

Nesting Guide

Birds build open-cup shaped nests in trees or on the ground, or they nest in natural cavities (or holes) in trees.

Cavity-nesting birds will readily use a nest box if it is in the right habitat. Use a species-specific nest box to attract birds such as bluebirds, wrens, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, woodpeckers, Purple Martins, swallows, owls and Wood Ducks.

Selecting a good nest box

- The size of the entry hole, the distance from that hole to the floor and the inside dimensions must suit the bird you want to attract.
- For the proper insulation, wood should be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick; recycled plastic should be at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick.
- The box doesn't need additional paints or stains. Dark colors can absorb sunlight and make the box too warm.
- You should be able to open a panel to monitor nesting activity and clean the box after its use.
- The roof should be slanted so water can easily run off, and the box should include ventilation holes to help the interior stay cool.
- The inside of the box should have recessed grooves or rough surfaces under the entrance hole to help baby birds climb out.
- Outside perches are not necessary.

Wild Birds Unlimited® nest boxes are available for a variety of species, and each is designed to accommodate the specific bird's physical and nesting requirements.



Choosing the Right Habitat

Determine the proper height to hang or mount your nest box. Many birds prefer their nesting habitat at a certain level, and you will be more likely to attract the species you seek if you place the box at the right height.

Find out where your specific bird likes to nest. Does the bird prefer woodlands or open spaces? Does it like to be near water?

Place your box in your yard before birds start seeking nesting spots in February and March. You can leave the box up all year, but clean it out in fall so birds can use it as shelter in the winter.

Keeping Predators at Bay

Use a predator guard over your nest box's hole to help keep critters from disturbing your nesting birds. If you mount your nest box on a pole, be sure to place a baffle just below your box to keep squirrels, raccoons, cats and other animals away.

Observing Your Bird Family

- Approach the box slowly.
- Lightly tap on the side of the box to give the adult bird a chance to leave.
- Open the box carefully to observe the birds.
- Briefly check on the birds once or twice a week.
- Photograph and share with your family and friends.

For more information, talk to one of our
Certified Bird Feeding Specialists



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