

WHY BUILD SONGBIRD BOXES? Building songbird boxes is a simple, inexpensive way to attract songbirds to your property. Properly constructed nest boxes can provide shelter in those areas negatively affected by urbanization and intensive management. By building boxes, you can insure the songbirds on your land a place to nest.



BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Bird species have different habitat needs. To be successful, choose the species you want to attract and understand its food, water, and space requirements. Use the table below to find the proper dimensions of the nest box for the birds you want to attract. By simply changing dimensions and entrance hole sizes, you can furnish cool, dry, durable, easily cleaned boxes for any of the small to medium-sized bird species in the table.

Species	Floor of Box	Depth of Box	Hole Size	Hole Above Floor
Bluebird	4" X 4"	8" - 12"	1 1/2	8" - 10"
Chickadee			1 1/8	
Titmouse	4" X 4"	9"	1 1/4	7"
Nuthatch			1 3/8	
Carolina wren			1 1/2	
House wren	4" X 4"	6" - 8"	1 - 1 1/4	4" - 6"
Prothonotary warbler			1 3/8	
Great-Crested flycatcher	6" X 6"	8" - 10"	1 3/4	6" - 8"
Flicker	7" X 7"	16" - 18"	2 1/2	14" - 16"

MATERIALS FOR SONGBIRD BOXES:

To Build:

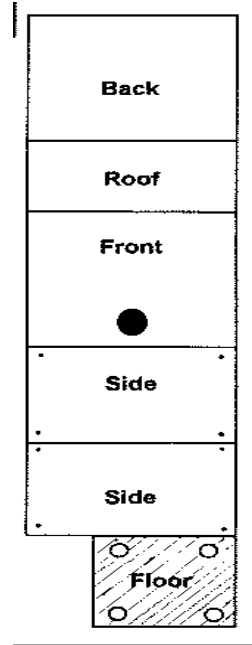
- Tape measure
- Hammer
- 1 1/2" to 1 3/4" galvanized nails
- Pencil or chalk for marking
- Saw
- Lumber

To Install:

- Stepladder or extension ladder
- 3" galvanized nails, lag bolts, or crimped wire
- Sheet metal for predator guard

CONSTRUCTION HINTS:

- Boxes need at least four 1/4" holes in the bottom to allow water to drain. Several 1/4" holes in the sides will provide adequate ventilation.
- Use durable woods such as cedar, cypress, and pressure-treated pine.
- Allow for the width of the sawblade when marking and cutting a board.
- When using hardwood lumber, drill starter holes for the nails to avoid splitting boards.
- Avoid painting boxes or treating wood with a preservative. These boxes may absorb too much heat or give off toxic vapors.
- Hinge the roof or use a pivot nail on one side of the box to make periodic clean-up easier.



INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE:

- Inspect boxes regularly and consider adding predator guards if necessary.
- Always work in teams when using folding or extension ladders.
- See the table below to decide placement of your box.

Species	Box Height	Placement
Carolina wren House wren Nuthatch Chickadee	5' – 10"	Woodland clearings; edges
Bluebird Flicker	6'	Open areas (fields, food plots, pastures)
Great-Crested Flycatcher	8' – 20'	Forest interiors
Prothonotary Warbler	4' – 12'	Wetland areas; over or facing water
Titmouse	5' – 15'	Hardwood stands

Adapted from North Carolina Extension Wildlife Notes.
Photo Credit: Alabama Forestry Commission



This information is provided by the Alabama Forestry Commission
For more information please visit: www.forestry.alabama.gov