

STARLING NESTING BEHAVIOUR

WHERE

- Starlings nest in urban, suburban, and edge habitats, choosing building structures as well as tree cavities
- Favourite nesting sites include tree cavities, birdhouses, dryer & bathroom vents on houses, inside barns & warehouses, and in crevices and ledges on hotels, offices, and large buildings
- The average height of a preferred site is 10-25 feet from the ground
- Males choose a nesting site and begin building the nest before they have a mate – the females choose their mate and then finish building the nest
- Starlings are very aggressive at claiming nesting sites, often displacing native cavity nesters, destroying their eggs and killing adults and nestlings of species such as woodpeckers, chickadees, bluebirds, and nuthatches

WHEN & HOW

- In April, adults form pairs and begin nesting
- The eggs they lay are bluish or greenish-white
- They lay one egg per day to make a clutch of 3-7 eggs
- The eggs incubate for 12-15 days
- Both adults help feed the young during the time they are in the nest
- The juveniles fledge in 21-23 days and start to form small flocks
- Adults will usually stay close to the nest site, since many will be raising a second clutch

BLOCKING NESTING SITES

- Now is the ideal time to block nesting sites before the birds begin to nest
- Seal up holes everywhere! Use wood, hardware cloth, aluminum, screen, or other sturdy materials
- Place wooden, metal, or Plexiglas strips at a 45° angle on building ledges
- Check the birdhouses in your yard, and reduce the holes to less than 1 ½ inches in diameter, remove all perches, and ensure there is at least 7 inches from the bottom of the bird house to the entrance hole

