

Nesting information for Corkscrew's common raptors

Barred Owl *Strix varia*

PAIRS

monogamous; may mate for life

BREED

breed at 2 years of age; one brood per year (if first brood fails, will start another in 3-4 weeks; typically begin nesting in mid February and chicks typically branch around end of March or first week of April

TERRITORY

male and female live alone in different overlapping territories when not breeding; their breeding territory is smaller

NEST

pairs prospect potential nest sites up to one year in advance; prefer dense forests, wooded swamps; prefer cavities in deciduous trees with well-developed understory, but will use abandoned hawk or squirrel nests (do not build their own nests); maintain nesting territories and nest sites for years

CLUTCH

usually 2-3 eggs; white, almost perfectly round; about two inches in diameter

INCUBATION

female begins incubating with first egg; laying takes 2-3 days; asynchronous hatching; incubation 28-33 days; female incubates/broods while male brings food to cavity

CHICKS

eyes open at 7 days; branch in 4-5 weeks (unable to fly); fledged at 6-7 weeks; parents care for young for 4-6 months; young from small cavity nests leave earlier than young in roomier cavities

INDEPENDENCE

fledglings independent at 6 months

Barred Owl

Top: A chick ready to branch peers out from the nesting cavity.

Bottom: A fledged chick watches visitors pass on the boardwalk below.



Red-shouldered Hawk

Top: An adult brings a suitable stick to the tree crotch to build the nest.

Bottom: Chicks peer out from the nest waiting for parents to bring food.



Red-shouldered Hawk *Buteo lineatus extimus*

PAIRS

monogamous

BREED

breed at 1 year of age; one brood per year; nesting season is January through May

TERRITORY

male and female live alone in different overlapping territories when not breeding; their breeding territory is smaller

NEST

nest in woodland habitats, especially cypress swamps; build nest in large mature trees with good canopy; look for sites in a major fork of the tree near the trunk, below the canopy but in the top half of the tree; re-use previous years' successful nests after renovation

CLUTCH

usually 2 eggs; white with brown or lavender blotches; a little over two inches in diameter

INCUBATION

female begins incubating with first or second egg; asynchronous hatching with up to seven days between first and last hatch; incubation 33 days, female incubates and broods for first week after hatching while male brings food; then, male brings food to nearby branch and calls female over

CHICKS

born with eyes open; altricial; leave nest at 6 weeks but are fed for an other 8-10 weeks; males bring food during nesting period but then both parents feed and protect chicks

INDEPENDENCE

fledglings independent at 4-5 months but linger in nest vicinity