



MAINE HOMEOWNER GUIDE

Bird Exclusion & Prevention

Building bird problems can involve nests, roosting, droppings, and federal protections - so species and nest status matter.

Bird work starts by identifying the species, whether birds are inside or outside the building, and whether an active nest, eggs, or young are present.

1	2	3	4	5
Identify	Check nest	Resolve lawfully	Exclude access	Clean safely

Federal protections apply

Many native birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Rules differ by species and circumstance, so active nests should not be disturbed casually.

Birds inside buildings

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regulations authorize prompt removal of migratory birds - including nests, eggs and nestlings - from the **interior** of buildings under specified conditions when they disrupt normal use, create health/safety risks, damage property, or risk becoming trapped.

Prevention methods

Once lawful and appropriate, openings can be closed and roosting/nesting access reduced with structural exclusion or mechanical deterrents suited to the site.

Droppings and cleanup

CDC/NIOSH recommends controlling dust when bird or bat droppings are disturbed and notes that large accumulations may warrant specialized professional cleanup.

Removal. Repair. Prevention.
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Sources: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Migratory Bird Permits / Birds in Buildings; CDC/NIOSH Histoplasmosis. Educational summary current Sept. 2026. Wildlife laws, seasons and agency guidance can change; site-specific conditions control.