

Bird Nest



Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z* | Zoo Educational Lesson: Black-Crowned Night Herons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reFXfUXS1Ks>



Skills

- Fine motor skills
- Developing and using models



NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Structure and properties of matter
- Engineering design



Experience

- 10-15 minutes
- 1 or more people

Birds are excellent engineers. Birds' nests have to withstand weather changes, swaying trees, repeated impact from birds sitting on or entering them and other mechanical factors—all without damaging the eggs they contain. Some Black-crowned night herons have perfected the science of constructing the nest some are still working on it. Can you build a nest that will make it through a windy day?



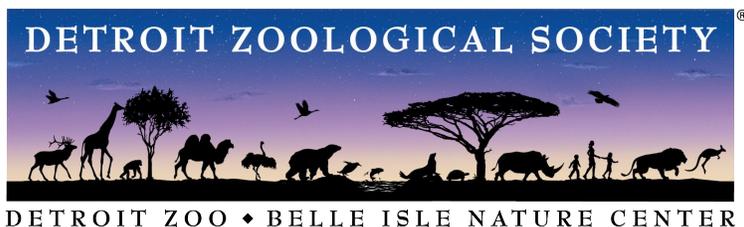
Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

Detroit Zoological Society staff support many important bird conservation projects around the world and in our own backyard. Such as the monitoring of the black-crowned night heron colony on Zoo grounds. By supporting the Detroit Zoological Society, you are supporting our conservation work with birds and many other species.



Take Action

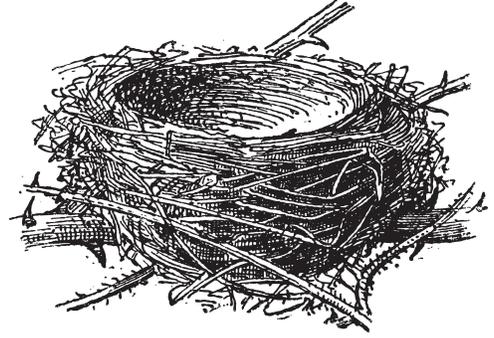
You can support ornithologists, people who study birds, by reporting birds you see in your backyards and neighborhoods. Visit <https://ebird.org/home> to learn more and get started!



Bird Nest

Supplies

Cardboard - 2 pieces
Sticks of all sizes



1 or more people

Directions

- Arrange the sticks in the best nest you can on a piece of cardboard.
- Take the other piece of cardboard and fan the nest, to see if holds up to the wind.
- Make observations of the strong spots and the spots the could use improving.
- Improve the nest and try again!

Notes -

To make it a little easier-

- Use a little tape or mud to hold parts of your nest in place.

To make it more of a challenge -

- Try and build a nest the size of a Black-crowned night heron's nest, 12 inches across and 8 inches high!
- After your nest has survived the wind you made with the cardboard, try using a hair dryer as more of a challenge to your nests structural integrity.