



# Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

## Nesting Birds

Sust. 18

### What?

Bird nesting season, when birds build their nests and lay eggs, is typically between the **start of March** and the **end of August** but may be extended depending on weather and availability of food. Peak nesting activity is between May and June.

Birds commonly nest in trees and hedgerows, but certain species nest on the ground, under eaves of buildings or amongst materials and plant.

### Why?

All nesting wild birds (including 'pest' species such as feral pigeons and gulls) are protected legislation. This includes damaging or destroying nests while being built or in use, disturbing birds while nesting and removing, damaging or taking eggs and young birds from nests. Prosecution can lead to fines of up to £5,000 and 6 months in prison.

### How?

- Where possible undertake vegetation clearance and block off or remove possible nest locations outside of bird nesting season.
- Ensure checks are made for nesting birds ahead of any vegetation clearance.
- If you identify a nest, or notice birds repeatedly flying to a certain point, stop work in the area and report it.
- No works that will disturb nesting birds should be undertaken until the birds have stopped breeding and chicks have fledged.
- Consider implementing a 10 metre exclusion zone and minimising plant and vehicle movements in the area.
- Do not attempt to move materials or plant away from the nest as this could disturb the parent birds or young and could expose to predators.
- Be aware that certain birds breed outside typical nesting times, including ravens (February) and pigeons (year round).



### Questions

1. What time of year is typical bird nesting season?
2. What is the maximum fine per offence for damaging or destroying a bird's nest?
3. What wild birds are not protected while nesting?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.