

Northern Mockingbird Nest Monitoring July 16-25, 2021



Three eggs in nest
July 16, 2021



Three chicks in nest
July 21, 2021



Parent with food (worm)
July 21, 2021

Morgan G.

Nest Information

Nest located in shrub next to juniper tree, about 3-4 feet high
Nest made from pine needles, twigs, feathers, and grasses.

Northern Mockingbird Biology

- Male builds the base of the nest, female adds lining
- 3-4 eggs, sometimes 2-6, laid by female
- Incubation for 12-13 days by female only
- Chicks fledge around 12 days after hatching
- 2-3 broods laid per year
- Chicks are motion activated
 - The slight motion of branches results in chicks opening beaks for food
- Parent brings food for chicks, lands on nearby tree branch and waits for me to stop looking before going into nest. This method prevents predators from following parent to nest and chicks (food source). Parent sticks head out of shrub before leaving to find more food.



Northern mockingbird nest (2 chicks) from
May, 2020.

Time Line

Prior

Territorial aggression
Northern mockingbirds build nest
Nest near complete

July 3 or 4, 2021

Nest complete
Eggs are laid

- Date estimated based on incubation of 12-13 days
- These dates are the latest possible

July 16, 2021

Female seen incubating 3 eggs

July 20, 2021

All 3 eggs have hatched

- Mostly fleshy pink, some fluff
- Hatching on July 20 at latest

July 22, 2021

Twice: Cooper's hawk sits in juniper tree while eying nest. Parents attack the hawk with dive bombing and territorial calls. Chicks are unharmed.

July 24, 2021

Only 1 chick remaining

California ground squirrel eyes nest. Parents attack with dive bombing and territorial calls. Squirrel did not take any chicks. Unsure if chicks were missing prior to attack or disappeared after.

July 25, 2021

All 3 chicks have disappeared

Nest unsuccessful, reasons unknown

- Predation by Cooper's hawk likely
- No visible reasons for why chicks disappeared (ie. Disturbed nest, feathers)

Data

Date	Chick Count	Parents bring food?	Other?
July 20, 2021	3/3	Yes	/
July 21	3/3	Yes	/
July 22	3/3	Yes	Parents defend nest from Cooper's hawk twice
July 23	Nest not checked	Yes	/
July 24	1/3	Yes	Parents defend nest from California ground squirrel
July 25	0/3	No	All three chicks gone, nest unsuccessful

Conclusion

Nest unsuccessful, reasons unknown.