

Nest Building

Birds make nests to keep their young comfortable and safe. For many birds, this is a labour of love that can take weeks to create. There are a few birds (like the Bald Eagle) that will re-use the same nest for many years but most birds will make a brand new nest every year. Some birds (like Nuthatches) will use old nests from other species. Different birds make different types of nests based on their habitat, size, beak type and which materials and locations are available.



Chickadees

- Woodland birds
- Cup shaped nest, usually in a tree cavity
- Sometimes they use a cavity made by a Woodpecker
- For a new location, both the male and female hollow out a cavity, woodchip by woodchip
- Usually the female picks the site and builds the nest incorporating moss and animal fur



Dark-Eyed Junco

- Live in forests
- Cup shaped nest usually built on the ground, helping to camouflage it
- The female chooses the site and builds the nest
- It's rare for a Junco to reuse their nest site



Magpies

- Live in open woodlands and residential areas
- Magpie pairs work together to build their dome-shaped nest, usually in trees.
- Under the right conditions, Magpies might re-use a previous Magpie nest, when this happens eggs are usually laid a little bit earlier in the spring

Additional Resources

For general information about nests and birds' nesting cycles check out [Nest Watch](#)

For more information on bird identification visit the The Cornell Lab's [All About Birds guide](#)



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