

Spring Tales Newsletter



The Nest Edition

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Birds create nests to keep their eggs safe and raise their young while they are growing. Different kinds of birds make different kinds of nests. Birds within the same species build similar types of nests, but the materials they use depends on the surrounding habitat. Nests can be on the ground, inside empty spaces, or up in trees. Most birds build their nests in the spring, after they have found a mate. After a bird has found a mate and built a nest, the female bird can then start laying her eggs!

Photo:

Type of Nest:

Description:



Burrow

A hole dug in the ground.



Cavity

An enclosed shelter usually created by a hole in a tree.



Cupped

One of the most common nests. Looks like a bowl or cup.



Platform

A nest built typically high up and flat in a tree or tall vegetation.



Scrape

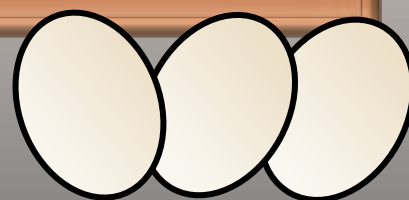
A small dent made in the ground.



Suspended

A nest that hangs by its rim or sides.

Mergansers and Wood Ducks are one of the few species of ducks that prefer cavity nesting. They prefer to nest in trees and nesting boxes.



Let's Build A Nest!

Birds make their nests typically out of materials that they can find nearby. This is called being opportunistic. The birds will look for materials that will keep the eggs comfortable, warm, and safe. Take a look at some of the common materials that are found in cup nests. Pretend you are gathering materials to build a cup nest, and circle the materials that you would want to use (you can pick more than one from each step), then draw a picture of what you think that nest would look like in the space below.

Step 1: Glue: What will make your nest stay together?



Mud



Spider Webs



Saliva

Step 2: Warmth: What will line the inside of your nest to keep your eggs warm?



Moss



Down Feathers



Leaves

Step 3: Structure: What will help your nest hold its shape?



Sticks

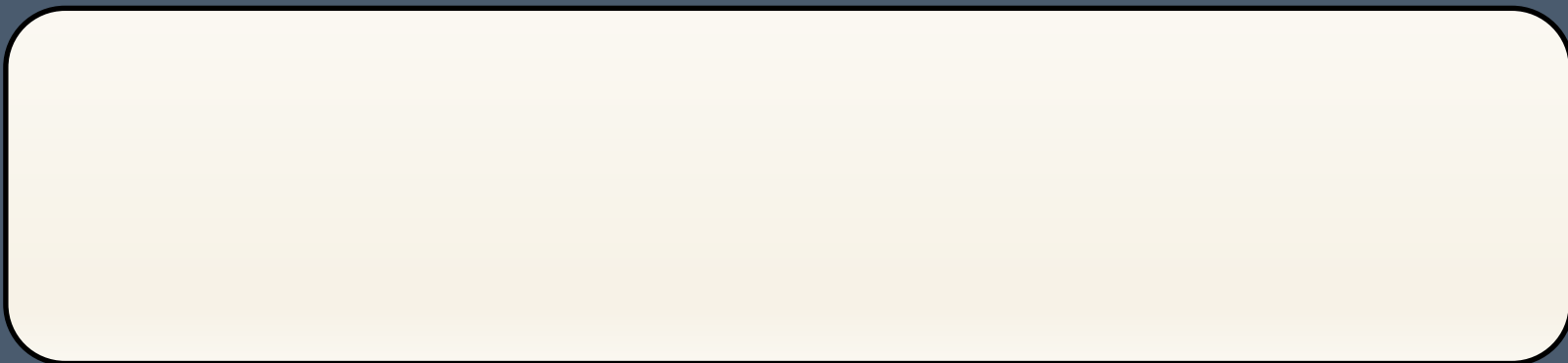


Grass



Bark Strips

Let's Draw! Draw a picture of what your nest would look like with the materials that you chose above.

A large, empty white rectangular area with rounded corners for drawing a nest.

Nest Match Up

Can you match the mom to her nest? Draw a line from the bird to the picture of the nest that you think she would build. Answers listed below!



1. Mallard



2. Killdeer



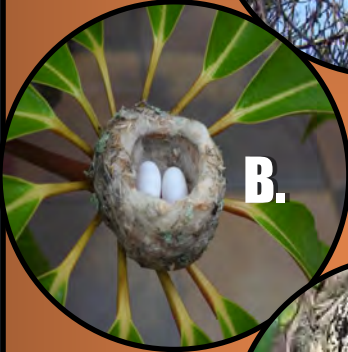
3. Bushtit



4. Hummingbird



A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



F.



G.



5. Wood Duck



6. Canada Goose



7. Swan

Feed Us!



Answers: 1. E, 2. D, 3. A, 4. B, 5. C, 6. F, 7. G

To fledge, or not to fledge!

There are two main types of hatching birds.



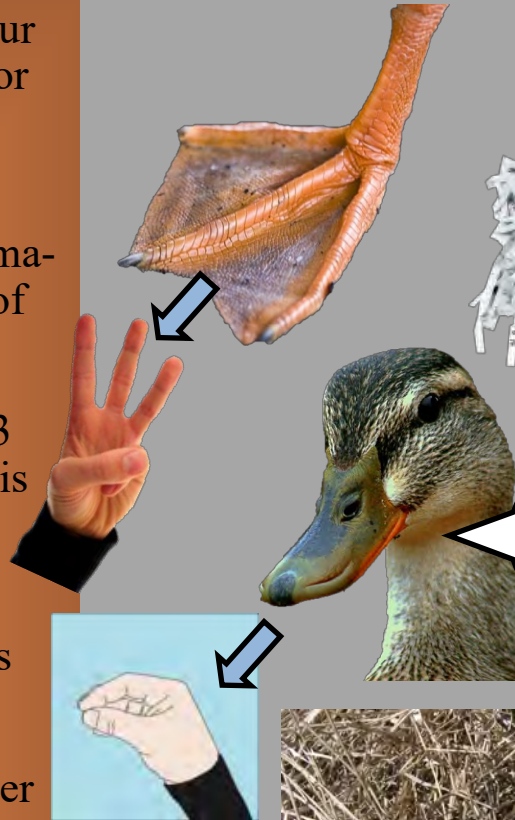
Altricial Birds: Are unable to move around on their own soon after hatching. They typically have to stay in the nest and cannot feed themselves until later on.

Precocial Birds: Are able to move around on their own after hatching. They basically hatch and are ready to go!

Build Your Own Nest Challenge

Materials: Collect materials for your nest, you can use shredded paper, or collect items from your backyard/ local park.

1. Grab a handful of your chosen materials and set them up in front of you.
2. Take your left hand and put up 3 fingers and spread them out. This will be your webbed foot.
3. Take your right hand and fold it in half (like a sock puppet). This will be your duck bill.
4. Now build your nest! (Remember to make your nest shaped like a bowl and to only use your bill and webbed foot!)
5. Optional: give yourself 2 minutes to build a nest, either by setting a timer or having someone time you.



**Can you
build a nest
like me?**



For more information on our education programs or to get involved,
contact Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 121 or mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org

For more information and our calendar of events go to www.calwaterfowl.org

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