

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A STARLING

### Range and Habitat:

This bird occurs from Alaska and Quebec south throughout the continent to the Gulf Coast and northern Mexico. It is native to Eurasia and was widely introduced around the world. Common habitats of this starling include cities, suburban areas, farmlands, and ranches.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Four to six pale blue eggs are laid in a mass of twigs, grass, and trash lined with finer plant material and feathers, and placed in a tree or building cavity. Incubation takes 12 to 14 days and is carried out by both sexes.

### Foraging and Feeding:

This bird is omnivorous and can adapt to numerous kinds of food. It uses a "prying" and "open-bill probing" technique to allow them access to foods that are protected by tough skins or shells. The birds insert their bill into the food, pry it open by widening their beaks, and expose the nourishment that is found inside. Foods eaten include seeds, insects, vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, and fruits. The most common animals eaten by the starling are centipedes, spiders, moths, and earthworms.

### Readily Eats:

Bread Products, Cracked Corn, Millet, Nut Meats, Suet

### Vocalization:

This bird emits a series of discordant, musical, squeaky, and rasping notes and often imitates other birds. Its call is a descending whee-ee.

### Similar Species:

The European Starling is somewhat similar to blackbirds, cowbirds and grackles but has a shorter tail, chunkier body, white spots on the head and body, and a yellow bill.



### Breeding Locations:

Grassland with scattered trees, Marshes, freshwater, Open landscapes, Swamps

### Breeding Type: Common

### Breeding Population:

Grassland with scattered trees, Marshes, freshwater, Open landscapes, Swamps

### Egg Color:

Green White, Light Blue

### Number of Eggs: 4 - 8

### Incubation Days: 12 - 14

### Egg Incubator: Both sexes

### Nest Material:

Grass, twigs, forbs, rootlets, and straw.

### Migration: Northern birds migrate