

Brown-headed Nuthatch Nest Box Guidelines 2014



Mounting the excluder plate

1. Screws: ½" or ¾" wood screws

OR

2. Nails: ¾" roofing nails; place a wood block inside box to keep door from collapsing and drill a 1/8" pilot hole

Site selection: Habitat

- Mature pines within sight (white pines don't count)
- NOT dense stands of pine, but shade is OK
- Nuthatches prefer open habitat with some pines
- No vegetation within 6 feet of the nest box

Spacing

To accommodate:

Place boxes this far apart:

Nuthatches

100 yards

Nuthatches & chickadees

20 yards (paired 1"-hole boxes)

Nuthatches & bluebirds

20 yards (paired: one 1"-hole and one 1 ½" hole)

**Ask all volunteers to sign up
for nuthatch news:**

[http://audubonaction.org/
NCNuthatches](http://audubonaction.org/NCNuthatches)

Questions? Kim Brand at
kbrand@audubon.org

Installation

Box roof **5 feet above the ground** on metal pole, tree, or fence post

1. Metal poles

- Pound 40" long, ½" RIGID conduit (galvanized pipe) OR rebar into ground
- Place 5' long, 1" EMT (electrical conduit) over ½" pipe or rebar
- Attach two 2-hole 1" pipe straps to nest box
- Attach 1" hose clamp to pipe to keep nest box from slipping
- Slide box onto pipe through pipe straps



OR

2. Tree or fence wooden post

- Use a hand drill and screws
- Use 10 x 3.5" coated deck screws, 2 per
- Screws allow easier repositioning of the box as trees grow. Nails do more damage.
- Pines are preferred but other trees should work too

Monitoring & Data Entry

Check boxes every 3-4 days March through May. Afternoon is best; don't check during cold or rain.

Enter data at www.NestWatch.org (each chapter might decide to use a shared login)

OR

Use paper datasheet (from NestWatch) and give to local project leader at end of season.

Maintenance: Clean out boxes ONLY from August through October.