

## **Nesting Balls – A Project for Children to Help Our Feathered Friends**

You may have noticed some birds in your backyard carrying strange objects in their beaks – other than food. The females are beginning to build nests for their hatchlings and eventual fledglings. There are thousands of species of passerine or “perching birds.” If you would like a project for your youth group, create nesting balls to assist the birds in their efforts. The following are materials that you can use:

- Grapevine Balls- can be purchased at craft stores or on Amazon (various sizes available).
- Tie a ribbon or string through the ball long enough to hang from a branch, shepherd’s crook or bird feeder.
- Fill the ball with string/twine/yarn (cut into 3-5 inch long pieces), cotton balls (real cotton), wool, human hair or animal fur (untreated - no flea/tic medication), twigs and tiny branches, small thin strips of cloth (old fabric or shirts cut into 3-5 inch long strips).

Then hang outside and enjoy the show.