

Audubon Center & Sanctuary

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An Audubon naturalist
visited our class.

We learned about bird nests!

Add bird nests to this picture. Color your picture.



Did you know? A nest is not a home. Birds use nests to raise their babies. Once the babies have left the nest, the birds do not return. Think of a nest as a “birdie cradle.”

Background Information for Teachers

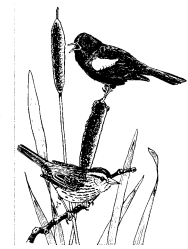
Nests are good for three basic things:

1. Keeping eggs from rolling away and breaking
2. Keeping the nest and babies away from danger
3. Insulating the eggs to keep them warm

Nests are like cradles. Birds grow up in them, but they never come back to live in them.

Robins build their nests on tree branches and on ledges of buildings. The nests are made of mud and grasses. They line the nest with soft grasses to help keep the eggs warm. Robins often build several nests that they either don't use or abandon with eggs, before they actually make a nest to raise their young.

Red-winged blackbirds suspend their nests in tall grasses that grow in marshes and sides of ponds. Occasionally they will use trees. These nests are woven out of grasses. male will protect a territory and make nests and mate with several females.



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Tree Swallows nest in tree cavities (holes in trees). They are often found in bird houses are near a pond or marsh. Their nests are often lined with white feathers.

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Great Blue Herons build platforms out of sticks high up in the trees. They often nest in large groups with many nests. These platform nests are renovated and used year after year . (Of course, they don't live in them, they only raise their young there.) The nests are often lined with fine grasses and twigs. You can find many of these groups of heron nests throughout the region.

Kingfishers dig tunnels in steep banks near rivers or streams, or within flying distance of them. They dig these tunnels with their beak and then scrape out the with their feet. Some tunnels are 6 feet long, but some tunnels can get up to 10 or 15 feet long. Kingfishers dive into water to catch fish with their beak. You can find them in trees pounding the dead fish against a branch.



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Canada Geese build nests on the ground out of whatever grass they can pull toward them. This nest is lined with soft down feathers from the mothers breast. The female can camouflage herself by laying her neck along the ground, which makes her look like a big rock. The male goose will hiss at and chase animals that try to come close to the nest. Baby geese are able to swim almost as soon as they hatch. These vegetarians can often be seen eating grass in golf courses, lawns and near ponds. Sometimes they dip upside down in the water to reach underwater plants.

