

Make Room for Mourning Doves

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A common site, mourning doves are often seen perched on telephone wires in many neighborhoods. They also tend to gather on patches of bare ground in search of seeds or grit. When they take off in flight, their wings make a distinct whistling or whinnying sound. You may also hear their lamenting call of “Coo-coo-coo”.

Mourning doves typically nest among dense leaves on the branches of a tree. They can nest close to people on eaves, gutters, or in this case, in the clothespin basket that hangs outside my backdoor.



When I first noticed the beginnings of a nest, I removed most of the clothespins and let her have the basket. Over the course of our quarantine, we have watched this dove construct a very sparse nest of sticks and pine needles. We did not use the backdoor for a few days and sure enough, she laid two eggs. This is the typical clutch size for a mourning dove. She has been incubating them for the past fourteen days and we expect them to hatch any day now. The young should remain in the nest for the next twelve to fifteen days and if successful, she will lay another set of eggs and begin again. She may even do this for a total of six

times over the course of the summer. Looks like I need to find another place to keep my clothespins!

While you are home, take time to slow down and observe all the nature that surrounds you. You may be surprised at what could be right outside your door.

