

Collared dove

As our climate changes, gardens are becoming even more vital to wildlife and people. They can provide shade, absorb carbon, soak up flood water and help to cool buildings. A well managed network of gardens stretching across the Sussex would also help wildlife to move more freely and adapt to climate change enabling us to create a living landscape

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Nest-site necessities

A simple platform of twigs is generally built in a tree or tall bush. Some nests are spotted on buildings, pylons or cliffs. The Collared dove builds generally close to the trunk, rather than out on a branch. In a garden situation, they'll also use Ivy or Conifers.

Building materials

Twigs and roots are used to build a structure almost as flimsy as a Woodpigeon nest, but it may become more substantial with repeated use.



Collared dove / Darin Smith

Chick care

Crop-milk is the main food until they are about 10 days old, and then adult food-items such as seeds and grains are given too.

Special dietary requirements

The Collared dove relishes almost any sort of seed or grain. It is often found around suburban chicken runs. They will also eat berries in the autumn and, more rarely, caterpillars and aphids in the spring. In the garden, they will occasionally feed on small bird seed or bread crumbs placed on either the ground or the bird table.



Night shelter

Adults roost close to the nest when breeding. Later, chicks may roost with the parent near the nest. Communal roosts outside the breeding season favour evergreens and sometimes street trees. They tend to be very tolerant of lighting and traffic.

The ideal territory

Contains a nesting tree and a vantage point for display by the male.

When it's all happening

The collared dove is almost timeless. Every year, eggs and young are recorded in all months, but there is a bit of a lull in December, January and February.



Collared dove / Darin Smith

Breeding Starts: March

Number of Clutches: 2-5

Number of Eggs: 2

Incubation Days: 14-16

Fledge Days: 18-21

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