

## WHY PROTECT NESTING BIRDS?

Birds serve our environment in many important ways. Some birds help plants reproduce through pollination and seed dispersal, while others help control populations of potential pests like insects and rodents. In addition, all native and migratory birds are protected under state and federal law, and it is illegal to engage in activities that cause harm to these birds or their nests.



Cassin's Kingbird

**NATIVE AND  
MIGRATORY  
BIRDS ARE  
PROTECTED  
BY STATE AND  
FEDERAL LAW.**

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Birds nest in all types of vegetation, but nests are often difficult to see. Many birds build their nests in hidden or hard to reach places to protect their young from predators. Other signs of nesting, such as birds defending territory or birds carrying items like food or nesting material, may help to determine whether an active nest is nearby.

*Watch for birds* **DEFENDING TERRITORY or birds CARRYING FOOD OR NESTING MATERIAL.**

### FEDERAL LAW: MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT OF 1918

703. Taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds unlawful.

"...it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to barter, offer to purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, export, import, cause to be shipped, exported, or imported, deliver for transportation, transport or cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried, or receive for shipment, transportation, carriage, or export, any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird, or any product, whether or not manufactured, which consists, or is composed in whole or part, of any such bird or any part, nest, or egg thereof..."

## WHEN ARE BIRDS NESTING?

Nesting season for most birds is late winter to early fall (February through September). However, some birds of prey, such as hawks, occasionally nest during fall or winter. It is wise to check for active nests before trimming during any time of the year because it is always possible that some birds might be nesting.



Cooper's Hawk

*Watch for most nesting* **BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND SEPTEMBER.**

### CALIFORNIA STATE CODE

3503. It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.

3503.5. It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

## PROTECT YOURSELF

- Avoid trimming during nesting season. Plan to trim between September (early fall) and February (late winter).
- Always check for nests and watch for signs of nesting before trimming.
- If you discover an active nest while trimming—STOP trimming! Avoid disturbing the nest until the nest is no longer being used. Never attempt to re-locate a nest.
- If you are unsure whether an active nest is present, consult a trained biologist for help.

Contact Ventura Resource Management Agency for a list of approved biologists or contact the Conejo Valley Audubon Society for a referral.

Ventura County Resource Management Agency  
**(805) 654-2494**



[ventura.org/rma/planning/index.htm](http://ventura.org/rma/planning/index.htm)

## PLEASE REPORT ILLEGAL REMOVAL OR DISTURBANCE OF ACTIVE BIRD NESTS.

California Department of Fish  
and Wildlife Cal-Tip Hotline  
**(888) 334-2258**

California Coastal Commission  
District Enforcer  
**(805) 585-1800**

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Support our local birds!  
Get involved in bird awareness and  
conservation.

[ConejoValleyAudubon.org](http://ConejoValleyAudubon.org)

## PROTECT OUR NESTING BIRDS



## GUIDE TO BIRD-FRIENDLY VEGETATION TRIMMING

