

**Integrating Bird Conservation
and Natural Resources Management:
Best Management Practices**

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Services

When to **Plan** Disturbance:

August 1 – January 31 best time for tree removal, invasive plant species management, and grubbing and clearing.

When to **Avoid** Disturbance:

February 1 – April 15 early nesting season. Disturbance to vegetation, especially trees, should be avoided.

April 15 – July 31 primary nesting season. Disturbance to vegetation should be avoided during this time.

Other Management Activities Occur Year Round

- Sewer work
- Green street and stormwater facility installation
- Water level management
- Structure removal and maintenance
- Mowing

Blackberry

Nesting Use: Many birds use!

Non-nesting Season (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Blackberry spraying and removal is generally fine EXCEPT for areas with willow flycatchers, a late nester that extends into August

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) – Blackberry spraying and removal OK. Watch for Anna's hummingbirds which are early nesters and defend their territory with conspicuous displays

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid major spray and manual cuts. Maintenance management and volunteer efforts are OK, but watch for song sparrow, spotted towhee and California quail nests, which are on ground or in blackberry plants. AVOID if present.

Clematis

Nesting Use: Not well documented, but heavy clumps likely used by many birds

Non-nesting Season (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Air gapping and root grubbing OK.

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) – Air gapping and root grubbing OK – leave vines in trees, do not pull down!

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Air gapping OK, Avoid root grubbing and pulling vines down. Watch for ground and shrub nesters.

Garlic Mustard

Nesting Use: no known bird nesting use

Non-nesting Season (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Spraying and hand pulling OK

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) – Spraying and hand pulling OK – watch for killdeer, ducks and other ground nesters when treating along parking lots and streams

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Spot spraying and hand pulling OK, watch for ground nests. If found, leave area.

Hawthorne

Nesting Use: Cedar waxwings, American robins and many others use the dense foliage that provides protection for nesting!

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – Generally OK. However, if removing in willow flycatcher areas such as Powell Butte, avoid removal until after August 31.

Early Nesting Season (February 1- April 15) – Girdling is OK. Avoid tree removal.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid removal.

Holly and Laurel

Nesting Use: Great protected place for many birds to build nests!

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – Best time for intensive first treatment to areas with dense holly and laurel stands

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Removal is likely OK. Watch for nesting behavior and avoid if observed.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid intensive first treatments. If removal is necessary, visually inspect smaller trees (<10 feet) for small cup nests. More thorough survey needed for larger trees. Avoid if birds present.

Ground Ivy

Nesting Use: All shrub, ground and stump nesters are impacted by ivy removal in nesting season.

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – Foliar spray and hand pulling OK

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Foliar Spray and hand pulling OK

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid pulling if possible. Hand pulling can take place but with caution. Watch for winter wrens and watch for nearby nesting birds in logs and shrubs mixed in with ivy.

Tree Ivy

Nesting Use: no known nesting exclusively in ivy, but watch for nests that could get pulled down like brown creeper nests in the bark!!

Non-nesting Season

(Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Air gapping OK.

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) – Air gapping acceptable, but leave ivy in trees to decompose slowly.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Air gapping acceptable, leave ivy in trees, watch for ground and shrub nests.

Knotweed

Nesting Use – none known

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – good time for foliar spray or injection.

Early Nesting Season (February 1- April 15) – good time for foliar spray or injection.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – treatment is likely OK, but watch for nearby nests on ground, in shrubs and those that might be exposed by activities.

Purple Loosestrife

Nesting Use: Red-winged blackbirds
and American goldfinch and ducks

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31)- OK to treat loosestrife

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Herbicide application OK until
March 1. WATCH for ducks which breed a bit early.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid veg management. Watch
for RW Blackbirds, goldfinches and ducks if must treat.

Reed Canary Grass

Nest Use: Common yellowthroats, mallard and cinnamon teal

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – Cut, spray, grub OK

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Hand spraying OK,
WATCH for nesting ducks!

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid vegetation
management. Conduct nest search if mowing is advised.

Yellow Flag Iris

Nesting Use: Red-winged Blackbirds, Ducks at base of vegetation

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – best time for spray or mechanical removal

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Spray or mechanical removal OK, Watch for duck nests along shores

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid vegetation management.

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Live Tree Removal

Nesting Use: Used to host nests from February 1 to August 31.

Non-nesting Season (Aug 1 – Jan 31)
Removal and Girdling OK

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) –
Avoid removal, girdling OK. Watch for early nesters – Anna's hummingbird, hawks, owls (and killdeer on the ground).

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) –
Avoid tree removal, girdling OK.

Snag Removal

Nesting Uses: Northern flicker, tree swallow, wood duck, chickadee, house wren, woodpeckers, Vaux's swift, many more!

Non-nesting Season (August 1 – January 31) – Best time if snag just absolutely needs to be removed

Early Nesting Season (February 1 – April 15) – Avoid if possible. Watch for early snag nesters like owls.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid snag removal

Native Shrub Removal

Nesting Use: Many birds use the dense cover of native shrubs to build their nests, often low to the ground.

Non-nesting Season (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Best time for vegetation removal

Early Nesting Season (Feb 1 – April 15) – Watch for early nesters such as Anna's hummingbirds with their loud displays, killdeer on the ground and ducks that may flush.

Primary Nesting Season (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid all veg impacts and removal.

Mowing and ground cover removal

- Nesting Uses: Savannah sparrow, Western meadowlark
- **Non-nesting Season** (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Best time for road building, mowing, etc.
- **Early Nesting Season** (Feb 1 – April 15) – Proceed with Caution. Be aware of killdeer, often calling loudly and feigning injury.
- **Primary Nesting Season** (April 15 – July 31) – Avoid mowing and removal of ground cover.

- Removal and Maintenance of Structures

- Nesting Use: barn owls, cliff swallows, barn swallows, Vaux's swifts
- **Non-nesting Season** (Aug 1 – Jan 31) – Most activities OK, flush birds from building if used as a winter roost. If removing swift chimney, wait until October 10.
- **Early Nesting Season** (Feb 1 – April 15) – Survey for owls. Wait until fledged.
- **Primary Nesting Season** (April 15 – July 31) – Survey for nests in chimney, eaves, etc. Wait until young fledge.

Summary

- Learn the early nesters!
- Learn to identify willow flycatcher
- Plan ahead, think about your specific activity's impact on nesting
- Avoid vegetation management in primary nesting season