

Birds Do It! RECYCLE!

If you collect paper, cloth, string or paper clips, your friends might call you a pack rat. But if you're a bird, you're just building the coolest house in the neighborhood!



Picky, Picky

Scientists have no idea exactly why birds choose certain objects to build their nests. But scientists know that the main reason birds build nests is to keep their babies safe, warm and healthy.

Chicks grow faster and are healthier when they are warm. They also learn to fly and leave the nests sooner than birds without warm homes.

What A Yarn

Yarn is big on an oriole's shopping list when nest building. Scientists are still trying to figure out why so many birds choose white yarn over other colors for nest building.

Scientists think that the white stuff reminds birds of cotton fluff they find in the wild.

Do It Naturally

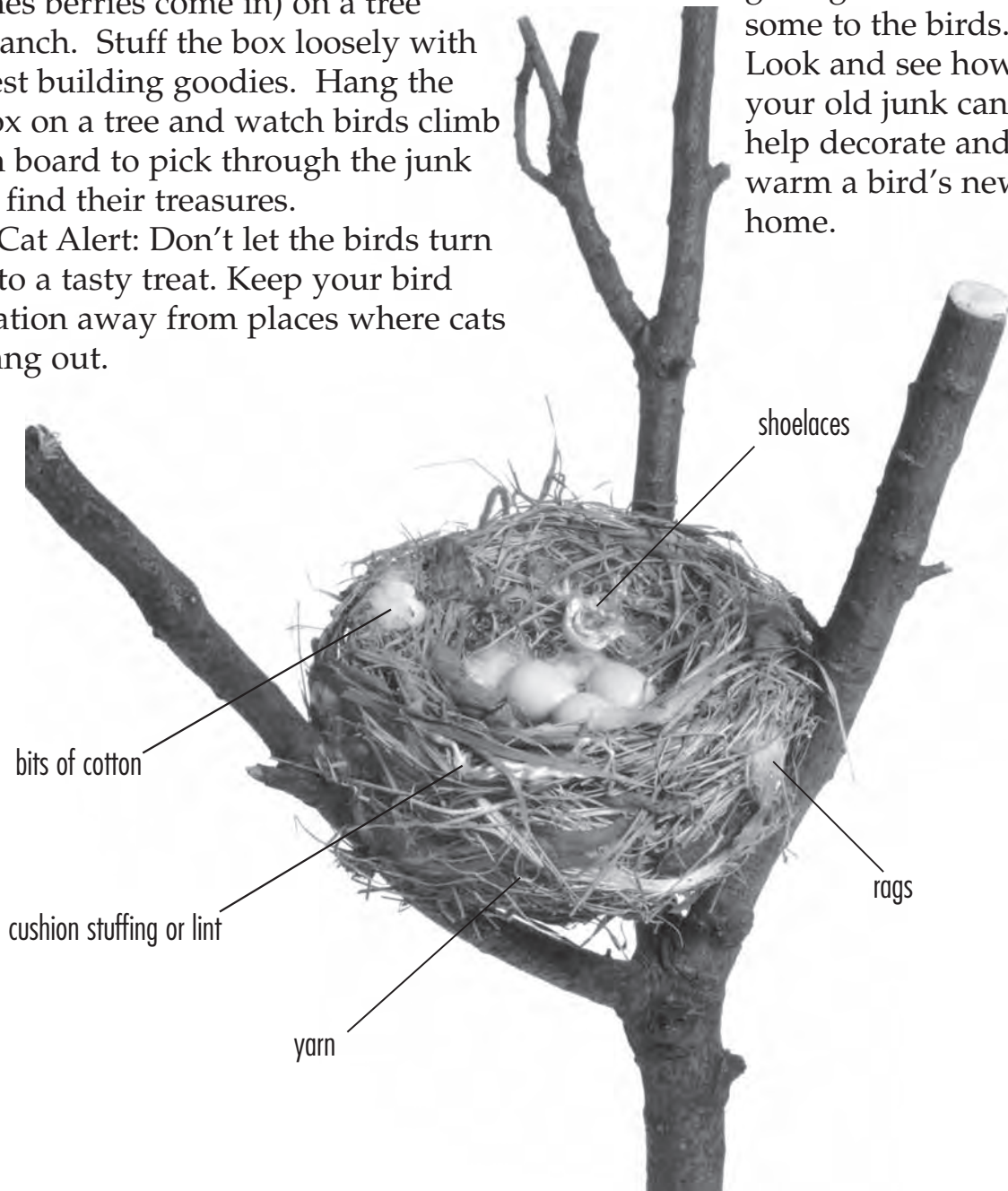
Even though birds can help us recycle some of our junk by using it to build nests, they also need to use lots of natural materials. Twigs, long grass, moss, dried bark, spider's silk and mud are some of the natural ingredients that are good for nests, too.

You can make a collection box of stuff to leave for birds so they can help themselves. Hang a small plastic box with holes (like the ones berries come in) on a tree branch. Stuff the box loosely with nest building goodies. Hang the box on a tree and watch birds climb on board to pick through the junk to find their treasures.

Cat Alert: Don't let the birds turn into a tasty treat. Keep your bird station away from places where cats hang out.

For The Birds!

Stop! Don't throw all that garbage out! Give some to the birds. Look and see how your old junk can help decorate and warm a bird's new home.



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