

# Great Blue Heron (GBHE) Nesting Stage Guide

**Stage 0** - Pre-nesting: birds at or near colony, **courtship**, mating, roosting, nest construction.



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**Stage 1** - egg laying or **incubation**, adult on nest for long periods, standing to turn eggs.



**Stage 1** - egg laying or incubation, **adult(s) on nest for long periods**, standing to turn eggs.



**Stage 1** - egg laying or incubation, adult(s) on nest for long periods, **standing to turn eggs**.



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# Stage 1 - egg laying or incubation, adult(s) on nest for long periods, standing to turn eggs.

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**Stage 2 - hatching**, small downy chicks, feeding low in nest, watch carefully when adults move.



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## Stage 2 - hatching, small downy chicks, feeding low in nest, watch carefully when adults move.

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**Stage 3 - chicks (usually) standing; most/all down replaced by juvenile plumage, parents continuously at nest.**



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**Stage 3** - chicks (usually) standing; most/all down replaced by juvenile plumage, parents continuously at nest.

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**Stage 4** - adults not continuously at nest (may remain after feeding); chicks (usually) on nest platform.





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**Stage 5 - young often off nest**, on nearby branches; record number of chicks and time off nest.



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## Stage 5 - young often off nest, on nearby branches; record number of chicks and time off nest.

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