

What is NestWatch?

 evergreenaudubon.org/what-is-nestwatch

Chuck Aid

April 11, 2019

Violet-green Swallow nestlings (c) Rob Raker

NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program implemented by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. The Cornell Lab's database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals.

Cliff Swallow nestlings (c) Rob Raker

How Can You Help?

Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Complete information on how to participate can be found at <https://nestwatch.org>. The website provides extensive info on how to become a certified NestWatcher. There are useful tips on how to find birds' nests along with guidelines for the correct protocol to follow and how to report your data. There are also links so that you can download the NestWatch Mobile App for iOS or Android and record what you see at the nest in real time.



Broad-tailed Hummingbird nestlings (c) Rob Raker

Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country. And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn first-hand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world.