



This is the time of year that the larger migratory birds start looking for areas in which to roost, build nests, lay eggs, and raise their families. Because migratory birds are protected under the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**, once they have laid their eggs you are not allowed to disturb them. Large migratory birds such as egrets and herons can take over entire trees and neighborhoods with their nests, and will spend months defecating and even attacking home owners and their pets defending their "territory". The noise and the stench will last all summer long. You will not be able to enjoy your yard for an entire season. But there are effective ways in which to deter them from your property. Identifying them is the first step.



The **Cattle Egret** has been seen roosting in various west side neighborhoods since 1987, the most recent was in the Orchard Breeze neighborhood as well as the Sedgwick County Zoo. And no, they were not wanted in either location.



The **Snowy Egret** is not as prevalent as the Cattle Egret, but can be just as destructive to property.



Great Egrets are beautiful to look at, but you still don't want them in your trees.



The same applies to this fantastic bird, the **Great Blue Heron**.



Little Blue Heron. It might be smaller, but that just means more in your tree.

If you see any of these birds, (Great Egrets typically show up first) get the word out to the whole neighborhood to prevent them from roosting in your area! Here's how...

Check your trees **TWICE** a day - morning and evening. These birds can build nests in just two days. **You are not allowed to harm these birds**. It's a Federal offense punishable by a costly fine and worse. **But you can remove the start of any nest as long as there is not an egg in the nest**. It is best to scare them away by using noisemakers, scare-balloons and other visual deterrents to convince them to move on. Also, remove deadwood and thin the tree canopy to allow sunlight between limbs and other trees. Purchase inexpensive noisemakers or use items you already have on hand such as air horns, clackers and pots & pans, or use any other legal method that you can dream up. Alert your neighbors because the more your area is involved, the better your odds are at getting these birds to go elsewhere. **Scare balloons** can be purchased on-line.

Become educated, share information with your neighbors, and be vigilant!

The City of Wichita DOES NOT help with the removal of wildlife, and once these birds have laid eggs, there is nothing you can do until they have raised their family.

If a fledgling (baby bird) falls from the nest, please follow these instructions: The Migratory Bird Treaty Act has a "goodSamaritan" clause allowing the public to temporarily possess, no longer than 48 hours, a sick, injured or orphaned migratory bird with the express intent of allowing a person time to get the bird into the hands of a veterinarian or licensed rehabilitator. You are under no obligation to do this but if you wish to, you can. This does not allow you, in any way, to permanently possess the bird or attempt to rehabilitate it. This simply facilitates the

temporary possession of the bird to get it into the hands of a professional.

First contact a veterinarian or professional rehabilitator **BEFORE** attempting to recover a sick, injured or orphaned bird. If you cannot find someone to take the bird, it is best not to recover the bird as it will place you in the unenviable position of having to release the bird back into the wild.

If you find a dead egret or heron on your property, dispose of it in a bag and place the bag in your trash bin. Please wear gloves!