

*The Weekly Wing*  
**By Brandon Jackson (The Birding Expert)**  
**and his go-to contributor Alex Hebeisen (The Typist)**

This week we will be talking about the five most common types of nests. They are cavity, ground, cup, pendulous, and platform.

The cavity nest is commonly used and built by woodpeckers. They excavate a hole by chipping away wood on a tree and by hammering their bill against it. If done by the right woodpecker the hole can reach up to three inches in diameter. After woodpeckers abandon the hole, the next season a songbird may take over the cavity and make it their new home.

The next nest is the ground nest. This is used by most waterfowl and some other birds; like the killdeer who uses grass to make a nest for their eggs. The ground nest is pretty much an impression in the ground lined with grass, leaves, and sometimes even feathers.

A cup nest is what most songbirds use for a home. They can be in trees where the branch is split or on rocky cliffs. They can also be in reeds in the lake or bushes. This is one of the most commonly used nests.

Pendulous nests are mostly used by kinglets and orioles. It's kind of like a sock hanging from a tree and it's weaved by the birds themselves. Like many other types of nests they are made with twigs and grasses. This is one of the least common nests in North America.

Finally, the platform nest is just a bunch of twigs put into a flat nest. Some of the types of birds that live in the platform nest are loons and eagles. The eagle's platform nest can reach up to six feet in diameter.

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*Source: Wild About Minnesota Birds by Adele Porter*