



TEMPLATE - 2

Date

Address

Re: Nesting Birds

Dear Sir or Madame,

I am writing on behalf of Sea and Sage Audubon Society to request that the city of _____ review your tree trimming schedules, landscape maintenance, and any other practices that might have negative impacts on nesting birds. We have had an alarming increase in concerns raised by citizens regarding untimely tree trimming, painting, building fumigation, and other operations conducted by city staff and/or city contractors across Orange County in recent years.

We recognize that the city of _____ has been planning and performing maintenance operations with both care and regard for the wildlife that shares our landscapes and we thank you for your concern.

Or

We recognize that the city of _____ previously took care to safeguard wildlife and birds that share our urban landscapes with us, and we urge you to resume your previous commitments.

Or

The city of _____ should be concerned about protecting the birds and wildlife that utilize the trees and buildings in _____.

Or

The city of _____ may already have processes in place to protect nesting birds and if so, we thank you very much and hope you will continue to perform work responsibly.

We would like to remind you that all birds native to North America, their nests and eggs, are protected by state and federal laws including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) Codes. It is best to avoid tree trimming and other activities that can cause harm to birds and their nests during the breeding season which lasts roughly from March to late July-August. If you feel you must attempt significant work, trees, shrubs and buildings should be inspected by a qualified biologist for the presence of active nests prior to beginning your work there. When, and if, an active nest is located, the tree containing the nest and trees within the immediate area of about a 300ft. radius, must be avoided and protected from disturbance.



*Sea &
Sage Audubon*

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Some cities in Orange County have chosen to employ or contract full time ornithologists (biologists specializing in birds) to perform inspections prior to tree trimming and other activities. We promote timely tree and building maintenance which avoids the conflicts all together, and we emphasize that fall pruning has benefits in addition to nest protection. These benefits include allowing the trees to provide shade and natural beauty more effectively. However, hiring a biologist is also an excellent step in avoiding conflicts and would compliment a well planned maintenance program.

Small nests, such as those built by hummingbirds, can be virtually impossible to detect even by certified arborists and are difficult for even a qualified biologist to locate. Tree trimming during the breeding season almost always results in the destruction of unidentified nests, eggs, and young birds.

DFG will always be willing to consult with you about the protections provided to nesting birds and suggested methods to avoid issues. Sea and Sage Audubon is willing to work with you and may even be able to help you determine whether your activities are likely to conflict with nesting birds. We can also help provide training for your environmental staff if necessary.

The Audubon Society would really appreciate your efforts to protect birds during the breeding season. We believe that Orange County's cities genuinely care for wildlife and respect the laws that protect birds. We share our urban habitats with wildlife and they are a large part of the attraction to living in southern California. We urge you to help us protect our local bird populations at this most critical time of year.

Thank you.

Title

Sea and Sage Audubon Society