Bat Houses

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

Bluebird Nest Box

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

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
When to open boxes for purple martins:

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

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

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
Wood Duck Nest Box

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
American Kestrel and Screech Owl Nest Box

Kestrel & Screech Owl Nest Boxes: Criteria for Success

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kestrel</th>
<th>Screech Owl</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Place box in open area</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Space boxes 1 mile apart</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Mount 10-30 feet high on sign post</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clean and prep before breeding season (late Feb – March)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Add 3-4&quot; wood chips to bottom of box</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clean at end of nesting season (August)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Watch for Starlings</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 5-7 pale blue eggs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Place box in mature forest stands</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Mount ~10 feet high</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Breeding season: Feb-March</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Place 1-2&quot; wood chips on bottom of box</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Clean at end of nesting season (August)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Gray and fox squirrels may use box</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Optional: perch on outside of box</td>
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