

## 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.



Western 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 late summer (March through August). However, some birds, such as hawks and hummingbirds, occasionally nest during fall or winter. It is wise to consult a biologist who can check for active nests before trimming during any time of the year because it is always possible that some birds might be nesting.



Coopers Hawk

*Watch for most nesting* **FROM MARCH THROUGH AUGUST.**

### CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE 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 ahead to trim from September to February
- 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.
- Remember - cavities may house nests re-used each year.
- If you are unsure whether a cavity or nest is active, consult a trained biologist for help.

Contact SB County Planning and Development for a list of approved biologists or contact the Santa Barbara Audubon Society for a referral.

Santa Barbara County Planning and Development **(805) 568-2000**

Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
**(805) 964-1468**

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

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

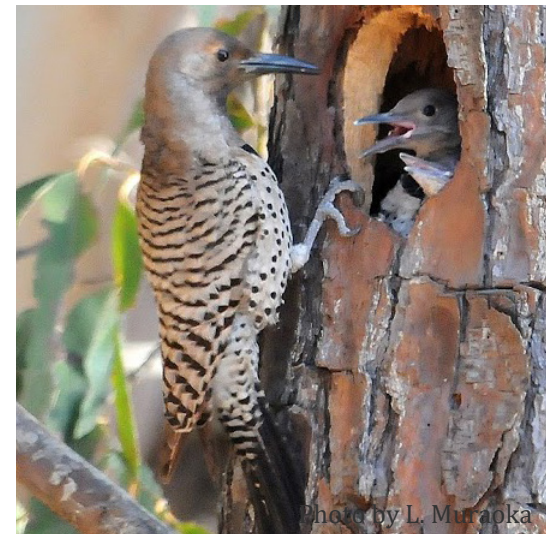
California Coastal Commission  
District Enforcer  
**(805) 585-1800**

Cover photo: Northern Flicker  
All Photos By Liz Muraoka

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

**(805) 964-1468**  
**santabarbaraaudubon.org**

## PROTECT OUR NESTING BIRDS



## GUIDE TO BIRD-FRIENDLY VEGETATION TRIMMING



**SANTA BARBARA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**