

**Do You Know....?**

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.....about nests? Bird nests come in all shapes and sizes and all levels of complexity. The tiny hummingbird nest is only 1" in diameter while a bald eagle may occupy a nest 9' plus. Many nests rival the engineering skills of a beaver dam, being meticulously woven of twigs, grasses, hair, string, etc. (orioles). Some birds are pretty lazy when it comes to nest building and choose to skip it altogether, laying their eggs directly on the



ground (whippoorwills). It may take up to four weeks to build a proper nest, although most of our familiar songbirds can complete construction in less than a week.



Although people expect birds' nests to be high in the trees, most are located from ground level to 5 or 6 feet high. They nest on water, in swamp vegetation (cattails, reeds), shrubs and trees. Some nest in cavities in trees, hollow logs on the ground, on cliff walls, in caves or chimneys, bird houses or people houses. Some nests have been built in rather surprising places; newspaper

tubes and mailboxes, clothes hanging on a line, the furled sails on a boat, within a paper sack of seeds and even on a moving ferry boat. People are often astonished to discover a nest full of babies in their hanging flower pots or decorative wreaths right on the front door. One pair of European Robins nested in a wagon that traveled 320 km shortly after the babies hatched. One parent accompanied the wagon distance feeding her babies en route.



During the spring and summer baby season, nests can be found practically any place but you'll have to look close. Most nests are either hidden in a crevice or are so well camouflaged as to be nearly invisible.



Some birds, especially raptors, will use the same nest over and over, adding to it each year. As noted above, these nests often become spectacularly large. A few birds will use the same nest throughout one season, but most will build brand new homes for each clutch of eggs.

**NOW YOU KNOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

PS: If you find a baby bird on the ground, look up. If there is a nest nearby with baby birds that look about the same, you may be able to simply replace the wayward youngster. The parent birds will NOT abandon the nest due to your human scent and will continue tending to the young as if nothing had occurred.



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