

NESTING BIRDS

FACTS ABOUT



Pigeon nests are usually constructed with small twigs and located on covered and elevated building ledges. Pigeons, will lay two eggs per nesting cycle.

Starling nests are started by the male and built out of dry grass and leaves, creating a hole to attract the female, who completes the nest by making a nest cup and lining it with fine grasses, moss and feathers. Anywhere from three to eight eggs are laid in each clutch.



Barn & cliff swallow nests are formed out of mud pellets they collect in their beaks. Barn swallow nests are cup shaped and cliff swallow nests are gourd-shaped. Both have an inner cup lined with grass, hair and feathers. The birds will lay from three to five eggs.

Woodpeckers hack out their nests in trees, wood beams or even inside the walls of buildings. They seldom return to previous nesting holes. The lower part of the opening is angled slightly to allow water to drain outwards. The birds will lay anywhere from four to eight eggs.



Canada Geese choose nesting sites on elevated, secluded areas near bodies of water like lakes, streams, and ponds. The female goose builds a nest lined with plant material and down that she plucks from her body. The birds will lay about five eggs.

Nests not federally protected

The following few bird species may be considered pests and their nests are not federally protected:



FERAL PIGEONS
EUROPEAN STARLINGS
HOUSE SPARROWS

Federally protected nests

Bird nests protected by the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)* or by the *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* include:



GULLS
CROWS
WOODPECKERS
GEESE
CALIFORNIA CONDOR
WHOOPIING CRANE

A complete list of protected birds by the ESA can be found at **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

These laws can impose costly penalties for anyone who disturbs nests, hatchlings, or harms the birds in any way. The MBTA and ESA do allow for passive measures of bird control, such as humane deterrent and repellent measures and devices. The MBTA and ESA also allow for modifying or degrading land that is part of a migratory bird habitat.

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