

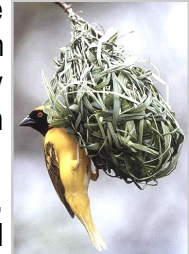
NESTS...THEY'RE BOTH WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

As we know a bird nest is the spot in which a bird lays and incubates its eggs and raises its young. Although the term popularly refers to a specific structure made by the bird itself—such as the grassy cup nest of the Eurasian Blackbird, or the elaborately woven hanging nest of the Village Weaver—that is too restrictive a definition. For some species, a nest is simply a shallow depression made in sand; for others, it is the knot-hole left by a broken branch, a burrow dug into the ground, a chamber drilled into a tree, an enormous rotting pile of vegetation and earth, a shelf made of dried saliva or a mud dome with an entrance tunnel. The smallest bird nests are those of some Hummingbirds, tiny cups which can be a mere 2 cm across and 2–3 cm in height. At the other extreme, some nest mounds built by the Dusky Scrubfowl measure more than 11m in diameter and stand nearly 5m high.



Two Hummingbird chicks in nest

In most species, the female does most or all of the nest construction, though the male often helps. In some polygynous species, however, the male does most or all of the nest building. The nest may also be a part of the courtship display, such as the elaborate structures of some Weaver species.



Masked Weaver at nest

Source: Wikipedia