

## Heron/Egret Deterrent Kits

Homeowners can put together a kit to help deter migratory birds from nesting and establishing nuisance heronries or egret colonies in their neighborhood. **Use of these items is not a guarantee to prevent birds from establishing nesting sites.** However, experts recommend these items to aid in a combined list of actions that you, as homeowners, must take to deter nesting. The City does not supply these items, however, you can find most in stores or on-line.

### Recommended Deterrent Actions

1. Tree trimming – it is the homeowner responsibility to get your tree canopies thinned. This is a **critical** action needed in deterring the birds from coming back, and must be done before they nest. Trimming or limbing up the tree from the bottom is not going to help. The actual canopy of the tree must be thinned out by 20-30%. Please contact a certified arborist for guidance.
2. Report Sightings – please let the City know if you see these specific birds in your area. We can alert your neighbors to begin deterrent activities. It will take a combined effort from everyone. Talk to your neighbors and get them involved.
3. Scare Eye Balloons – Inflate these and use fishing line to secure to the highest points possible in your trees. The big eyes are scary to birds, but won't be effective if they can't see them from treetops.
4. Mylar tape – Cut into long strips and hang from various high points in your trees or other structures on your property (tie with several knots). The tape should be visible to the birds and able to feely move in the wind. The shiny look is a deterrent. You can also use old CD's/DVD's or other shiny objects.
5. Tennis balls – Use with an eyebolt screwed into one end and tie with fishing line. Throw the ball up and over the branches to help hand deterrent objects. You can use the balls to knock down nesting material **before eggs are laid**. NEVER THROW ANY OBJECT DIRECTLY AT THE BIRDS.
6. Water hose with high pressure nozzle - Use to spray water upward in the trees to scare birds away **before nests are established**.
7. Noise makers – Loud, sharp noises such as airhorns, whistles, children's cap guns, clapboards, etc. can help scare away birds. If you use noisemakers, respect your neighbors as they may have dogs or children who are sensitive to loud noises. Notify Hurst Police Non-emergency (817.788.7180) of your name and address if you are using noisemakers that sound or look like guns.
8. City staff – While staff is working to track and notify residents of bird sightings, we cannot cover the entire city. If we notice a spike in sightings in a certain neighborhood, we will

periodically assist with deterrent noises using appropriate methods to help scare the birds. ***Do not count on this to deter rookeries from being established. A combined effort from all, using all the above is needed to be successful.***

**REMEMBER, ONCE THE FIRST EGG IS LAID, ALL SCARE TACTICS MUST CEASE!**

General Information – Hurst Parks Division, 817.788.7222

[Hursttx.gov/migratorybirds](http://Hursttx.gov/migratorybirds)

To report dead or injured birds:

Hurst Animal Services, 817.788.7216

Hurst Police, Non-Emergency, 817.788.7180