

# Check Trees for Egrets!

Heads up, neighbors! February is a great time to check your trees for old migratory bird nests and remove them.

Night Herons are beautiful, graceful birds that tend to couple up and build just one nest per tree. However, they're known as "sentry" birds that tell us the noisy, congregating cattle egrets will not be far behind.

Please keep a watchful eye and discourage migratory birds from nesting in your trees. Once they begin nesting, it is illegal to disturb them. Learn more about these messy birds.

## Homeowner Checklist

- Remove any old, abandoned nests.
- Trim your trees regularly. Remove deadwood, thin tree canopy to allow sunlight between limbs and other trees.
- Watch for Yellow Crowned Night Herons. These "sentry" birds are the first to arrive looking for good nesting places.
- Report bird sightings to your neighbors so you can work together to shoo them away.
- Each species has a different breeding period. Be on the lookout for these birds beginning at these times:

February-April - Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

March-April - Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret

- During the above times, check daily for birds and nesting material in your trees.
- Begin scaring birds away as soon as you see them in trees on or near your property.
  - Use noisemakers such as children's toys, pots and pans, etc.
  - Use tennis racquets to hit balls straight up into trees.
  - Shine bright flashlights or strobes if birds try to remain in trees at night.
  - Use long poles or water hoses to disturb early nesting material.
- Once birds begin sitting on nests, **DO NOT HARM BIRDS OR EGGS**. Migratory birds are protected by international treaty. Once birds begin sitting on nests, eggs are probably present. You cannot kill, harass, move or disturb the birds during nesting season.



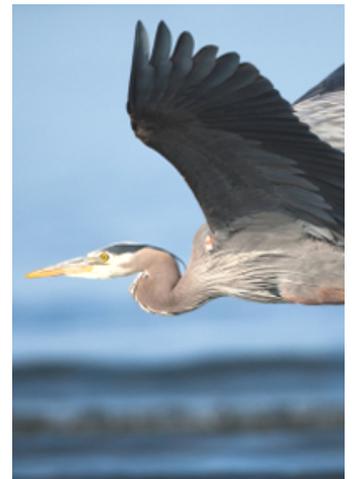
Yellow-Crowned  
Night Heron



Cattle Egret



Snowy Egret



Great Blue Heron