

# ATLASSING TIPS

## AMERICAN DIPPER

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### FINDING DIPPERS

Dipper nests are found on fast-flowing mountainous streams and rivers in BC. Dippers begin nest-building as early as late February on the South Coast and a few weeks later in the interior and north. Pairs choose a ledge overhanging water and build their Dutch oven nests using moss collected from the streamside. Nests are built by both sexes over about a week while often just the female lines the nest with grasses and fine leaves. Sometimes a pair will reuse an existing nest. Good signs of a nearby dipper nest are birds carrying moss or grass and a dipper standing in the same place for at least a half hour (indicates a nearby incubating or brooding female). Nests are often found under man-made structures (bridges and culverts), in fallen logs and on mid-stream boulders, cliff edges, undercut banks and behind waterfalls. Dippers lay 4-5 eggs, one per day and begin the 16-18 day incubation period at the last or penultimate egg. Only females incubate and brood the young. The nestling period lasts 24-26 days and young are present on the natal territory for 5 days to 2 weeks or more. They will often raise two broods and are infrequently polygynous.

