







# Pendulum Nest

A pendulum nest is typically built from mosses, lichens and small twigs into a pendulum or hanging sac-like shape, usually suspended from a small tree branch. Kinglets and Orioles are some of the species that build this type of nest.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet nest

# Platform Nest

A platform nest is mostly flat and supported by tree limbs. Birds in the Corvid family such as Blue Jays, Crows and Ravens, and also birds in the raptor group such as hawks and eagles build platform nests. Platform nests built by birds in the raptor group can be extremely large and usually are found at the tops of large dead trees. This type of nest is also commonly found on the ground in marshy areas and used by waterfowl.



# Ground Nest

The wood and hermit thrush, the dark-eyed junco, meadowlark, bobolink, and killdeer all nest on the ground, even in areas where trees and shrubs are available. These species commonly form grass-lined nests. The songbird young hatch without feathers or down and are unable to walk or run. Ducks, geese and swans all make their nests on the ground. This is because their young are all prosocial, meaning they are quite developed and capable of walking and swimming straight after hatching. Quail, pheasant, partridge -- all of whom are weak fliers -- nest on the ground. They typically nest in grain fields, where they can find shelter and seclusion.



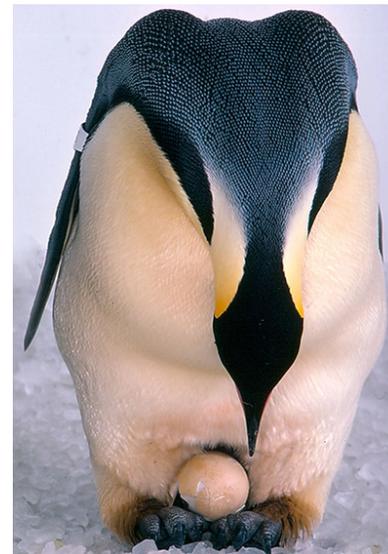
# Birds Without Nests

While birds can be very creative architects, several bird species have no nests at all. Some species, such as the Peregrine Falcon, Common Murre, and Emperor Penguin simply lay their eggs in the open or a relatively secluded spot without actually having a nest structure. Other birds, such as the Brown-headed Cowbird, are brood parasites that lay their eggs in other birds' nests, abandoning their parental duties completely.

Birds' nests are amazing structures that come in a wide range of sizes and styles. Understanding more about why and how birds build nests gives birders even better insights into the amazing lives and reproductive habits of their favorite bird species.



A Brown-headed Cowbird chick crowding out an Eastern Phoebe's own young. The Cowbird demands the most food and outgrows the other chicks in the nest.



An Emperor Penguin incubates their egg by nestling it on top of their feet, underneath their belly.