

Active Nests

For the species listed below, a nest is considered active if you observe any sign that a pair bond has been established, even if you cannot see the actual nest platform. **Note the nest building exception for Black-Crowned Night-Herons.*



Great Blue Heron



Great Egret



Snowy Egret



Cattle Egret



*Black-crowned Night-Her-



Double-crested Cormorant

Pair bond signs include:

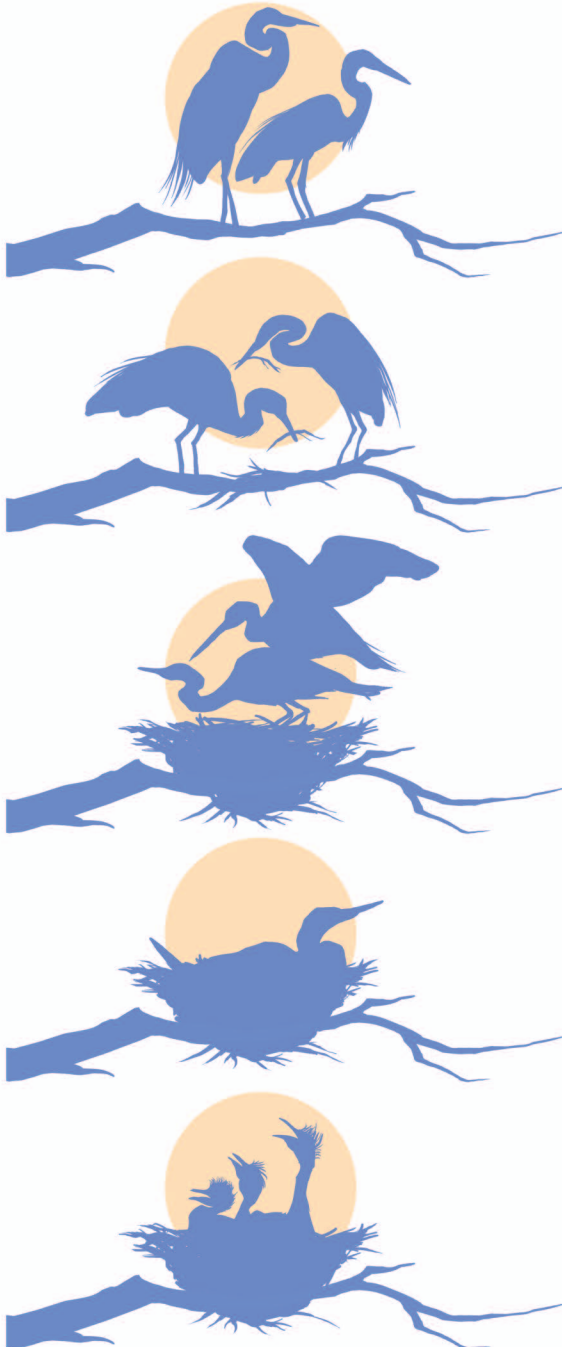
Pairing Two adults close enough to touch, standing on the same platform if one has been built. You might observe courtship behaviors such as bill clapping (see HEP Handbook).

Nest Building Exception: Black-crowned Night-Herons can begin building flimsy nests before pair bond. For this species, only call a nest active if you see an adult on or maintaining a well-built nest, sturdy enough to hold at least two eggs.

Copulation Look and listen for signs of mating. Copulations are most frequent during the period from the first acceptance of the mate until the first two eggs are laid (typically mid-March until the end of April) but can occur throughout the nesting season.

Incubation Adults lying low in the nest for long periods. Adults may be hard to see (look for bills and tails).

Egg or Chick Presence Eggs in the nest are rarely seen. However, you may observe an adult rolling eggs. Look and listen for signs of chicks. Young chicks might only be noticed during a feeding. Listen for chick begging sounds. Note that older chicks can be mistaken for adults.



Audubon Canyon Ranch

Cypress Grove Research Center
P. O. Box 808, Marshall, CA 94940
415-663-8203 ext. 401

