days.



Some tree swallow nests are messier than others

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)



Adults are a slightly stripey buff color
Both female and male look about the same

Chicks are a dark brown color, fledgelings look about the same as adults



House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)



House wrens make nests out of sticks, and often put spider egg sacs into their nests as well. The nest cup is inside/on top of the stick mound, and is lined with softer material. House wrens have also been known to pile sticks on top of potential or active nesting areas to reduce competition from other birds



House wren eggs are a mottled reddish brown color, and are about the size of a dime. There are usually about 5-8 eggs per clutch, though 3-10 is possible. One egg is laid per day, with incubation beginning at the laying of the next to last egg or the egg before it. Eggs are usually incubated for about 12-13 days, though 9-16 days is possible; birds fledge about 16-18 days after they hatch, though 12-18 days is possible. Both parents care for and feed chicks, though only the female incubates the eggs/chicks.

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)



Male and female white-breasted nuthatches are gray/silver and black and look very similar, but females generally have a lighter-colored “cap” on their heads, as the nuthatch on the right does.



Chicks are dark colored, and fledgelings look about the same as adults, though their breasts may be lighter and whiter than adults' breasts

White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*)



Nests tend to have a soft, fuzzy lining which sometimes includes bits of plant matter, and are made of bark pieces, sticks, wads of dirt or mud, and grass.

Eggs are a tad smaller than a dime and have reddish brown speckles on them. Usually 7-8 eggs per clutch, though 5-10 is possible. Only the female incubates the eggs, which are incubated for about 12-14 days. Both parents take care of chicks, which fledge about 19-26 days after they hatch.



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)



-Breeding male on left, female on right, nonbreeding males look similar to females-

House sparrows have buff/gray undersides with a black and brown back. Breeding males such as the one on the left above have a black patch on the throat and dark brown stripes extending from their eyes and going toward the back of the head. Females have lighter brown heads with thin tan stripes extending from their eyes. Nonbreeding males look very similar to females, but generally with a lighter colored patch on the tops of their head.

Chicks are brown, fledgelings generally look like females



House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)

Nests are collections of various materials, usually grass, which may still have seed heads, but can also include feathers and twigs, among other things. The nest on the left has an unusual tunnel towards the box opening, and the one on the right seems to be a nest built on top of a previous nest

Eggs are a bit bigger than a dime, are white (sometimes with a greenish tint) and have an extremely variable amount of chocolate brown speckling. The unspeckled blue egg in the bottom picture belongs to a bluebird, and one of the eggs in the hand is unusually dark at one end.

There are usually about 4-5 eggs per clutch, though 1-8 is possible. One egg is laid per day, and incubation begins when the next to last egg is laid, and lasts about 10-13 days. Both parents take turns sitting on eggs and feeding chicks, which fledge about 14-17 days after they hatch

