

Nesting Basket for Mourning Doves

7 & up

The Mourning Dove is a common local bird which readily nests in backyards. It has learned to live near people, making it an easy bird to observe and study. A cool fact, Mourning doves can drink without tipping back their heads like other birds do! Learn more about the Mourning Dove at [All About Birds](#).



Mourning Doves are versatile, nesting in a wide variety of situations. Although they do not need a nesting basket or cone, it does give them a solid base for their flimsy nest. It may encourage them to nest in a more suitable place rather than over your door, window, or in your potted plants. Mourning Doves may nest two or three times in a season.

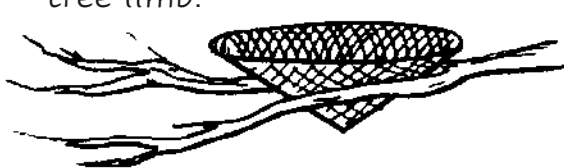
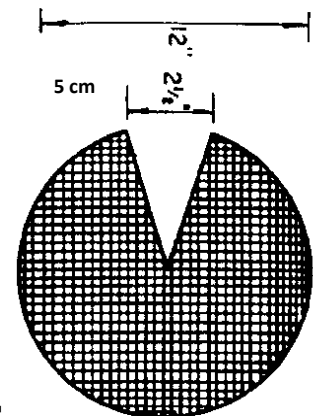
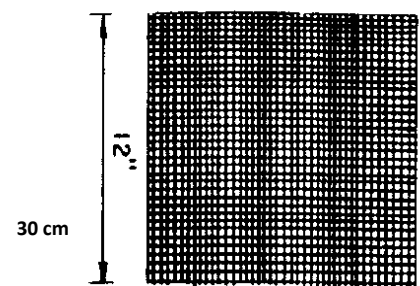
Make a Nesting Basket or Cone

Supplies:

- ◇ 30 x 30 cm piece of hardware cloth, rabbit fencing or chicken wire (two layers of chicken wire maybe required if the openings or gage is large).
- ◇ tin snips or wire cutters
- ◇ gloves to protect hands from sharp edges
- ◇ wire

Procedure:

- ⇒ Round the square into a circle by cutting off the corners, turn under or cut off any sharp wire ends
- ⇒ Cut a small wedge or pie shaped piece as pictured
- ⇒ Wire the edges together to form a cone
- ⇒ Place the nest cone 2-3 meters up in a shady part of a tree with branches overhead, evergreens are a favorite
- ⇒ use wire to secure the nest in a horizontal crotch of a tree limb.



BIRDS CANADA OISEAUX CANADA

<https://www.birdscanada.org/bird-science/project-nestwatch/>

TIP: Creation stories are folk tales about how animals or things came to be as they are today. Write a creation story to explain why the Mourning Dove makes its sad sound, or why it can drink without tipping its head back.

