

Migratory Birds

Preventing Rookeries in Residential Areas



Presented by Community Engagement Office

The Cycle

- Birds arrive February to March.
- “Roost” while looking for a place to nest.
- Build nests quickly.
- Lay eggs, “nest,” raise young all summer.
- Birds leave September to October.
- Cycle begins again.
- Birds return to same nesting site in even greater numbers!



The Problem



Limitations

- No natural predators.
- Protected status under Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prevents nest destruction when eggs of any species (egrets, herons, etc.) are present.
- No city tax funds may be spent on private property.

City has helped with:

- Dead/injured bird pickup.
- Street sweeping and propane cannon.
- Education.

Prevention

Tanglewood 2012

- 1000 nests

Sylvania Park 2013

- 1300 nests

Candleridge Park 2019 & 2020

- 500 nests, 700 adult birds
- 1000 nests, 1200 adult birds

Silversage 2020

- 50 nests, 100 adult birds



The Plan

- Education
- Communication
- Action Steps



Education

Learn the warning signs.

- Previous nesting activity.
- Dense tree canopy.
- Nearby water and food.
- Scout or sentry birds.



Education

Know what you can do legally.

- Abandoned nest removal OK.
- When to harass?
 - Yes when roosting.
 - No when nesting.



What's the difference between roosting and nesting?

“Birds don't typically sit on a nest when roosting outside the nesting season. Anything can be done to drive them away when they are only roosting.”

USFW Wildlife Biologist



Roosting

- Standing on or around nest



Nesting

- Sitting on nest
- Pink breeding spots

Communication

Plan early.


- Distribute general information.
- Prepare future communications.
- Create yard signs.
- Recruit block captains.
- Set up newsletter, e-blast, Nextdoor, etc.

TANGLEWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER JAN. 2013

Tanglewood

WWW.TANGLEWOOD-NEIGHBORS.ORG

NEXT GENERAL MEETING **MONDAY MARCH 11, 7 PM** **TANGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY**



Get Ready! - Return of Nuisance Birds Expected in February!

Egrets and herons that made a huge, summer-long mess on Tanglewood Trail last year are expected to return in even greater numbers as early as February.

Any home with mature trees is a potential nesting site for these messy birds.

If you have not yet taken action to prevent nesting on your property, please do so now. If you're not sure what to do, please visit the Tanglewood Neighborhood Association website or contact your neighborhood block captain.

All neighbors are urged to attend the Egret Prevention Party Sunday January 20th (details at the bottom of the page) to see demonstrations of effective tools, pick up free supplies and learn more about the neighborhood's egret prevention plan.

Bird Mess is No Joke - Neighbors endured the birds' noise, excrement and smell from March to September last year. Bird droppings covered driveways, mailboxes, patios and yards, destroying landscapes and roofs.

Prevention is Crucial - Because egrets, herons and other migratory birds are protected by international treaty, it's illegal for residents to harass or harm the birds once they lay eggs. Preventing birds from building nests on residential property in the first place is key.

Putting visual deterrents in trees is recommended before nest building begins. You can also scare off birds with noisemakers, water sprayers and other non-lethal devices. Neighbors are advised to check their trees daily and remove the start of any nest. Once birds begin sitting on the nest, eggs are probably present and birds cannot be harassed.

Watch for Signs - Night herons are the first to migrate to Tanglewood in mid-February. While not usually a nuisance, the presence of night herons lets other migrating birds know they've found a good place to nest.

Tanglewood Neighborhood Association will post yard signs when it's time to start watching for these "scary" birds. The yard signs will

Action Steps

Fall-January

- Remove old nests.
- Trim your trees.
- Get organized.
- Assemble supplies.

February-March

- Watch for sentry birds.
- Report sentry bird sightings.
- Send watch alert; deploy yard signs.
- Check trees **every** day, dawn and dusk.



Action Steps

Effective tools

- Tennis racquet & balls.
- Nest removal hook.
- Air horns.
- Other noisemakers.
- Water blasts. (toys, hose attachment)
- Scare-eye balloons. (?)
- Lights and strobes.
- Two-way radios.



Neighborhood-wide Effort

- Enlist neighbors who walk to report nests/sentry bird sightings.
- Everyone needs to check their trees **nightly**.
- Affected property owners need to make noise, scare birds.
- Non-affected property owners need to stay vigilant.
- Neighbors must help each other:
 - Elderly, vacant houses, people on vacation, etc.
- Effort could last two weeks or more!

Celebrate Success





For more information:

FortWorthTexas.gov/migratorybirds/



Active or Partially Active Colonies

“Once egg laying has commenced by any of those birds, all nest destruction must cease. Destruction of empty nests in an active or partially active colony will likely threaten surrounding nests that contain eggs or nestlings; therefore it will not be allowed except on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Migratory Bird Permits Office.”

Interim Empty Nest Policy U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2