

Nest Boxes for Wildlife



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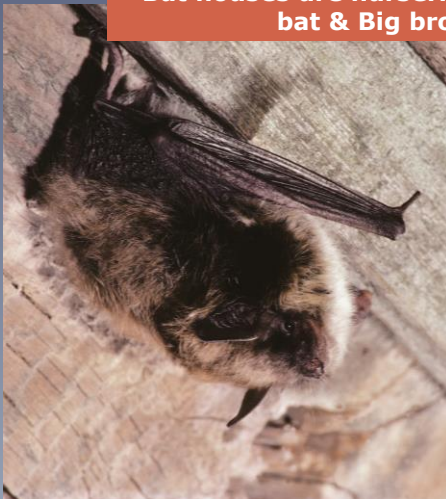
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Bat Houses

Bat houses are nurseries for Little brown bat & Big brown bats



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Bat Houses: Criteria for Success

- 1) Roost chambers 20 inches tall and 14 inches wide
 - The tall, wider, and more chambers the better
- 2) Bat's want to be warm and dry!
 - All seams must be sealed
 - Paint outside of house
 - Dark brown, gray, or green with avg. July temps of 85-95 degrees
- 3) Houses need direct sunlight (morning sun)
 - 6-10 hours
- 4) Mount high enough (12-20 ft)
 - Enough space to fly (20-30 ft from branches, etc.)
- 5) Mount on a pole or side of building within 1.4 mi of
 - Best success in areas of mixed habitat, or along forest edge
- 6) Clean out every 2-3 winters (Nov. – March)



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Bluebird Nest Box

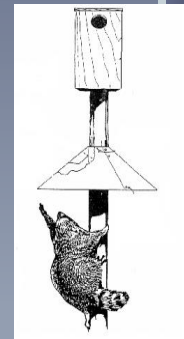


- Other species attracted to bluebird boxes:
 - Tree Swallow
 - House Wren
 - Chickadee

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Bluebird Nest Boxes: Criteria for Success

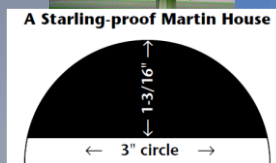
- Material: cedar and pine have water resistant properties
- Stain outside to extend longevity or go natural
- Entrance hole should be 1 3/8" diameter
- Include drainage holes and ventilation
- Consider adding a predator guard
- Place in open area (field, prairie, grassland, or shrubland)
- Monitor your boxes!
 - To keep them clean
 - It's fun!



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Nest Boxes for Birds

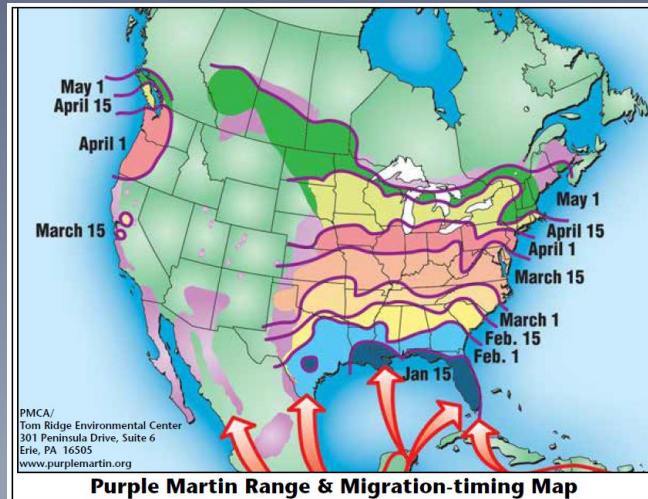
- Purple martin nest boxes
 - House should contain 12-20 compartments
 - Light in color to reflect sun
 - 50 feet from trees or buildings
 - They like a clear flight path
 - Mounted 10-15 feet on pole
 - Good success from gourds with starling guards



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When to open boxes for purple martins:

www.purplemartin.org/education/68/download-center/



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Nest Boxes for Squirrels : Gray, Fox, and Flying Squirrels



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Nest Boxes for Squirrels: Criteria for Success

- Use natural (untreated) pine, fir, or cedar
- Do not stain or paint interior or exterior
- Flying Squirrels
 - Make sure access hole is no larger than 1 ½"
 - Install sheet metal around edges to prevent gnawing
- Gray and Fox Squirrels
 - Access hole of 3" in diameter
- Create a hinge side-access door for cleaning
- Additional option: predator (raccoon guard)
 - Place block of wood (1 x 2") inside & below access hole



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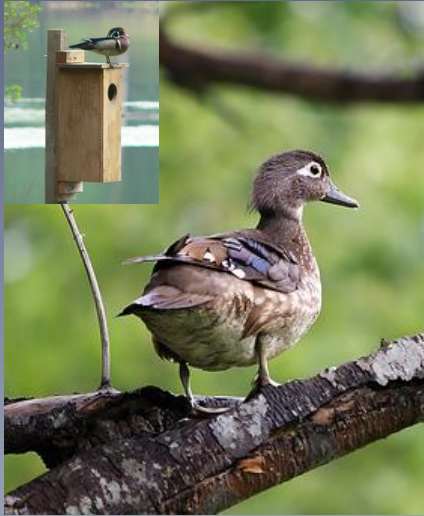
Nest Boxes for Squirrels: Criteria for Success

- Place nest boxes in mature forest stands with hard mast producing trees
 - At least 60 feet in from the edge of woodlot and clearings
- Placement height:
 - Flying squirrels
 - Minimum 10 feet in tree at least 6 inches diameter
 - Gray and Fox Squirrels
 - At least 30 feet in tree at least 10 inches in diameter
- If possible, do not place near branches
 - Limits predators access
- 3-4 boxes per acre
 - Provides other nesting sites and secondary nesting sites
- Clean out boxes every 2-3 years in early winter



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Wood Duck Nest Box



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Wood Duck Nest Box: Criteria for Success

- Wood ducks prefer ponds surrounded by woodlands
- Place single box in pond away from shoreline
 - 6-8 feet above water
 - Keep in mind spring water levels
- Can also place box in woods with shrub cover
- Place 2-4" wood shavings in bottom of box
- Use a predator guard



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American Kestrel and Screech Owl Nest Box



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Kestrel & Screech Owl Nest Boxes: Criteria for Success

Kestrel

- Place box in open area
 - Space boxes 1 mile apart
- Mount 10-30 feet high on sign post
- Clean and prep before breeding season (late Feb – March)
 - Add 3-4" wood chips to bottom of box
 - Clean at end of nesting season (August)
- Watch for Starlings
 - 5-7 pale blue eggs

Screech Owl

- Place box in mature forest stands
- Mount ~10 feet high
- Breeding season: Feb-March
 - Place 1-2" wood chips on bottom of box
 - Clean at end of nesting season (August)
- Gray and fox squirrels may use box
- Optional : perch on outside of box

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