



Time to Nest

Birds are busy each spring setting up territories and building a nest to lay their eggs and raise their young. Each species build a specific nest type:

- The tiny hummingbird builds a nest about 2 inches in diameter with mosses and lichens held together with spider webs.
- The American Robin adds a layer of mud between an outer layer of sticks and grasses that line the inside of the nest.
- Eagles will gather large sticks, piling them in a fork of a large tree. Their nest may be the size of a small sofa.
- Some species such as the goldfinch use plant down from thistle, cattails or milkweed.

You can help birds providing nesting materials for their nests.

- Gather small sticks about the diameter of a pencil lead. Break them so they are 4 to 8 inches long and put them in a pile where birds can find them.
- In a plant saucer or shallow bowl, mix dirt and water to make mud. Keep the mud moist so robins or swallows can easily gather as much as they need.
- Place straw, grass clippings or pine needles in a clean suet feeder or a mesh bag, the type lemons or onions come in. Hang the container near the other materials.
- If you have found a snake skin in your garage or shed, hang it in a bush for a bird to gather. The tufted titmouse likes to include a skin as part of their nest.

Once you have gathered and placed the materials in a convenient location, head inside and watch from a window to see who uses what materials. Keep a list similar to the one below:

Species	Materials used	Number of trips made

