

## Not Every Egg Is The Same

### Bird's Landing

At the entrance to the Bird's Landing is a cool display of the diversity of birds illustrated by their eggs. Check them out! Not all eggs are the same.



Photo SEQ Photo \\* ARABIC \r 1 1 - Egg Case at Bird's Landing. PC: Jonathan Edquid

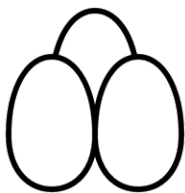
1. What are some ways these eggs are different?
2. From the eggs in the display, which bird lays the smallest one? Which bird lays the largest egg in the display?
3. What tools do you need to figure out how many times bigger the largest egg is compared to the smallest egg? What do you need to measure?
4. How many times bigger is the largest egg compared to the smallest egg?
5. The largest bird represented here is the emu. Did you know that an adult emu weighs about 100 pounds? A baby emu is less than a pound! How many times bigger is the adult?

6. Male taveta golden weavers are responsible for making the nest. Here is a picture. How does the size of the nest compare with the size of the egg? What about the shape of the nest and the egg?

You can see a male taveta weaving the nest in this video.

<https://youtu.be/bUd3sfXpz7s>





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1. What are some ways these eggs are different?  
*Color, Size, Patterns, shape*
2. From the eggs in the display, which bird lays the smallest one? Which bird lays the largest egg in the display?  
*The taveta golden weaver lays the smallest egg. The emu lays the largest egg.*
3. What tools do you need to figure out how many times bigger the largest egg is compared to the smallest egg? What do you need to measure?  
*We would measure the length or width of each egg by holding our measuring tape or ruler close to the glass display case and compare. We could also use a finger if we knew its approximate length. (If we could touch the eggs, we might be able to use a balance to record the mass of each egg and make a comparison.)*
4. How many times bigger is the largest egg compared to the smallest egg?  
*Measurements and answers will vary.*
5. The largest bird represented here is the emu. Did you know that an adult emu weighs about 100 pounds? A baby emu is less than a pound! How many times bigger is the adult?  
*An adult emu is 100x bigger than a newly hatched emu by weight.*
6. Male taveta golden weavers are responsible for making the nest. Here is a picture. How does the size of the nest compare with the size of the egg? What about the shape of the nest and the egg?

You can see a male taveta weaving the nest in this video.

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*The nest looks like it was woven together from different kinds of grass or branches. Maybe the taveta golden weaver gets its name from how the nest is made. The nest is spherical in shape and much larger than the egg. Eggs are shaped the way they are so if they fall over, they will roll back where they were.*

## Going Further

Have learners look for other nests in nature or around the Zoo. What materials are they made from? Size? Shape? How is it different than the weaver's nest? Similar? What kind of animals make nests? (Gorillas, squirrels, bees, spiders, etc.) What kind of birds or animals made the nests you found? Do you think beak shape impacts the nest design for birds? Where in the Zoo do you notice different nest designs?

The search for bird nests does not have to end at the Zoo. Take your learners on a nature walk around your campus to look for and identify bird nests or remnants of nests. Alternatively, your learners could research different types of nests in the classroom, with a focus on nest design. Discuss choices animals make when designing and creating their nests.

Nestwatch by the Cornell University Ornithology Lab is a valuable resource. <https://nestwatch.org/learn/focal-species/>



Fun Fact: Chicken eggs were found to have a compressive strength of 100 lbs, whereas ostrich eggs gave values of more than 1000 lbs! Do you think an emu could sit on a chicken egg? What would happen?