



How you can help nesting birds

Nesting birds often rely on human-dominated areas such as backyards for nesting. By improving nesting habitat for wild birds or monitoring a nest during the breeding season, you can help protect native bird populations in your own backyard. Show your commitment to nesting birds by selecting three activities from the list below that you don't currently do and sign the pledge below to do them in the very near future.

Improve Vegetation

- Reduce lawn area. Expansive lawns don't provide the food or cover birds need.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn chemicals. It is estimated 7 million birds die per year from chemical exposure.
- Provide native plants that create a variety of habitats and food sources.
- Recruit neighbors to add adjoining plants.
- Remove invasive exotic plants which can crowd out preferred native plants.

Provide Food, Shelter, and Water

- Provide nest boxes or nesting platforms in your yard or neighborhood.
- Provide calcium from crushed hard boiled egg shells or shells baked at 250 degrees for 20 minutes.
- Provide birdbaths year-round; be sure they are less than 3 inches deep.
- Provide nest material including natural fiber yarns, feathers, and pet hair free of insect repellent.
- Provide roost boxes that can serve as overnight shelters for birds.

Enhance Nesting Areas

- Keep snags standing! They are rich in insect food and are potential nest sites for cavity-nesting birds.
- Prior to nesting season, prune shrubs and low trees to enhance natural nest supports and food supplies.
- Create a brush pile that songbirds can use as a shelter in extreme weather.
- Make your windows safe by placing netting across windows so birds bounce on impact.
- Delay mowing in fields for as long as possible after July 4th to avoid mowing nests of grassland birds.

Stay Informed

- Join NestWatch, follow the Code of Conduct for nest monitoring and report your observations online.
- Know what to do if you find a nestling out of its nest (see www.nestwatch.org).

Keep Cats Indoors!

- The most common neighborhood predator is the domestic cat. Researchers estimate that cats kill more than 100 million birds in the United States each year. Native predators, such as raccoons, skunks, rats, and jays, can also negatively impact birds.

Signature

Date

Additional Online Resources

- ⇒ Nestwatcher's Resource Center: www.nestinginfo.org
- ⇒ Native Plant Society: www.newfs.org/nps
- ⇒ National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program: www.nwf.org/backyard
- ⇒ National Audubon Society: www.audubon.org
- ⇒ All About Birds: www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/