



HOUSE WREN NESTING GUIDE

HOUSE WREN NESTS

- House Wrens generally have two broods per season; a third may be attempted but will likely not be as successful.
- Nest building begins mid-May through late June and can result in the building and rebuilding of multiple 'dummy nests' by the male. Once the female selects a mate and nest site, she will deconstruct and rebuild the male's nest, often using the same building materials. The female's nest will be completed quickly, in as little as 3 days and as many as 14 days.
- One egg is laid per day in the early morning, for 5-8 in total. It may be difficult to get an accurate count of eggs (and later, hatchlings) due to the large volume of nesting material used, mostly twigs and small sticks.
- Female broods the eggs about 12-13 days, starting when the next to last egg is laid. Count this as the first day of brooding.
- Hatching may occur over a 1 to 2-day period and both parents will feed their babies. Runts may be left behind to die.
- Hatchlings fledge about 12-18 days after hatching, usually 16-18, and may occur over a 4-day period. Hatchlings are prone to premature fledging if monitored late in the fledging period. Recommend not opening box from the 10th day of hatching.

COUNT GUIDE

DATE

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 EGG | DAY 1 | |
| 2 EGGS | DAY 2 | |
| 3 EGGS | DAY 3 | |
| 4 EGGS | DAY 4 | |
| 5 EGGS | DAY 5 | |
| 6 EGGS | DAY 6 | |
| 7 EGGS | DAY 7 | |
| 8 EGGS | DAY 8 | |
| 1 st Day of brooding | DAY 9 | |
| 2 nd Day of brooding | DAY 10 | |
| 3 rd Day of brooding | DAY 11 | |
| 4 th Day of brooding | DAY 12 | |
| 5 th Day of brooding | DAY 13 | |
| 6 th Day of brooding | DAY 14 | |
| 7 th Day of brooding | DAY 15 | |
| 8 th Day of brooding | DAY 16 | |
| 9 th Day of brooding | DAY 17 | |
| 10 th Day of brooding | DAY 18 | |
| 11 th Day of brooding | DAY 19 | |
| 12 th Day of brooding | DAY 20 | |
| 13 th Day of brooding | DAY 21 | |
| Babies hatch between 12th & 13th day of brooding (earlier in hot weather) – Start count all over again after hatching. | | |
| Hatch Day | DAY 0 | |
| 1 st Day of hatching | DAY 1 | |
| 2 nd Day of hatching | DAY 2 | |
| 3 rd Day of hatching | DAY 3 | |
| 4 th Day of hatching | DAY 4 | |
| 5 th Day of hatching | DAY 5 | |
| 6 th Day of hatching | DAY 6 | |
| 7 th Day of hatching | DAY 7 | |
| 8 th Day of hatching | DAY 8 | |
| 9 th Day of hatching | DAY 9 | |
| 10 th Day of hatching | DAY 10 DO NOT OPEN BOX FROM THIS DAY FORWARD | |
| 11 th Day of hatching | DAY 11 | |
| 12 th Day of hatching | DAY 12 Nestlings may begin leaving the nest | |
| 13 th Day of hatching | DAY 13 | |
| 14 th Day of hatching | DAY 14 | |
| 15 th Day of hatching | DAY 15 | |
| 16 th Day of hatching | DAY 16 Nestlings typically fledge between now and Day 18 | |
| 17 th Day of hatching | DAY 17 | |
| 18 th Day of hatching | DAY 18 | |