

## Blue jay developmental steps

Age (days)	Weight (g)	Developmental steps
Hatch	5 to 6	Altricial; skin is bare, olive toned and dark with lighter colored feet and beak; eyes are closed and bulbous; thin cream color flange; mouth is dark red on the inside; yolk sac very prominent several days; continuous brooding till 8 - 12 days
2		Skin darker with more olive overtones
3	13.5	
5	20 to 28	Eyes thin slits; dark pin-feathers visible under skin of feather tracts, and remigial quills project barely beyond skin
7		Eye lids start to open; pin-feathers breaking through skin
11		Eyes fully open and irides dark brown; feathers of dorsal and ventral tracts have broken out of sheaths; feathers on head and neck begin breaking from their sheaths; Sitting up right and can hold gape for much longer periods; flanges are nearly gone
14		Feathers of sides of head and throat begin breaking through sheaths
17 to 21		Fledge; may perch outside of nest periodically for 1–3 d prior to true fledging; continued feeding 1 to 2 months
6 months		Full vocal repertoire achieved

Smith, K. G., K. A. Tarvin, and G. E. Woolfenden (2013). Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), version 2.0. In *The Birds of North America* (A. F. Poole, Editor). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.469>