



OWL NESTING BOX

PLACEMENT

The optimum location for an owl-nesting box is on the edge of woodlands. This area could be a tree on the edge of a forested area and a maintained lawn. The Northern Saw-whet and Boreal Owl would be the two most likely types of owls to use this type of nesting box and habitat. Once you have selected a location, the next step is selecting a tree. Make sure the tree you select is located on the edge of woodlands. Use a hardwood tree such as a maple or oak species. These species can better withstand having a nesting box installed on them. Avoid using tree species like aspen or birch, these trees species are softwoods and more likely to be negatively effected by the nesting box installation process. After the tree has been selected, place the nesting box at least 10 feet above ground level in the tree. Having the nesting box at this height will help to prevent predators from reaching the nest.

INSTALLATION

Make sure the nails or screws or at least 6 inches in length. This will help to ensure that the nesting box will be securely placed on the tree. Four screws or nails should be placed at the four corners of the owl-nesting box. Make sure the nest opening is facing outward. Once you have the nesting box firmly in place, collected a GPS coordinate of the location using a GPS handheld unit (if available). Also, remember to place nesting material into the nesting boxes. The nesting material consists of sawdust or softwood chips placed on the bottom of the nesting box.

MAINTENANCE

After the first year of use, the owl nesting boxes should be cleaned. This process should then be repeated every year there after. This will help to ensure that a breeding pair will use the nesting box year after year.

To remove this material after use, simply remove the screws from the bottom of the box, while holding on to the bottom sheet of the box. Once, the bottom sheet is out, observe if any undeveloped eggs or eggshells are remaining. If you did observe any shells or eggs, please indicate the number of eggs, size, and color on the post card provided. **It is Important to remember to gently tap the side of the nesting box with a stick before removing the bottom sheet of the nesting box. This will allow any wildlife creature that is in the nesting box time to leave the nesting box before you clean out the old nesting material.** Once the old nesting material is removed, place the new nesting material on the bottom sheet and screw it back into the owl-nesting box. The cleaning of the nesting box should be completed in the middle of October or the middle of April.



WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX

PLACEMENT

The optimum location for a wood duck nesting box is in a wooded area under a pond or wet area in a marsh. If a wooded area with a pond is not available on your property, placing the nesting boxes 30 to 100 feet inland from the shoreline, in a wooded area will also work. Wood ducks have been known to use nesting boxes that were located up to a ½ mile from a major water source. Once you have selected a location, the next step is selecting a tree. Use a hardwood tree such as a maple or oak species. These species can better withstand having a nesting box installed on them. Avoid using tree species like aspen or birch, these trees species are softwoods and more likely to be negatively effected by the nesting box installation process. After the tree has been selected, place the nesting box between 12 to 16 feet above ground level in the tree. Having the nesting box at this height will help to prevent predators from reaching the nest.

INSTALLATION

Make sure the nails or screws are at least 6 inches in length. This will help to ensure that the nesting box will be securely placed on the tree. Four screws or nails should be placed at the four corners of the wood duck nesting box. Make sure the nest opening is facing outward. Once you have the nesting box firmly in place, collected a GPS coordinate of the location using a GPS handheld unit (if available). Also, remember to place nesting material into the nesting boxes. The nesting material consists of sawdust or soft wood chips placed on the bottom of the nesting box.

MAINTENANCE

After the first year of use, the wood duck nesting boxes should be cleaned. This process should then be repeated every year there after. This will help to ensure that a breeding pair will use the nesting box year after year.

To remove this material after use, simply remove the screws from the bottom of the box, while holding on to the bottom sheet of the box. Once, the bottom sheet is out, observe if any undeveloped eggs or eggshells are remaining. If you did observe any shells or eggs, please indicate the number of eggs, size, and color on the post card provided. **Note: It is Important to remember to gently tap the side of the nesting box with a stick before removing the bottom sheet of the nesting box. This will allow any wildlife creature that is in the nesting box; time to leave the nesting box before you clean out the old nesting material.** Once the old nesting material is removed, place the new nesting material on the bottom sheet and screw it back into the wood duck nesting box. The cleaning of the nesting box should be completed in the middle of October or the middle of April.