

Plan 4 Nest Box For:

Tree Swallow Eastern Bluebird Great Crested Flycatcher

ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS:

The nesting box pictured has been carefully designed to meet bluebirds requirements, to last for years, and to provide for easy mounting and easy access for observation and cleaning. It cannot be entered by starlings and, if properly located, sparrow interference will be somewhat minimized.

PAINTING

Nesting boxes made of cedar, cypress, redwood or exterior grade plywood need not be painted. Boxes made of other woods will last longer if painted with exterior type latex paint. Use light colors only to prevent overheating. Paint the outside of the box. Do not use paints that contain lead or toxic wood preservatives such as pentachlorophenol. Exterior plywood is recommended for the top board since it will not warp.

MOUNTING

By using the small holes shown in the top and bottom extensions of the backboard, the box may be nailed or screwed to the top or side of a wooden post, or it may be bolted or wired to the top or side of a metal post. A smooth metal post such as a galvanized pipe is preferred to a wooden post since it offers better protection against climbing predators, particularly if the post is coated with soft grease while the bluebirds are occupying the box. A 1/2 or 3/4 inch galvanized pipe threaded at one end can be neatly and firmly attached to the bottom of the box by means of pipe flange which may be obtained at any hardware store. When mounting wires (see plan) are used to mount the box on the side of a metal post the two ends of the upper wire are inserted through the 1/8" holes near the top of the backboard. This must be done with the side wide open. If the box is mounted on the side of a wooden post or tree trunk a round-headed screw may be used in the 3/16" hole in the backboard. A long-handled screw driver is inserted through the entrance hole of the box. A metal washer should be used on the screw.

RACCOONS

A raccoon guard made of a small board 1 1/2" thick with a 1 1/2" hole helps to control raccoons and other large predators. This guard is attached firmly to the front of the box so that the hole coincides exactly with the entrance hole in the box. Extra deep nesting boxes are also helpful.

MAINTENANCE

Bluebirds nests should be removed from the boxes as soon as the young have left since this will increase the chances of second or third broods being raised in the same boxes. The boxes should be inspected, cleaned, and repaired if necessary in late winter each year, making sure that the drain holes in the floors are open.

Plan for Side-opening Nesting Box With 5" X 5" Floor

Dimensions shown are for boards 3/4" thick.
Use 1 3/4" galvanized siding nails or aluminum nails.
Pivot nails must be located exactly opposite each other as shown for proper opening of side board.
Cut top edges of front and back boards at slight angle to fit flush with top board.
Cut 3/8" off each corner of bottom board as shown.
Insert bottom board so that the grain of the wood runs from the front to the rear of box.

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