

Nest Cycle overview

- **5 TO 7 WEEKS TOTAL**
 - **NEST-BUILDING - 1 TO 6 DAYS**
 - **EGG-LAYING - 5 TO 7 DAYS**
 - **INCUBATION - 13 TO 15 DAYS**
 - **AFTER HATCH DAY**
 - **BROODING - 6 DAYS**
 - **NESTLING GROWTH - 8 TO 17 MORE DAYS**
 - **FLEDGING - 14 TO 23 DAYS AFTER HATCHING**
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Nestling Development Cycle

- **DAY 1: SKIN BRIGHT PINK, EYES SHUT**
- **DAYS 2-4: SKIN LOOKS BLUE DUE TO FEATHER DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE SKIN, EYES SHUT**
- **DAYS 5-7: FEATHER SHEATHS EMERGE ON WINGS, EYES STILL SHUT**
- **DAY 7: FEMALE STOPS BROODING; EYES BARELY OPEN, FEATHERS START TO ERUPT FROM SHEATHS**
- **DAYS 8-11: EYES FULLY OPEN, FEATHERS CONTINUE DEVELOPING**
- **DAYS 11-12: SEX CAN BE DETERMINED BY FEATHER COLOR**
- **DAY 13: STOP CHECKING BOX; FULLY-FEATHERED YOUNG MAY FLEDGE PREMATURELY IF BOX IS OPENED**
- **DAYS 14-22: FLEDGING & FIRST FLIGHT, FLEDGLINGS REMAIN IN COVER WHILE PARENTS FEED THEM. EMPTY NEST IS SOILED AND FLATTENED**
- **DAY 28: FLEDGLINGS FLY STRONGLY, FOLLOW PARENTS FOR FOOD**
- **DAY 30: FLEDGLINGS FEED UNASSISTED**