

Nuthatch

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

The Nuthatch is a tree nester that will narrow the opening of a tree hole by plastering it with mud, this ensures larger birds are unable to get into the nest



Nuthatch / Alan Price, Gatehouse

Building materials

Mud, mud, glorious mud – they need it. Mud-plastering (using up to a kilogram of mud) is an important part of nesting behaviour, and is conducted even if the nest is ideal. The nest material is usually chips of bark from Conifer trunks (especially Scots pine), woodchips or dried leaves. No soft lining is used.

Chick care

The chicks will get to eat a good variety of spiders, beetles and caterpillars.



Spider & Ground beetle / Alan Price, Gatehouse; Emperor moth larva / Graeme Lyons

Special dietary requirements

In the summer months insects are top of the dietary needs but Nuthatches also like peanuts, hazel nuts and acorns in the autumnal months. Babies may be brought to the feeding station within a few days of fledging.



Nuthatch / David Ball

Night shelter

They tend to roost individually in snug holes or crevices. From the end of July, the young will be establishing their own territories, and finding their own roost holes.

The ideal territory

This bird is a classic of woodlands where it spends time clinging to branches of tall trees, although. Gardens that are mature and new or next to woodland stand the chance of spotting them at their bird tables.

When it's all happening

Egg laying begins in mid-April, and the young fledge during mid-June.



Nuthatch / Vanda Pellins

Breeding Starts: April

Number of Clutches: 1-2

Number of Eggs: 4-13

Incubation Days: 14-18

Fledge Days: 23-25

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