



## The Most Perfect Thing: Inside (and Outside) a Bird's Egg (Hardback)

---

By Tim Birkhead

Bloomsbury USA, United States, 2016. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 142 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Renowned ornithologist Tim Birkhead opens this gripping story as a female guillemot chick hatches, already carrying her full quota of tiny eggs within her undeveloped ovary. As she grows into adulthood, only a few of her eggs mature, are released into the oviduct, and are fertilized by sperm stored from copulation that took place days or weeks earlier. Within a matter of hours, the fragile yolk is surrounded by albumen and the whole is gradually encased within a turquoise jewel of a shell. Soon afterward the fully formed egg is expelled onto a bare rocky ledge, where it will be incubated for four weeks before another chick emerges and the life cycle begins again. The Most Perfect Thing is about how eggs in general are made, fertilized, developed, and hatched. The eggs of most birds spend just 24 hours in the oviduct; however, that journey takes 48 hours in cuckoos, which surreptitiously lay their eggs in the nests of other birds. From the earliest times, the study of birds ovaries and ova (eggs) played a vital role in the quest to...



**READ ONLINE**  
[ 2.96 MB ]

### Reviews

*Absolutely essential read publication. it absolutely was writtern very completely and valuable. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.*

-- **Sarai Lebsack**

*Thorough guide for book enthusiasts. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. Your lifestyle span will be transform when you total reading this article book.*

-- **Lindsey Larson**