

Nesting Killdeer in the Garden



Protecting Nesting Killdeer in Hillsboro's Community Gardens

A Hillsboro Community Garden Program
Guidance Document



Killdeer Nesting in the Garden

Killdeer are Protected by Law

- ❖ Federal law requires that we protect ground birds and not interfere with their nesting activities. This includes the Killdeer.
- ❖ Killdeer populations declined overall by about 47% between 1966 and 2014, with steeper declines in Canada and the West (*North American Breeding Bird Survey*).



Baby birds are hiding under Mama bird.

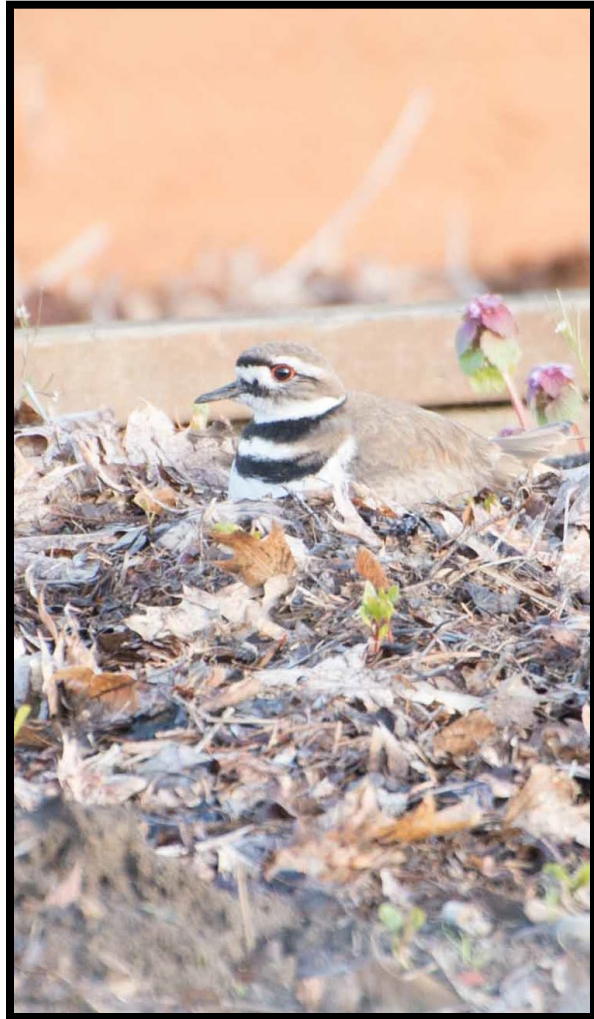
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Killdeer Facts

- ❖ Killdeer can help with pest control because they eat lots of insects like beetles, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and fly larvae, as well as spiders, worms, snails, crayfish, and weed seeds.
- ❖ Killdeer nest between early April and late June.
- ❖ Egg gestation is 24 to 28 days.

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- ❖ If you find a killdeer pair nesting in your garden, let your garden manager know immediately.
- ❖ We will work with you to set up a protection zone around the nest until the eggs have hatched and post signs at appropriate locations.
- ❖ If the eggs fail to hatch, we will remove the nest.

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If You Have a Nesting Pair

You can continue to garden in your plot around the protected area but take care to do the following:

- ❖ Do not ever look directly at the nesting bird, she will get nervous.
- ❖ Move slowly and with patience.
- ❖ Make soft whistling sounds to reassure the sitting bird.

Birds get used to people who are regularly present.

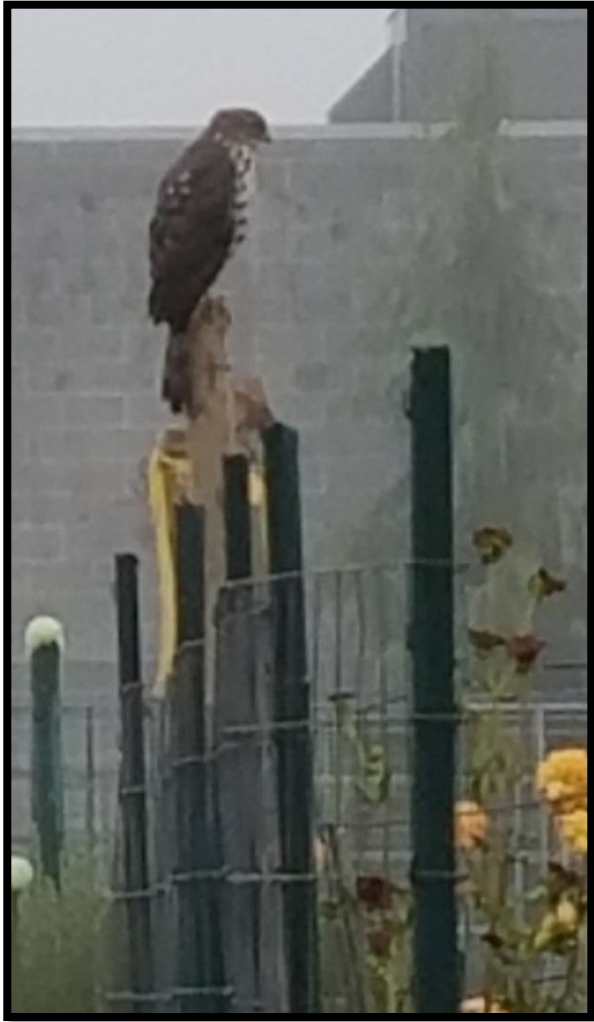
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If You Have a Nesting Pair

- ❖ If it is early in the season, you can choose to move to another open plot for no extra fee and garden there for the season.
- ❖ You may be able to share with someone as well as work around the birds until they finish, then continue in both situations.
- ❖ You will receive a bag of Grow fertilizer, a \$15 value!



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Discouraging Killdeer Nesting

- ❖ Be active in your garden beginning in early March (before nesting season).
- ❖ Keep weeds pulled and remove cover of any sort.
- ❖ Put out lots of little spinners and other dangling and clanking objects.
- ❖ Some people think that Red-tailed Hawk Scarecrows are good!

(This hawk is REAL!)

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