

# Seasonal Tree Trimming

When to trim your trees so birds and bats are not harmed



**Wait before you trim that tree** Did you know tree trimming in spring and summer is irresponsible and possibly illegal? This can damage trees and devastate nesting birds or baby bats.

**Wait before you trim those dried palm fronds** Did you know that at least nine of San Diego's 23 insect-eating bat species sleep beneath dried palm fronds during the day? These bats use palm frond "skirts" as maternity roosts in summer when each mom has her single pup, and you could doom these tiny pups by trimming in summer. Wait until after September 1st so bat pups can fly away safely with their mothers.

**Keep trees healthy** Cutting, trimming and pruning during spring and summer can lead to diseased trees and intrusion of pests that harm trees. Fall is the best time to trim branches when trees are dormant.

**Keep nesting birds safe!** Hawk nests are large and visible, but the majority of songbird nests are small and camouflaged. Tree trimmers may not see nests until too late. Also, loud activity of tree trimming can disturb birds in surrounding trees.

**What does the law say?** Birds and active nests are protected from harm or harassment by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will issue citations and levy fines to individuals and companies that blatantly disregard the regulations.

## Actions to help trees & birds

- Trim and prune during the fall when trees are dormant.
- Hire arborists, landscapers and tree trimmers who are concerned with the health of your trees and the birds and bats that nest in them.
- Avoid contracting services that only trim trees because they have to work year-round.
- If you see tree trimmers disturbing an active nest, TAKE A PICTURE of the nest, the destruction, and the company's name. Report violations to the Law Enforcement Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services at (619) 557-5063.



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