

## **Project WildLIVE – Waterfowl Project Educator Resource Sheet**

### **Post-video Activity suggestion:**

Understanding bird nesting behavior is vital in the conservation of any bird species. Oftentimes, birds need specific nest habitats, material requirements, and food to feed their young. Many birds migrate to the same nesting grounds each year, and protecting these nesting grounds can be key in protecting the species as a whole.

After watching the Waterfowl Project video, have your students research and learn about the nesting patterns of different bird species. You can choose to focus on species in your local area, or choose a variety of different types of birds around the world to help students learn about a variety of nesting techniques (ex: tropical migrant songbirds, cliff-nesting shorebirds, raptors, ground nesters, cavity nesters, and more). Depending on the timeframe of the activity and the age of your students, you can have students work in groups, pairs, or individually, and/or have them present their “expertise” on this bird species to the class. In researching their species, make sure students examine critical nesting components like habitat, nest materials / nest building, egg clutch size (number of eggs), time(s) of nesting, common nest predators, incubation & hatching time, food for chicks, and fledging time / behavior. You can also expand to researching the bird’s courtship behavior, foraging behavior, or other aspects of bird behavior that affect their nesting success.

Another activity that is great to do with a class, extracurricular group, or family at home, is to build bird nest boxes! These boxes usually target a specific species. This species can be of your (or your student’s) choosing. Make sure to research a bit about the proper size dimensions, placement requirements, and box materials that are best for that specific species. Researching a bird species and then making a nest box for that species in your local area is a great way to get students involved and engaged in the local environment and excited about local birds!

### **Resources for further learning:**

About Wood Ducks: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/wood-duck>  
<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Birds/Wood-Duck>

How to build a Wood Duck nest-box: <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-wood-duck-nest-box>

George W. Mead Wildlife Area website: <http://www.meadwildlife.org/>

