

Condition 9

Birds nesting box details.

BAT ROOST UNITS / BOXES

One unit per dwelling is to be provided for Bats.

Orientation and location:

Lack of warmth is the most important known cause of bat box failure, and structures for summer roosting should be positioned where they are unshaded for most of the day. Summer maternity roosts (in the northern hemisphere) should have a southerly or westerly aspect.

On this development they are to be positioned midway up on the southerly gable of plot 2 and on the South Easterly facing gable on Plot 1 above the single storey roof.

On average a bat box should receive 6-10 hours of direct sunlight a day if possible.

Enclosed is a details of an acceptable BAT Box that can be used.

This is an example only.

There is a wide variety of commercially available bat boxes in a wide range of shapes, sizes and materials.

These are available through NHBS (www.nhbs.com),

CJ Wildlife (www.birdfood.co.uk/pro),

Amazon (www.amazon.co.uk),

The Nestbox Company (www.nestbox.co.uk) and a range of alternative suppliers.

Please be aware that the boxes should be to the Bat Conservation Trust requirements.

Other typical acceptable types are shown on the following 3 pages

3 Boxes for Bats

BAT ACCESS PANEL 1FE

This maintenance-free access panel can be installed in the outer skin of most cavity wall constructions due to its slim 80mm depth. The open rear also allows access into the building cavity so that bats can continue to use an existing roost space.

Size: 300x300x80mm

Weight: 7.8kg



BAT TUBE 1FR

The Bat Tube 1FR requires no maintenance or cleaning, the sloping entrance area allows droppings to simply fall out of the chamber. The 1FR mimics the cavities that species such as the pipistrelles favour and the wooden back panel helps maintain the optimum climatic conditions and also provides surface on which the bats can cling. The depth of this box (125mm) makes it ideal for use in 9" solid walls or where the outer skin of a property is of stone. The box can also be recessed into the wall and rendered over, just leaving the access section clear.

Size: 470x200x125mm

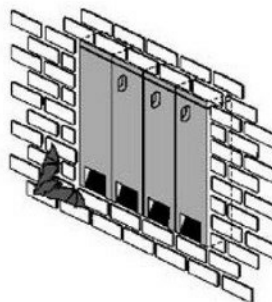
Weight: 9.5kg

BAT TUBE 2FR

This is a slightly updated version of the 1FR and several can be installed next to each other to create a larger roost. The tubes include an internal panel to increase the roost space and also an optional passage at the rear allowing access into existing cavities.

Size: 470x200x125mm

Weight: 9.5kg



BAT BRICK TYPE 27

The Type 27 Bat Brick is designed to be built into the structure of buildings and includes a removable front panel for monitoring purposes. An internal roughened wood panel increases the available roost space.

Size: 265x180x240

Weight: 9.5kg

BAT ROOST 1FQ

This is the latest in bat boxes. Designed to fit to the outside of buildings, the shape and design of the box make it equally attractive as a roost or nursery.

Size: 600x350x90mm

Weight: 15kgs



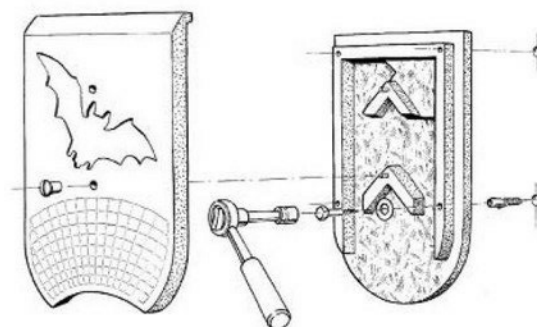
WINTER BAT ROOST 1WQ

Based on the successful 1FQ, this box has better insulation properties for use as a winter roost by bats

Size: 580x380x115

Weight: 21kg

Both of the above boxes are easily fixed to the outside of a building with two screws and a galvanised bracket as shown below.



BIRD BOXES

One unit per dwelling is to be provided for small birds.

It is to be constructed as described in the accompanying text.

On this development it will be positioned below the eaves on the eastern aspects of the building

SMALL BIRD NEST BOX

SMALL OPEN FRONTED NEST BOX

A variety of species may be attracted to an open-fronted nest box placed in a garden, the commonest of which will be *Robin* and *Wren*, although it could also be used by *Pied Wagtail*, *Spotted Flycatcher* and *Black Redstart*.

The size and construction is similar to that for a small-hole nest box, except that the front will be a piece of wood 3.5 x 6 inches.

This box too can be made from one 48 inch plank of timber, 6 inches wide, 0.75 inch thick. It is not

SMALL HOLE NESTING BIRD BOX

Many garden and woodland birds nest in holes and may be attracted to a nestbox.

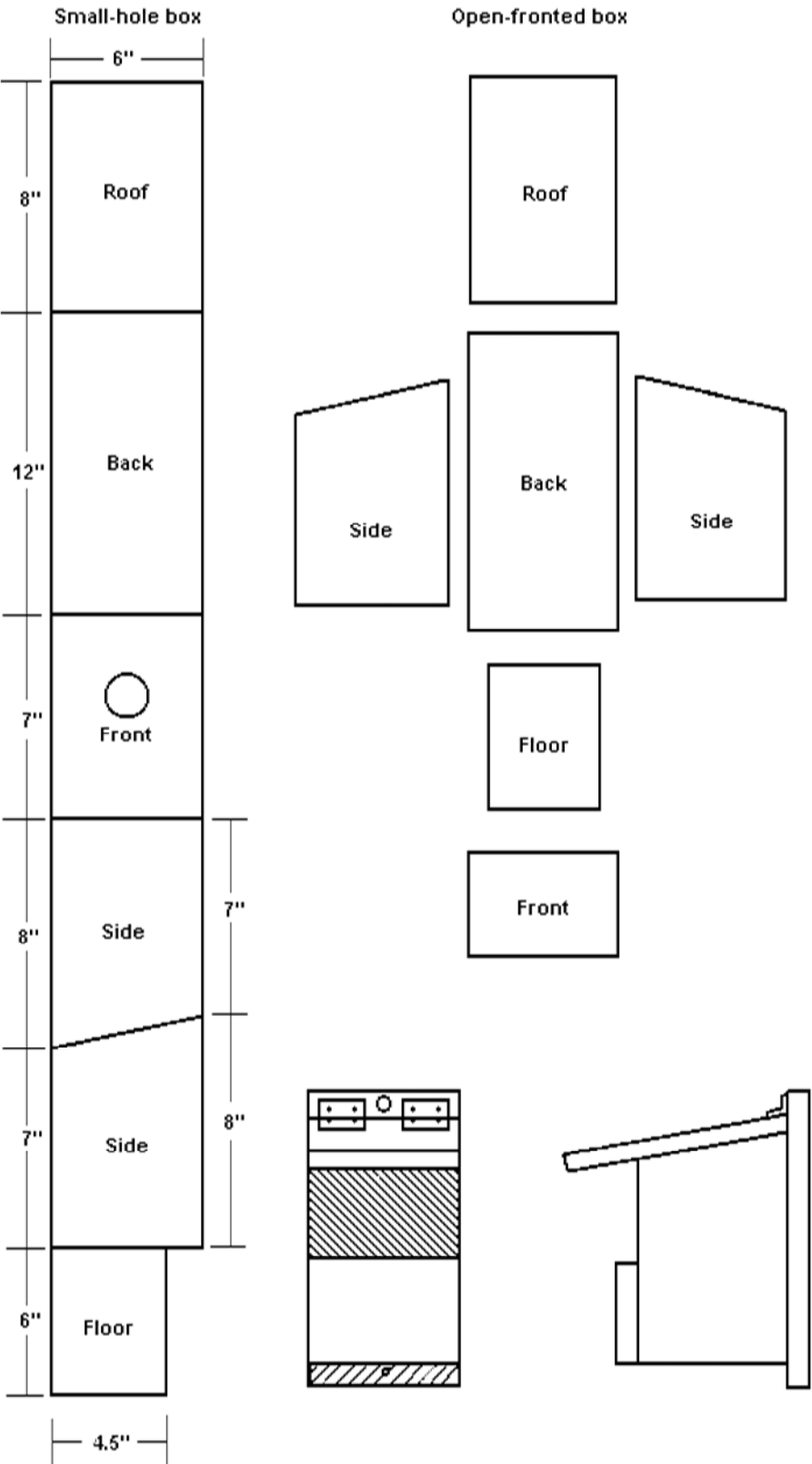
The particular species attracted will depend on its local distribution and population, and on the size of hole provided in the nest box. An entrance hole of 28 millimetres in diameter will admit *Blue Tit*, *Great Tit*, *Coal Tit*, *Tree Sparrow* and *Pied Flycatcher*; whereas a slightly larger hole of 32 millimetres in diameter will also attract *House Sparrow*, *Nuthatch*, and *Lesser Spotted Woodpecker*. The following design is for a basic small-hole nestbox.

The roof should be hinged, for ease of cleaning out, either by a non-ferrous hinge and screws or by a rubber strip.

The dimensions are only an approximate guide and are by no means critical; but if they are followed, this box can be made from one 48 inch piece of timber, 6 inches wide, and 0.75 inch thick.

The box may be screwed or nailed together, and small drainage holes should be drilled in the floor





USEFUL INFORMATION

People often ask the question: "Do nest boxes in gardens really serve any useful purpose other than giving pleasure to us humans?" The answer to that question is definitely yes! Gardens are a most important habitat. The total area of all gardens in Britain exceeds that of all nature reserves, and as modern lifestyles destroy trees, hedges and old buildings, natural nesting sites are in decline.

So nest boxes placed in gardens can make a real difference to the success or failure of a breeding species in a given area, especially when accompanied by the regular supply of suitable food and water.

DESIGN

There is no standard, accurate design for a nest box. Birds do not insist on their nest sites being Mathematically precise! What they do require is a nest site which is secure and weatherproof, and as safe as possible from predators.

Different bird species favour different types and locations of nesting sites, and so boxes must be constructed accordingly to meet these different needs. Two basic designs however will accommodate most common garden birds; either a partly open-fronted box, or a box with a circular hole at the front (of varying diameter for different species).

Dimensions need not be precise; make the box to suit the materials available rather than buying materials to match any given dimensions.

MATERIALS

Undoubtedly wood is the best material to use; new or old wood, rough or planed, softwood or hard wood - it is really not important.

Use what is readily available.

A thickness of about 0.75 inches IS IDEAL. Manufactured board (plywood and chipboard) are not suitable for outdoor use (except for resin-bonded marine quality ply, which can be expensive), although they are perfectly acceptable for a nest box placed under cover, for example a Barn Owl box placed in an old building.

After construction, the outside only of the box should be treated with a water-based wood preservative product such as 'Cuprinol' or 'Sadolin', etc., (NOT creosote) to prolong its life and help repel water. If using planed timber, clear polyurethane may be used instead. All boxes should be treated annually in this way and allowed to dry thoroughly before being erected. A piece of roofing felt fixed to the roof will also prolong the life of the box and render it more waterproof.

SITING OF NEST BOXES

For nest boxes with open fronts and small entrance holes:

- **HEIGHT**

Whether fixed to a tree or a wall, the height above ground is not critical to most species of bird, so long as the box is clear of inquisitive humans and prowling cats.

- **ASPECT**

If there is no natural shelter, it is best to mount a box facing somewhere between south-east and north, to avoid strong direct sunlight and the heaviest rain. The box should be tilted slightly forwards so that the roof may deflect the rain from the entrance.

- **PREDATORS**

It may be possible to deter predators by fixing the nest box in a thorny bush or by placing chicken-wire around the entrance, but always ensure a direct flight-path to the entrance. If squirrels or woodpeckers are a serious threat, fix a metal plate around the entrance, so that it can not be enlarged.

- **FIXING**

Some authorities recommend nails to attach the box directly to a tree trunk or branch; others prefer the use of rope or wire right around the box and trunk (remembering to protect the trunk from wire cutting in by the use of a piece of rubber or the like). Both methods are satisfactory, but obviously annual maintenance is easier if the box is wired and can thus be taken down easily for cleaning.

- **NUMBER**

The number of nest boxes which can be placed in a garden depends on the species you wish to attract. Many species are fiercely territorial, such as Blue Tits, and will not tolerate another pair close by. About 2 to 3 pairs per acre is the normal density for Blue Tits. Other species such as Tree Sparrow, which are colonial nesters, will happily nest side by side.

Do not place any nest box close to a bird-table or feeding area, as the regular comings and goings of many other birds are likely to prevent breeding in the box.

- **ANNUAL CLEANING OF NEST BOXES**

After the end of each breeding season, all nest boxes should be taken down and the old nesting materials removed, and the box should be scalded with boiling water to kill any parasites. Do not use insecticides or flea-powders - boiling water is adequate. Annual cleaning is best carried out in October or November. Under the terms of the "Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981", if unhatched eggs are found in the box, they can only legally be removed from October to January inclusive, and they must be destroyed! It is illegal to keep them.

- **WINTER**

Leave the bird box up in winter as it will be useful as a roosting site for birds in bad weather.