

MAKE YOUR OWN NEST

In your backyard, collect tree bark, leaves, sticks, and other materials to build a cozy bird nest.



- Punch 8 holes in a large circle in a paper plate.
- Thread sticks, long pieces of grass and/or string through these holes. These will provide the structure for your nest.
- Pad the center of your nest with leaves, moss, and anything else to make the nest comfortable for a bird.

FUN FACTS



Hardberger Park has a **Bird Water Feature** that provides water to San Antonio's birds all year long! Can you find it?

The **Golden Cheeked Warbler** is an endangered bird that lives only in the hill country of Texas. These birds depend on San Antonio parks' tree bark to build their nests!

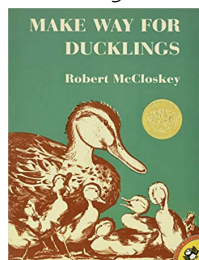


BEST BIRD BOOKS

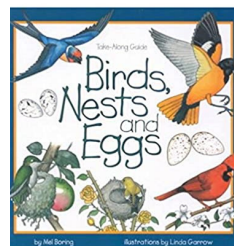
Check out these books about birds from your local library, or find a read-along on Youtube!



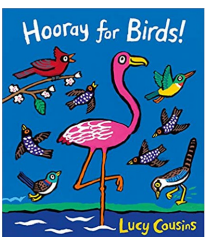
Mama Built a Little Nest
by Jennifer Ward



Make Way for Ducklings
by Robert McCloskey



Birds, Nests and Eggs
by Mel Boring



Hooray for Birds!
by Lucy Cousins



National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Birds
by Catherine D. Hughes

BEST BIRD APPS

Prefer using technology?

Here are some child-friendly birding apps!

The **Columbia Bird ID app**, **eBird**, and **iBird Pro** can all help you to identify birds in your backyard or in the park!

iNaturalist can help you create a "life list" of all the birds you've ever encountered.

BirdsEye can help you learn more about the birds in San Antonio!

BUILD A BIRDHOUSE

Using a cardboard milk carton, craft sticks, a chopstick, twine and paint, make a bird house!

- Break craft sticks in half and glue on the top of the milk carton to form a roof.
- Using nontoxic paint, paint and decorate your bird house, roof and all!
- When bird house is dry, cut a hole in the milk carton for birds to fit into.
- Paint your chopsticks any color, then once they dry, glue a section of the chopsticks underneath the hole on both sides to provide a perch for the bird.



WRITE WITH A FEATHER QUILL

Feather quills were used to write all kinds of historical documents before our modern pens were made! Here is a way to make your own quill. **Make sure you have an adult's assistance as this activity requires some cutting!**

- Cut the end off of the feather at a slant. Your quill needs a pointy tip.
- Next, cut a small vertical slit up into the tip of the pen. This makes the quill hold the ink for writing!
- Now, dip your quill in a well of ink and start writing! Can you draw a map of your favorite trail? What about a letter from a hundred years ago?

References

- <https://www.leapfrog.com/en-us/learning-path/activities/make-a-birdhouse-kids-activity>
- <https://thecraftyclassroom.com/crafts/pioneer-crafts-for-kids/diy-quill-pen-craft/>
- <https://kidscraftroom.com/make-a-birds-nest-steam-project/>
- <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/golden-cheeked-warbler>
Families in Nature
- <https://www.amazon.com/Mama-Built-Little-Nest-Jennifer/dp/1442421169>
- <https://www.amazon.com/National-Geographic-Little-First-Birds/dp/142632432>
- <https://www.amazon.com/Hooray-Birds-Lucy-Cousins/dp/0763692654>
- <https://www.amazon.com/Birds-Nests-Eggs-Along-Guides/dp/155971624X>
- <https://www.amazon.com/Make-Way-Ducklings-Robert-McCloskey/dp/0140564349>

