LAWS PROTECTING BIRDS

San Francisco County Municipal Code: Article 5, Section 5.08. Unlawful to disturb birds and other animals in city parks.

California State Code: 3503. and 3503.5. Title 14, Chapter 1, Section 251.1. Unlawful to take, possess or destroy the nest or eggs of any migratory bird.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act 703. Unlawful to take, capture, kill, possess, sell, or purchase any migratory bird, part, nest or egg.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION

To report bird issues or for advice on protecting nests:
California Department of Fish & Wildlife
888.334.2258
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northern California
916.414.6464

For advice on nesting birds or referrals for nest surveys:
Golden Gate Audubon Society
510.843.2222 or ggas@goldengateaudubon.org

To report bird harassment or nest destruction in San Francisco and City parks:
Call 3-1-1.

To report nest disturbance or inappropriate trimming in the coastal zone:
California Coastal Commission: 415.904.5260

Read more about bird-friendly tree trimming on the Golden Gate Audubon website at www.goldengateaudubon.org/treecare.

“With a little care and planning, arborists can protect nests and allow future generations to continue enjoying the beautiful birds that make the Bay Area their home.”

— Roy C. Leggitt, III Consulting Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, California 94702
PHONE 510.843.2222
WWW.GOLDENGATEAUDUBON.ORG

printed on 100% post-consumer waste paper
design by e.g. communications

Healthy Trees, Healthy Birds

Bird-Friendly Tree Care for the San Francisco Bay Area

“With a little care and planning, arborists can protect nests and allow future generations to continue enjoying the beautiful birds that make the Bay Area their home.”

— Roy C. Leggitt, III Consulting Arborist and Tree Risk Assessor
Why Nests Cannot Be Moved

Parent birds choose a nest location for specific reasons such as proximity to food and water, and protection from predators and the elements. If the nest is disturbed, parents may abandon it along with their eggs or young. Local, state and federal laws prohibit taking, destroying or damaging nests. Moving a nest requires special permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is usually only granted for human health and safety reasons.

Pruning Considerations

Removing internal limbs results in lion-tailing and over-thinning, and increases the hazard potential for a tree. Birds utilize internal branches and foliage. Trees and shrubs should be pruned in a manner that considers the time of year, incorporates a pre-work inspection to check for nesting, and maintains branch density. In general, less pruning is better for birds. Pruning using these considerations is consistent with proper pruning that maintains tree health and safety while providing habitat for the birds that depend upon the trees and shrubs.

For more information on tree care and nests (including special needs of species such as herons) and tips for planning a tree care project, visit Golden Gate Audubon at www.goldengateaudubon.org/treecare.