

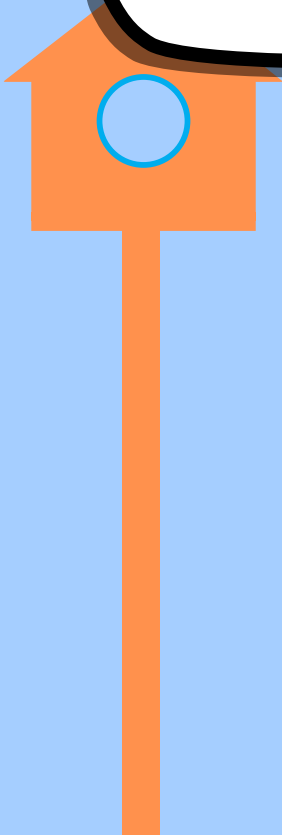
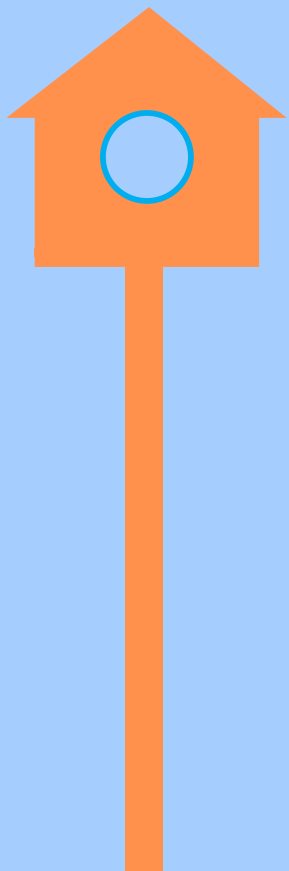
UNDERSTANDING NESTING SEASON SIGNS AND BEHAVIORS

- WITH CAROLINA WREN



NEST BUILDING: In many bird species, females build nests after they have found a mate. But in some species, like our Carolina Wren, males begin multiple nests and let the female choose her favorite. Other birds might build decoy nests or barely build a nest at all.

**IF YOU SEE ME
WITH NESTING
MATERIAL, WATCH
WHERE I TAKE IT!**



COURTSHIP: Birds dance, sing, produce colorful feathers, give gifts, and make dramatic flights—all for love. Sometimes the male and female interact, other times a female will size up one or multiple males while perched from afar.

**EH... HE'S
A SIX**

**I'M A GOOD SINGER
AND A GREAT MATE!
TEA-KETTLE, TEA-
KETTLE, TEA-KETTLE**



DEFENDING TERRITORY:

If a bird is puffed up or stretched tall, is making loud “alarm” noises, erratically circling the area or dive bombing, you might be in or near their territory. Birds will defend their mate, nest and babies against humans, animals, and even competitors of the same species.



**CHHHHHHT! CHHT
CHHT!
GO AWAY! MY BABIES
ARE NEARBY!**

COMPETITION: For the most productive breeding season possible, birds may chase, cheat, and steal. Brutal tactics like knocking other birds' eggs out of the nest, harming adults and young, and laying one egg in a different species' nest to take care of are means of continuing their family line.

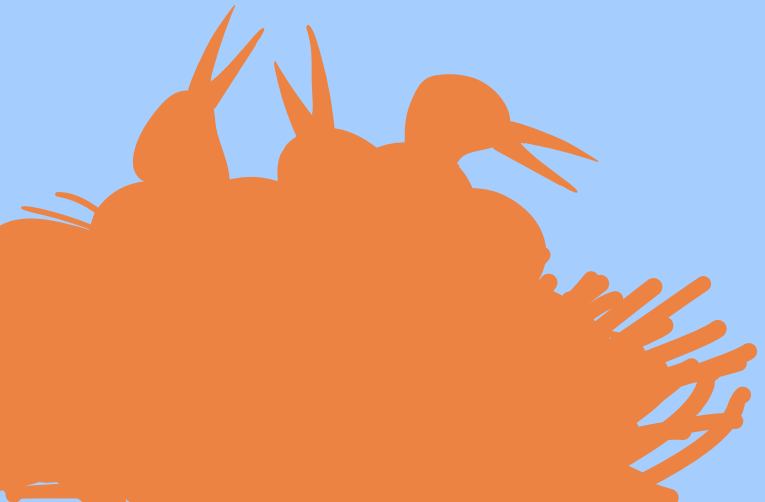
**ALMOST ALL BIRD SPECIES
ARE LEGALLY PROTECTED,
SO YOU CAN'T REMOVE BIRDS
OR EGGS YOU DON'T WANT.**



CARRYING FOOD: (OR WHAT WAS FOOD)

Baby birds eat—and poop—a lot! Watch for birds quietly carrying insects, fish, or other prey items. You may hear begging from nests or see fledglings following their parent for a meal. To keep nests tidy, many songbird parents immediately dispose of white “fecal sacs” from their babies.

**IF YOU DIDN'T SEE
ME EAT IT, I'M OUT
FOR DELIVERY!**



**GO OUT AND
ENJOY NESTING
SEASON—AND LOOK
AND LISTEN FOR
THESE BEHAVIORS
TO FOLLOW YOUR
LOCAL BIRD FAMILIES**

Photo Credits

Joni James: Nesting male,
male with caterpillar, nestbox

Jason Jablonski: singing male,
defensive male

Ryan Sanderson: female

