

Nests: To Remove or Not to Remove, that is the Question

Do Not Remove	Ok to Remove
<p>Do not remove <u>active</u> nests of the following native species, which are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bluebird nests • Tree Swallow nests • Chickadee nests • Tufted Titmouse nests • House wren nests • Other native birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nests of House Sparrows – These nests must be removed. House Sparrows are not native birds and will kill the parents and chicks of our native cavity nesting birds. <i>Identification:</i> House Sparrow nests are messy, made of grass, feathers, string, possibly trash and other materials. Do not confuse these with Bluebird or Tree Swallow nests • “Dummy” nests of Wrens – Male house wrens will build multiple nests and allow females to pick. The ones that go un-used are considered “dummy” nests. They may be removed to allow for future use of the nest box. Monitor the nest for a few weeks to determine if it is a dummy nest prior to removing it. <i>Identification:</i> Dummy nests will just be a pile of twigs. After a female has selected a nest, she builds a soft grass cup towards the back of the twig nest. These nests will be actively used. The ones with no soft grass cup are the dummy nests and they may be removed. • Used nests of any of the birds in the left column – <u>After</u> babies have fledged, remove the old nest, place it in plastic bag and remove it from the area so not to attract predators. This will open up the nest box for additional nests to be made during the season and new chicks to hatch. Cleaning out the old nest removes parasites and other undesirable aspects of the old nest.