



*Sea &  
Sage Audubon*

# Conservation Alert!

## **Nesting Birds Need Your Help**

Each year, trees containing bird nests are trimmed or removed during the breeding season, resulting in the destruction of nests, eggs, and young birds that are incapable of fleeing.

Sea and Sage Audubon Society receives calls and pleas every spring about tree trimming and other activities that threaten nesting birds. Despite the fact that it is illegal to take or destroy a nest, eggs, or the young of any native North American bird without special permits, these laws and regulations are often overlooked or ignored.

Trimming during the fall helps protect birds and is also beneficial to the health of the trees. Additionally allowing trees to fill out during the warmer months of spring and summer helps conserve energy by creating shade.

Education about timely tree maintenance and the laws that protect nesting birds greatly reduces the number of conflicts during the breeding season. We need your help planning for timely tree maintenance and getting the word out about protecting birds and trees.

## **Please Help Us Spread the Word about Tree Trimming Problems and Solutions**

- The best plan is to avoid major landscape and tree work during breeding season.
- Schedule tree trimming and major projects between August 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Educate your staff about the problems associated with tree trimming during the breeding season.
- See the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), CA Fish & Game Codes 3503-3503.5, and CA Coastal Commission Regulations for the laws that provide protection of nests, eggs, and birds (and special sensitive habitats).
- A qualified ornithologist should inspect trees and buildings for nesting birds before tree trimming or major projects after February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Contact Sea and Sage Audubon for more information or help with solutions.

Chapter Office (949) 261-7963  
Conservation Office (949) 261-7962

**Your help and support is greatly appreciated.**