



How to help nesting birds

Nesting birds often rely on human-dominated areas such as backyards for nesting. By improving nesting and feeding habitat for wild birds or simply monitoring a nest throughout the breeding season, you can help protect and conserve native bird populations. Please select a minimum of three activities that you don't currently do and pledge your commitment to helping nesting birds.

Improve Vegetation

- Reduce lawn area. Expansive lawn doesn't provide the food or cover birds need.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn chemicals. It is estimated 72 million birds die per year from chemical exposure.
- Provide plantings that create a variety of habitats and food sources.
- Recruit neighbors to add adjoining plantings.
- Remove invasive exotic plants which can crowd out preferred native plants.

Provide Natural Foods, Baths & Bird Feeders

- Provide native plants that have evolved to live in your area.
- Provide birdbaths year-round; be sure they are less than 3 inches deep.
- Set up a bird feeder to supplement natural food supplies.

Enhance Nest Sites

- Keep snags standing! They are rich in insect food and potential nest sites.
- Provide nest boxes or nesting platforms in your yard or neighborhood.
- Monitor nest sites regularly and report observations to NestWatch.
- Prior to nesting season, prune shrubs and low trees to enhance natural nest supports and food supplies.

Offer Other Attractants

- Provide roost boxes that can serve as overnight shelters for birds.
- Provide nest material such as dead twigs, leaves or grass, yarn, and human or animal hair.
- Create a brush pile that songbirds can use as a shelter in extreme weather.

Reduce Predators

- Keep cats indoors! The most common neighborhood predator is the domestic cat. Researchers estimate that cats kill more than over 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

- ⇒ 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/