

Development stages of the Eurasian spoonbill chicks

1 day



1-3 days – Body color pinkish/greyish , bill and legs orange, bill very small, almost no movement, adults spend long periods in the nest incubating.

2 days



1-3 days – Body color pinkish/greyish , **bill and legs orange**, **bill very small**, almost no movement, adults spend long periods in the nest incubating.

3 days



1-3 days – Body color pinkish/greyish , bill and legs orange, bill very small, almost no movement, **adults spend long periods in the nest incubating.**

4 days



4-5 days – Body covered with greyish feathers, bill and legs orange, very small bill, stands with difficulty, brooded for long periods by the adult at nest.

5 days



4-5 days – Body covered with greyish feathers, bill and legs orange, very small bill, stands with difficulty, brooded for long periods by the adult at nest.

6 days



6-9 days – Whitish body, first sheaths for flight feathers, gray legs, **bill longer than head**, long neck, can easily stand up to beg and eat. Half the size of adult legs.

7 days



6-9 days – Whitish body, first sheaths for flight feathers, gray legs, bill longer than head, long neck, can easily stand up to beg and eat. Half the size of adult legs.

8 days



6-9 days – Whitish body, first sheaths for flight feathers, gray legs, bill longer than head, long neck, can easily stand up to beg and eat. Half the size of adult legs.

9 days



6-9 days – Whitish body, **first sheaths for flight feathers**, gray legs, bill longer than head, **long neck**, can easily stand up to beg and eat. Half the size of adult legs.

10 days



10-12 days – **White body, developed flight feathers**, down on back, gray legs, bill longer than head, spends time standing, and starts exploring off the nest.

11 days



10-12 days – White body, developed flight feathers, down on back, gray legs, bill longer than head, spends time standing, and starts exploring off the nest.

12 days



10-12 days – White body, developed flight feathers, **down on back**, gray legs, bill longer than head, most of time standing up, and starts to explore out of the nest.

13 days



13-15 days – Some feathers on back, most of time standing up and begins to explore out of the nest.

14 days



13-15 days – Some feathers on back, most of time standing up and begins to explore out of the nest.

15 days



13-15 days – Some feathers on back, most of time standing up and begins to explore out of the nest.

16 days



16-19 days – Neck and head covered with down, [approximately half the size of adult](#), bill turning more greyish. Adults spend less time in the nest.

17 days



16-19 days – Neck and head covered with down, approximately half the size of adult, bill turning more greyish. Adults spend less time in the nest.

18 days



16-19 days – Neck and head covered with down, approximately half the size of adult, bill turning more greyish. Adults spend less time in the nest.

19 day



16-19 days – Neck and head covered with down, approximately half the size of adult, bill turning more greyish. Adults spend less time in the nest

20 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

21 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

22 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

23 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

24 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

25 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

26 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

27 days



20-27 days – Chicks gathered in crèche after three weeks, making it difficult to identify them from camera trap photos (Lok et al., 2014). Line of black feathers (primaries) on wing. Adults almost absent of the nest except during feeding.

References and acknowledgments

- Harrisson, Colin James Oliver. *A field guide to the nests, eggs and nestlings of North American birds*. New York : Collins, 1978.
- Quantitative information on the development of Eurasian spoonbill chicks taking into account the measurements of the body (tarsus, weight, P3 feathers, wing and bill): Lok T., Overdijk O. & Piersma T. 2014. [Interpreting variation in growth of Eurasian Spoonbill chicks: disentangling the effects of age, sex and environment](#). *Ardea* 102: 181–194. doi:10.5253/arde.v102i2.a8
- For ageing juvenile Eurasian spoonbills, visit the [webpage](#) by Alexander Hellquist: <http://www.surfbirds.com/mb/Features/spoonbill/ageing-spoonbill-0402.html>
- Thank to Antoine Arnaud and Thomas Blanchon from Tour du Valat, that helped with criteria
- Photos from the nest of Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*), all rights reserved to Tour du Valat.
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