



TUFTED TITMOUSE NESTING GUIDE

TUFTED TITMOUSE NESTS

- Tufted titmice generally have only one brood per season, two is possible. Nests can be built a month ahead of egg laying.
- Nest construction begins late February – April and tends to take 4 days, but as many as 6-11 days.
- Look like chickadee nests until bits of leaves, moss, dried grass, strips of bark and possibly snakeskin are added.
- One egg is laid per day for a total of 3-9, with 5-6 eggs being most common. One day in laying may be skipped. Eggs resemble chickadee eggs but with more white space.
- Female begins to brood eggs when the last, or sometimes next to last, egg is laid. This egg may be infertile or a runt. Count this as the first day of brooding.
- Eggs may be hidden under a blanket of fur. Tampering with this covering may cause damage to the eggs. Monitoring will become easier once incubation has started and the eggs are exposed.
- Female broods eggs for an average of 12 to 14 days beginning once the next-to-last egg is laid. Hatching occurs within 10-18 hours (occasionally 24 hours) of each other. By Day 14, nestlings resemble adults.
- Nestlings fledge together 16 to 17 days after hatching. Do not open box after 11th day of hatching.

!! Titmice are less tolerant of monitoring and disturbance. Do not monitor more than one time per week after egg laying !!

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	
1 st Day of brooding	DAY 7	
2 nd Day of brooding	DAY 8	
3 rd Day of brooding	DAY 9	
4 th Day of brooding	DAY 10	
5 th Day of brooding	DAY 11	
6 th Day of brooding	DAY 12	
7 th Day of brooding	DAY 13	
8 th Day of brooding	DAY 14	
9 th Day of brooding	DAY 15	
10 th Day of brooding	DAY 16	
11 th Day of brooding	DAY 17	
12 th Day of brooding	DAY 18	
13 th Day of brooding	DAY 19	
14 th Day of brooding	DAY 20	
Babies hatch between 12th & 14th day of brooding – 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	
11 th Day of hatching	DAY 11 DO NOT OPEN BOX FROM THIS DAY FORWARD	
12 th Day of hatching	DAY 12	
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 fledge sometime after this day	