



AMERICAN ROBIN



Checklist of Robin Observations

Date	Observation	
	Over-wintering robins Keep a tally and record the dates of all your winter sightings.	✓
	First male robin	✓
	Wave of robins A "wave" (three or more robins together) is a peak migration event.	✓
	Average temperatures reaches 36° F Test an age-old hypothesis. Do robins arrive and sing when the average temperature reaches 36° F? Learn how to measure and graph the "isotherm."	
	First earthworm	✓
	First robin heard singing Means your resident robin has arrived and is establishing territory.	✓
	First female robin Females arrive a few days to two weeks after males. Females look faded and drab compared to the male's dark head and bright orange breast feathers.	
	First males seen in battle Means the male robins are fighting over territories.	
	Nest building begins Watch for signs such as the male or female flying with nest materials, or the female with mud on breast. Both gather nest materials but usually only the female builds. She may begin within a day or two after arrival. It usually takes 2-6 days to build.	
	Incubation of eggs underway Females spend about 50 minutes of every hour incubating, so you can assume she's incubating when you see her less often!	
	Young hatch Usually about 12-14 days after last egg laid. Watch for adult flying with worm, rather than eating it. Broken pieces of blue eggshell on ground may be a sign of eggs hatching OR of a nest predator.	
	First young fledge Both parents feed the babies. About 9-16 days after eggs hatch the young leave the nest or "fledge." Watch for flightless robins with a spotted breast on the ground or in low branches.	
	First young take wing During the first 2-3 days after fledging, the young make their first clumsy flights. Watch how long it takes before they become good fliers.	
	Parents start nesting all over again When suddenly only dad is feeding fledglings, mom is probably sitting on eggs again. Sometimes she uses the old nest and sometimes she builds a brand new one.	

Please Report These Observations to Journey North!

<http://www.learner.org/cgi-bin/jnorth/jn-sightings>

