

# You Can Help Cavity Nesters

Most important - mount your nest box outside!

When you have options, consider the following:

- ✓ ensure tips of screws are not exposed inside the box where they may harm nestlings
- ✓ 2 meters above the ground – okay for most birds, easy to reach for cleaning
- ✓ face box east for warmth from early morning sun, shelter from westerly winds
- ✓ at least 2-3 m away from bird baths and feeders
- ✓ avoid placing boxes next to busy trails and roads
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- ✓ 8 m from other nest boxes
- ✓ away from trees or branches that predators could use to jump onto the box.
- ✓ avoid areas where pesticides are used (e.g., golf courses and cultivated farm fields) as these chemicals are harmful to birds and their insect prey
- ✓ use a metal pole to mount the box, avoid tree trunks and fence posts which allow easy access for predators
- ✓ add a predator guard or baffle
- ✓ in or near meadows and thickets
- ✓ in or near unsprayed hay fields and pastures
- ✓ in areas recently planted with trees as part of reforestation efforts
- ✓ do not add a perch - encourages predators and competitors

## Baffles, cones and wraps deter climbing predators.

Common nest box predators include raccoons, opossums, weasels, squirrels, chipmunks, snakes, crows, bluejays, and grackles. Starlings and sparrows will kill adult birds and destroy eggs and chicks while taking over a nest box.

