Predators and Their Signs

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

What to Know

Know the signs of pests and predators and what steps to take in order to protect your flock.

If You Find...	Likely Predator(s)	How They Attack	Prevention Tips
Bird missing, no disturbance	• Fox • Raccoon • Coyote • Bobcat • Hawk • Owl • Dog	Snatch birds and carry them away	Secure coop, cover run, motion lights
Chicks missing, no disturbance	• Snake • Rat • Raccoon • House Cat	Eats small birds whole, leaves no mess	Small-mesh fencing, elevate brooder
Birds dead, not fully eaten, internal organs eaten	• Weasel • Opossum	Kills multiple birds, eats only internal organs	Seal small gaps, reinforce fencing
Birds missing heads	• Raccoon • Hawk • Owl	Pulls heads through wire, leaves bodies	Use ½-inch hardware cloth, reinforce coop walls
Eggs missing	• Raccoon • Magpie • Opossum • Blue Jay • Skunk • Snake • Rat • Crow	Steal or break eggs, eat contents	Collect eggs often, secure nest boxes
Dead birds and coop destruction	• Bear • Mountain Lion	Can overturn and destroy a coop	Electric fencing, guard dogs, reinforced barriers