



WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARKS DEPARTMENT & SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL IS FOR THE BIRDS

It's the time of year when attention turns to eggs. Spring nesting season is starting and baby birds will soon arrive. Interested in becoming a birder? You've come to the right place. It's the perfect social distancing hobby!



East central Wisconsin, is not only rich in water resources but is blessed with a variety of other bird-rich habitats, the big lakes of Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne and Poygan and the major rivers, the Fox and Wolf, dominate the landscape. Rush Lake, in southwestern Winnebago County, offers a different lake experience as it is a shallow, prairie pothole-type lake that is unique to Wisconsin. With all this water, abundant wetlands including extensive cattail marshes, wet meadows and wet woodlands are scattered throughout the county. Accessible areas include Uihlein marsh, Terrell's Island, Rush Lake area, Rat

River area, James Island and Heckrodt Nature Preserve.

Although Winnebago County is primarily agricultural, remnant southern hardwood forests can be found in the south, pine woods in the north and a few remnant prairies, oak openings and grasslands. With its variety of habitats giving rise to an amazing abundance and diversity of bird life, Winnebago County provides birdwatchers a year round range of birding opportunities and experiences.

Birding is a great activity for all ages! Winnebago County Parks has a lot of nature areas for you to explore where birds are plentiful, and the

scenery isn't too bad either.

Check out the Nature Preserves at Waukau Creek, JP Coughlin, Ken Robl and Lasley Point. Boat landings are great areas to see shorebirds and there's wildlife all along the WIOUWASH and Mascoutin Recreation Trails. Don't forget to share your bird pics with us on Facebook.

For a checklist of birds to get you started follow the link below from the Winnebago Audubon Society.

<http://winaudubon.org/birds/documents/WinnebagoCoBirdChecklist1.pdf>

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[@WinnCoParksExpo](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/parks)

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Schedule of Events

SUNNYVIEW EXPO CENTER

April 2020

4—Beats 2 Go Electronica Concert

7—Spring Elections

10—Parks Offices Closed for Holiday

18—Mac & Brew

25—Green Thumb Garden and Craft Fair

Strong Bones classes Mondays and Thursdays. Officer training on weekdays throughout the month.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY COMMUNITY PARK

22—50th Anniversary of Earth Day!



For Open/Close of Waukau Dam Bike Trail go to @WaukauDamBikeTrail on Facebook



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MARKING 50 YEARS OF ACTION, FROM 1970 TO 2020 AND BEYOND

BUILDING ON THE EARTH DAY LEGACY

The first Earth Day in 1970 mobilized millions of Americans for the protection of the planet. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — 10% of the U.S. population at the time — took to the street, college campuses, and hundreds of cities to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our planet. The first Earth Day is credited with launching the modern environmental movement.

Earth Day is now recognized as the planet's largest civic event and it led to passage of landmark environmental laws in the United States, including the Clean Air, Clear Water and Endangered Species Acts. Many countries soon adopted similar laws, and in 2016, United Nations chose Earth Day as the day to sign the Paris climate agreement into force.

“Despite that amazing success and decades of environmental progress, we find ourselves facing an even more dire, almost existential, set of global environmental challenges, from loss of biodiversity to climate change to plastic pollution, that call for action at all levels of government,” said Denis Hayes, the organizer of the first Earth Day in 1970 and Earth Day Network’s Board Chair Emeritus.

Early blooming wildflowers



Wild Lupine



Wild Iris



Spiderwort

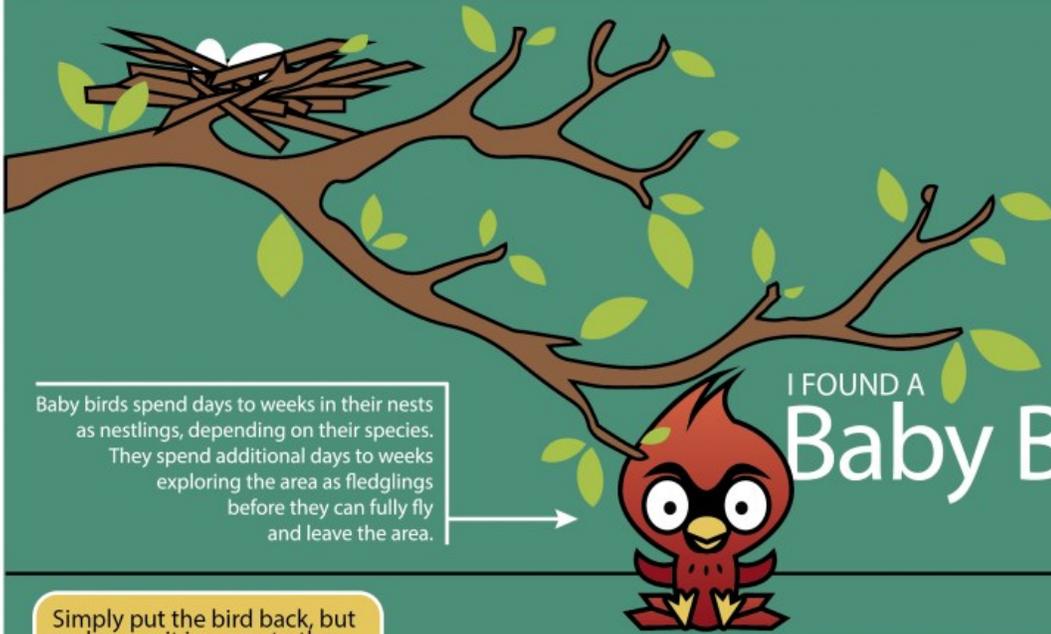


STAN GOES BIRDING

Listen for the whole story.



Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center!



Please give baby birds the best possible chance for survival and leave them in the wild where they belong!
NEVER ATTEMPT TO TREAT OR RAISE A BABY BIRD ON YOUR OWN.

START HERE

Baby birds spend days to weeks in their nests as nestlings, depending on their species. They spend additional days to weeks exploring the area as fledglings before they can fully fly and leave the area.

I FOUND A Baby Bird!



DO ANY OF THESE APPLY TO THE BABY BIRD?

- It's bleeding, has an open wound, or a broken bone.
- It's been in a cat's or dog's mouth.
- It's covered in fly eggs [these look like small grains of rice].

An uninjured bird found on the ground with few or no feathers needs to be returned to the nest. Look around in trees and bushes to see if you can locate the nest.

Can you reach the nest?

YES

NO

Simply put the bird back, but make sure it is warm to the touch. If not, warm the bird in your hands before returning it to the nest.

Returning a cold bird to the nest can cause a parent to push the baby out of the nest, as it is trying to protect its warm eggs and/or young.

NO

YES

Some birds, depending on their age, can be placed in a substitute nest. Substitute nests should be similar in size and shape to the real nest, and secured firmly.*

*For more ideas: www.wildlifecenter.org/re-nesting-birds

CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF...

The parents will not be frightened off by your scent; most birds do not have a sense of smell. The parents will return to feed the baby if it calls for food. Watch the nest from a safe distance, preferably indoors. Typically wild animals will not return to the nest if you are in the area.

Do not give food or water to a baby bird. Nutritional requirements are very specific and must be met if the bird has any chance of survival.

BABY BIRDS ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO CARE FOR AND NEED TO BE RAISED BY A WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR.

Is the bird fully feathered?

NO

YES

Take the bird to a wildlife veterinarian or rehabilitator.

A fully feathered baby bird found on the ground is likely a fledgling -- a natural state of development in the bird's life. Leave the area, and keep pets and children away from the bird. The parent(s) will not feed the baby with people present.

IT IS NORMAL FOR FLEDGLING BIRDS TO BE ON THE GROUND UNABLE TO FLY!
 One or more parent will feed them during this period. Keep cats indoors and dogs out of the area.



For more information, please visit: <http://wildlifecenter.org/baby-bird>



SPONSORS
CORNER

Stuck at home doing Spring Cleaning? If you plan to sell your extras from your garage, or online, the ability to take credit and debit cards can come in handy.

For porch pick ups or the convenience of not having to deal with cash and checks contact Cornerstone Processing Solutions.

Phone: [920-651-8888](tel:920-651-8888)

Toll Free: 888-878-2615

Email: sales@cornerstoneps.net

Or stop in at: 1600 S Main St, Oshkosh, Wisconsin 54902-6914

Sales Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

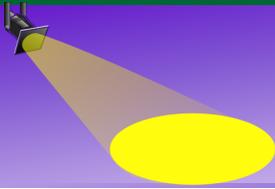
This and that...

Some people believe that the month of April signifies love and spring, but it is also an anagram of 'pillar' which in certain languages means 'hairy'!

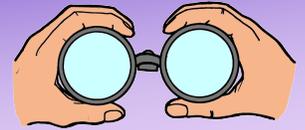
Good to know.



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Spotlight On



LEASHED ANIMAL RULES

LEASHED ANIMALS ALLOWED ON SHARED USE PATH IN PARK ONLY WHERE INDICATED. (SEE MAP)



ANIMALS MUST BE ON A **MAXIMUM 8 FOOT LONG LEASH.** LIMIT OF 2 ANIMALS PER HANDLER.

NO UNLEASHED ANIMALS OUTSIDE OF DOG PARK.

NO ANIMALS ON ANY GRASS AREA, PRAIRIE PLANTING, ROUND ABOUT, ROADWAY, GARDEN, DRIVEWAY OR PARKING LOT.

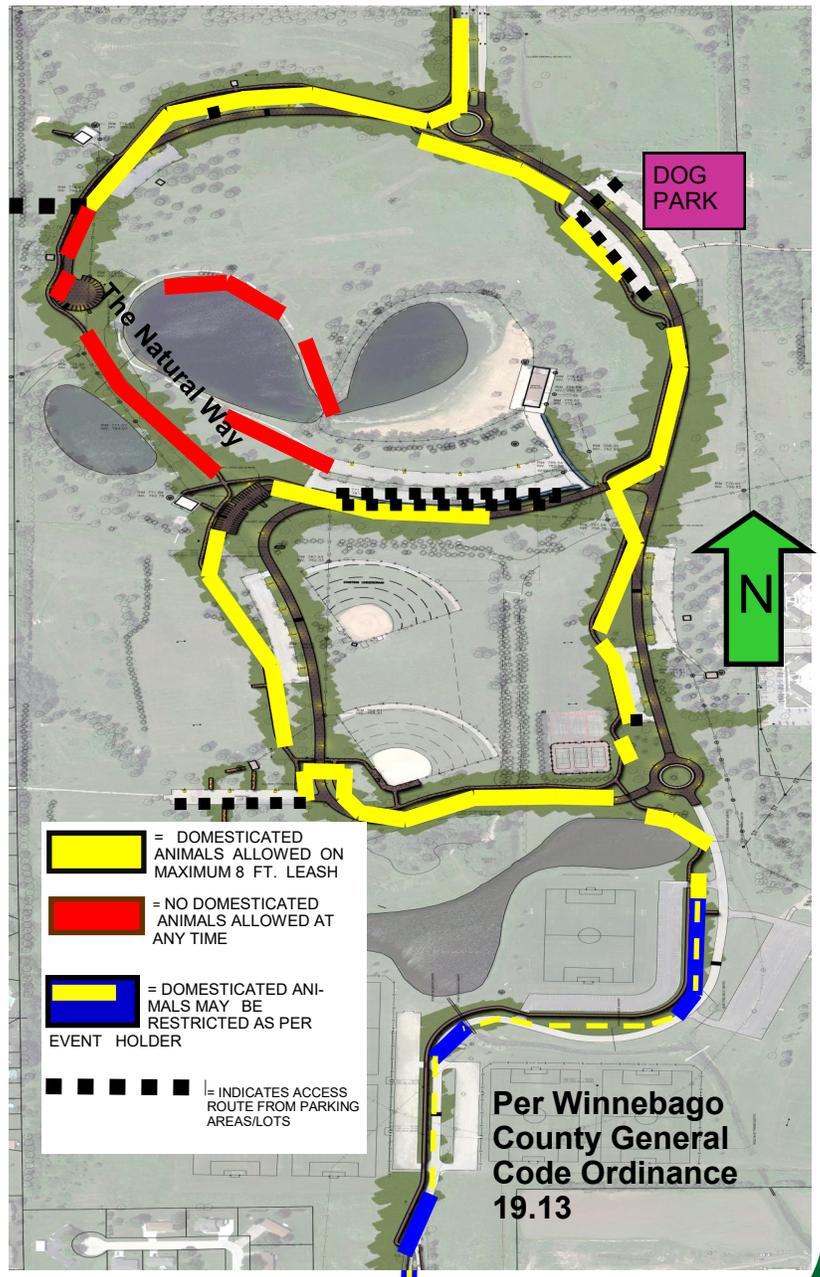
NO ANIMALS IN OR AROUND PLAYGROUNDS, SHELTERS, PAVILION, OPEN AIR SHELTERS, PLAYING FIELDS (*DISC GOLF, SOCCER, RUGBY, MULTI SPORT COURT, BASEBALL/SOFTBALL DIAMOND*) IN OR AROUND ANY POND, STREAM OR DITCH.

NO STOPPING OR STANDING WITH LEASHED ANIMALS ON PATH.

ALL ANIMAL REFUSE MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE PREMISES.

VIOLATORS ARE SUBJECT TO FINES FROM THE CITY OF OSHKOSH POLICE DEPT.

PARK IS EQUIPPED WITH SECURITY CAMERA MONITORS.



Per Winnebago County General Code Ordinance 19.13



103.9 WVBO, The Valley's Greatest Hits welcomes April in Northeast Wisconsin!

Cancelled sporting seasons, events and celebrations combined with social distancing got you down? Listen to us for great music to keep you company, get you grooving to the beat (even if it's just around the kitchen) and up to date news.



SHHHH Birds are Nesting!

Winnebago County's Nature Preserves and Refuges are places where wildlife comes first. Although people are welcome and encouraged to visit, activities are regulated to ensure that impacts to plants, birds and animals are minimal. Remember in the eyes of a bird or animal, you are a predator at the top of the food chain!

Leave Pets at Home Please
The prohibition of pets is to reduce disturbance to wildlife and habitat and make your

viewing experience better. The presence of dogs, even when leashed, can scare wildlife away from the trail. It may be because wildlife instinctively look at dogs as predators. Fleeing from a predator burns much needed energy that animals need to live and raise their young. Service animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities are allowed as long as they are under the direct control of their owner at all times and all feces are removed from the site. Birds have the same reaction to predators, especially when they are nesting. Frightened

birds have been known to abandon nests!



What to do if you find a baby bird outside of it's nest.

How to Rescue Baby Birds

Only adults should rescue baby birds. Children should be taught that if they find a baby

Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center!

bird, they should NOT touch it, but should immediately tell an adult. For your own safety, before rescuing adult birds, seek guidance from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or the DNR.

1. Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible.

2. Prepare a container. Place a clean, soft cloth without loose strings or loops on the bottom of a cardboard box or pet carrier with a lid. A shoebox is about the right size for most baby songbirds, but if you're rescuing a larger bird, a larger box or a pet-carrier might be needed. If the container you've chosen doesn't have air holes, poke several small holes in each side and the top using the sharp end of a pencil or pen. For smaller birds, you can use a paper bag with air holes poked in the sides.

3. Protect yourself. Wear gloves. Most baby birds are harmless, but some birds, like herons, may jab with their beaks; young hawks or owls may try to grab you with their sharp talons (claws) or slap you with their wings to protect themselves. And birds commonly have parasites (mites, lice, ticks) and may carry diseases transmissible to people.

4. Gently pick up the bird and put it in the prepared container.

5. Warm the bird if it feels cool to the touch. Put one half of

the container on a heating pad set on "low". This will let the baby crawl (if it is old enough and strong enough) to the unheated end of the container if it gets too warm. After a few minutes, carefully feel under the bird with your hand to see if the heat is getting through to the bird, and if so, that it is not too warm. Or fill a zip-top plastic bag, plastic soft drink container with a screw lid, or a rubber glove with hot water; wrap the warming container with a cloth without loose strings and put it under or next to the bird. Make sure the container doesn't leak, or the bird will get wet and even more chilled. If using a heating pad, check periodically to make sure the bird doesn't get too warm and that the heating pad has not turned off automatically.

6. Close the top of the box and tape it shut, or if using a bag, roll the top of the paper bag closed.

7. Note the exact location where you found the bird. This will be very important if you or the rehabilitator is going to try to put the bird back in its nest.

8. Keep the bird in a warm, dark, quiet place. Don't give it food or water unless you are directed to do so by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. Leave the bird alone; don't needlessly handle or bother it. Keep children and pets away! Don't let them touch or handle the bird. Keep the bird in a container;

don't let it loose in your house or car.

9. Wash your hands after contact with the bird or its body fluids or feces. Use soap and water, or an alcoholbased hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available. After transferring to a wildlife rehabilitator, wash and disinfect* or discard anything the bird was in contact with — towel, jacket, blanket, pet carrier — to prevent the spread of diseases and/or parasites to you or your pets.

10. Get the bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible. Read Recommendations for Transporting Wildlife: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/documents/transport.pdf> It's against the law to keep wild birds if you don't have proper licenses or permits, even if you plan to release them!

(Note: by law you have up to 24 hours in which to get the bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator and for the sake of the bird, do so without delay.) For more information go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/orphan.html>

To find the nearest wildlife rehabilitator, use the following resources: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/directory.html>

Call the DNR at 1-888-936-7463 Continue calling until you reach a wildlife rehabilitator or the WDNR.

Wild Bird Egg Identification Easily Identify Bird Eggs With These Tips

Written by:

[Melissa Mayntz](#)

Updated 10/29/19

www.thespruce.com

It can be exciting to find a wild bird's [nest or even the discarded shells](#) from a recent hatching, but without care, it is very easy to misidentify eggs. Fortunately, with the appropriate clues and attention to detail, any birder can learn to identify bird eggs successfully.

Why Bird Egg Identification Matters

Birders are naturally curious to identify the birds they see, and identifying bird eggs is part of that curiosity. For [birdhouse landlords](#), identifying eggs can help them understand which birds prefer their houses, and they can adjust the foods they offer and [how bird-friendly their yard is](#) to better suit each feathered family. Knowing which eggs are which can also help identify [invasive birds](#) that may not be as welcome, and can help note where brood parasites are active. Breeding bird surveys can always use volunteers who are familiar with egg identification as well, and the data from those surveys helps promote more effective conservation to protect all birds and their families.

How to Identify Wild Bird Eggs

Identifying bird eggs is not altogether different from identifying birds, and it is important to note all the different characteristics of the eggs that will help pinpoint which species laid them. When trying to identify eggs, look for:

- **Size:** Comparing the eggs to similar objects can help give an impression of size. Is the egg as small as a jelly bean, as large as a golf ball, or just the size of a finger joint? How does it compare to adjacent leaves or other nearby items?



- **Shape:** Eggs come in many different shapes. Is the egg round, oval-shaped, or pointed on one end? How thick or narrow is the egg? Is the shape very subtle or very exaggerated?
- **Color:** Different [bird species lay different colors of eggs](#), ranging from pale and bland to bold, bright colors. What is the overall base color of the egg? How intense is the color? Are all eggs in the brood the same shade or is there some variation?
- **Markings:** While some eggs are plain, others have distinct markings. Are the mystery eggs spotted, speckled, or splotched? What color are the markings? Are they evenly spread over the eggshell or are they concentrated in

a band or on one end? Note that eggs can be stained by nesting material, so be sure any extra colors are really part of the egg.

- **Finish:** The finish and texture of the eggshell can help properly identify eggs. Is the shell shiny and glossy or a flat matte finish? Is there any texture to the eggshell, such as dimples, ridges, or pebbling?

- **Quantity:** Some birds only lay one or two eggs, while others may have much larger [broods](#) or could participate in egg dumping with several dozen eggs in one nest. Noting the number of eggs in a brood can be a clue to identification, but bear in mind that the brood may not be complete when the eggs are seen.

- **Nest Design:** There are [many different types of bird nests](#). Noting how the nest is constructed as well as its size, overall shape, and [nesting materials](#) can help positively identify the eggs it contains.

- **Nest Location:** Where a nest is positioned can be a valuable clue about what bird built it and laid the eggs. Is the [nest in a cavity](#) or out in the open? Is it on the ground, under a bush, or low in a tree? Is it positioned very high in a tree or on the side of a cliff? Is the nest attached to a structure, such as a house, bridge, or nesting platform?

- **Habitat:** Just as birds can be identified by [habitat](#), so can bird eggs. Birds need a rich habitat that meets their needs in order to raise their young. While [vagrant birds](#) may appear well outside

their specific range in different habitats during migration, birds do not typically breed outside their preferred habitats.

- **Incubation Period:** If a birder has the opportunity to observe a nest until the eggs hatch, the length of that incubation period can be a clue toward the hatchlings' species. A difference of just a day or two could indicate a different species, however, so if birders are not aware of exactly when the eggs were laid, it can be hard to determine the full incubation period.

- **Parent Birds:** The easiest way to identify eggs is to see what parent birds are incubating the clutch. While some birds are brood parasites and will lay their eggs in other species' nests, the species of the parents can quickly narrow down which birds should be expected to hatch from the eggs.

To properly identify bird eggs, birders should use as many clues as possible to draw their conclusions. Once the eggs hatch, it can be rewarding to watch [hatchlings grow and mature](#) while they verify that identity.

[Egg-Cellent Trivia About Wild Bird Eggs](#)

How NOT to Identify Eggs

When watching bird eggs, it is important that birders do not let the desire to identify those eggs jeopardize the health and safety of either the parent birds or their unhatched chicks.

- Never pick up or handle wild bird eggs. Scents and oils from hands can contaminate the eggs and may harm the young birds or [attract predators to the nest](#).

- Avoid stressing adult birds when they are brooding the eggs or adjusting their nests. If the adults become too stressed, they may abandon the nest completely.

- Keep a safe distance, using [binoculars with high magnification](#) or cameras with zoom lenses only to examine the eggs. If the nest is out of reach and it is critical to see the eggs, use a long-handled mirror if possible. Always minimize the amount of time in contact with the nest to minimize stress to the birds.

Identifying bird eggs can be a challenge, but it is a great way to sharpen one's birding skills and learn even more about these fascinating creatures

Identifying Nests and Eggs

So you found an unidentified nest, and want to know what bird it belongs to? With a little detective work, you can determine whose nest or eggs you found.

WHERE TO START:



Question: Three Nests—which three species used this nesting box?
Answer at end of article page 13.

If the nest is active, watch from a safe distance with binoculars to see if any birds approach the nest. Female birds can be hard to identify, so if you're not sure what species it is, write down a careful description and use a regional field guide to identify the species.

Tip: Don't have a field guide? [Browse by shape in our online bird guide](#)

Location and timing are key! Migratory birds have separate ranges for their breeding and wintering activities, whereas "resident" birds live in the same region year-round. Nests found early in the spring tend to belong to non-migratory residents, while migrants return and breed later in the spring and summer. For example, you can expect to find a chickadee nest earlier in the spring than a warbler nest. However, there are always exceptions such as the American Goldfinch, which tends to nest during the late summer despite being a year-round resident. Birds in the southern states also tend to nest earlier than birds in northern regions. Use your location and the timing of the nest to help identify the builder.

Tip: Our [Focal Species Guide](#) can be sorted by region to help you find potential breeding birds in your area. Note the location of the nest. Is it on the ground? In a tree or

wild bird eggs:



shrub? On a building? Different species favor specific substrates for building their nests, and often the substrate (combined with habitat information and geographic location) will narrow down the possibilities considerably.

Tip: Sort through the usual suspects using the substrate filters on our Focal Species page.

What is the composition and shape of the nest? Does it contain mud, feathers, sticks, pine needles, grasses, mosses, or another dominant component? Is it a cup, an enclosed dome with a side entrance, a platform, a hanging pouch, or messy bundle of sticks? Different species select particular materials when building their nests, and often this, along with the overall nest shape, can be a diagnostic key to the builder's identity. **Tip: A good field guide to nests will have a detailed description of the shape and most common nest construction materials for each species.**



Warbling Vireo Nest

Vireos usually suspend their nests between a forked branch, with the nest hanging down below the level of the branch.

Photo © [Guy Lichter](#)

Look at the size, shape, and color of the eggs, if present. The size of the eggs is related to the size of the parent, so small eggs will belong to small birds and large eggs to larger birds. Egg shape can also give important clues about the lifestyle of the layer. For example, eggs that are very pointed on one end are designed not to roll off of a cliff or out of a flat ground nest. (e.g., Killdeer, seabirds). The color and pattern, or lack thereof, on eggs will also help you narrow down the choices. **Tip: Egg markings and color are highly variable, even within a clutch, and should be interpreted as supporting**

evidence, rarely definitive.

How many eggs are there? This can vary widely for many species, but some birds, such as Mourning Doves and hummingbirds, have very consistent clutch sizes. **Tip: Our Clutch Size chart can help you pick some likely candidates.**



Tree nest of a squirrel

Don't be confused by tree nests, called "dreys", made by squirrels (when they're not nesting in cavities).

Photo © [Di Bédard](#)



Bullock's Oriole nest

Orioles weave a hanging, pouch-like nest with an opening at the top, like this one.

Photo © [Ross Michaels](#)

RESOURCES

Identifying the owner of a nest can be tricky, but fortunately there are many good books available on the subject. By noting the above characteristics in your field notebook and perhaps taking a few photos, you can identify your nest at home by comparing it to field guides. Here are some resources to help you solve the mystery:

- *Eastern Birds' Nests or Western Birds' Nests* (Peterson Field Guides series), by Hal H. Harrison
- *Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds*, by Paul Baicich and Colin Harrison

NestWatch Focal Species Guide

Remember not to take nests from the wild; it is always best to leave them where they are, even if you think they're not being used.

Answer from page 11: From bottom to top, House Wren, Carolina Chickadee, and Eastern Bluebird built nests in this box.



Can you identify the nest, eggs and chicks in the pics above? It's the WI State Bird!



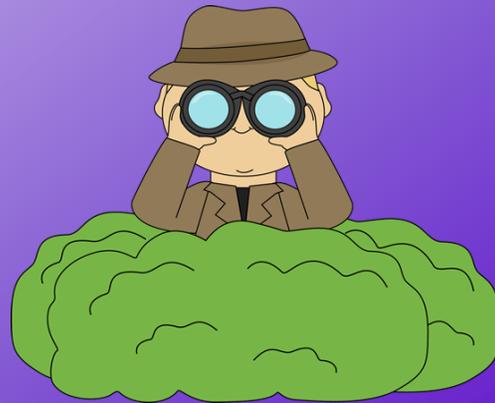
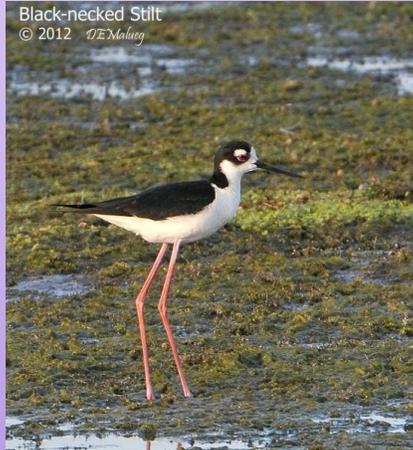
- **April 8 - Full Moon, Supermoon.** The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Pink Moon because it marked the appearance of the moss pink, or wild ground phlox, which is one of the first spring flowers. This moon has also been known as the Sprouting Grass Moon, the Growing Moon, and the Egg Moon. Many coastal tribes called it the Full Fish Moon because this was the time that the shad swam upstream to spawn. This is also the third of four supermoons for 2020. The Moon will be at its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.
- **April 22, 23 - Lyrids Meteor Shower.** The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. The shower runs annually

from April 16-25. It peaks this year on the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The nearly new moon will ensure dark skies for what should be a good show this year. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



“Parks Picks”

Past visitors to Winnebago County Parks



Picture Yourself in Winnebago County Parks & Sunnyview Expo Center With...



APPLETON/
OSHKOSH