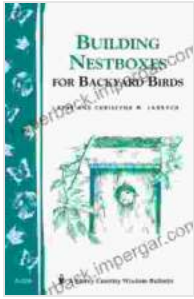# Building Nest Boxes for Backyard Birds: A Complete Guide

Building Nest Boxes for Backyard Birds: Storey's Country Wisdom Bulletin A-206 (Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin) by René Laubach

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Nest boxes are a great way to attract birds to your backyard and provide them with a safe place to raise their young. They can also be a fun and rewarding project for bird lovers of all ages.

This guide will provide you with all the information you need to build nest boxes for backyard birds, including:

- The different types of nest boxes

- The best materials to use

- Step-by-step instructions for building a nest box

- Tips for attracting birds to your nest boxes

The Different Types of Nest Boxes

There are many different types of nest boxes, each designed for a specific type of bird. The most common types of nest boxes include:

- **Bluebird boxes**: These boxes are designed for bluebirds, which are small, cavity-nesting birds. Bluebird boxes are typically made of wood and have a hole that is 1.5 inches in diameter.

- **Chickadee boxes**: These boxes are designed for chickadees, which are small, acrobatic birds. Chickadee boxes are typically made of wood or plastic and have a hole that is 1.25 inches in diameter.

- **House sparrow boxes**: These boxes are designed for house sparrows, which are common birds that are found in many parts of the world. House sparrow boxes are typically made of wood or plastic and have a hole that is 1.5 inches in diameter.

- **Robin boxes**: These boxes are designed for robins, which are large, migratory birds. Robin boxes are typically made of wood and have a hole that is 2 inches in diameter.

The Best Materials to Use

The best materials to use for building nest boxes are wood or plastic. Wood is a natural material that is durable and insulating, and it is also easy to work with. Plastic is a lightweight and weather-resistant material, and it is also easy to clean.

If you are using wood, be sure to choose a type of wood that is rot-resistant, such as cedar or redwood. You should also avoid using treated lumber, as the chemicals in the treatment can be harmful to birds.

If you are using plastic, be sure to choose a type of plastic that is UV-resistant, such as polycarbonate or ABS. UV rays can damage plastic over time, making it brittle and less durable.

Step-by-Step Instructions for Building a Nest Box

To build a nest box, you will need the following materials:

- 1 piece of wood or plastic, 12 inches wide by 18 inches long

- 1 piece of wood or plastic, 6 inches wide by 18 inches long

- 1 piece of wood or plastic, 6 inches wide by 12 inches long

- 1 piece of wood or plastic, 4 inches wide by 12 inches long

- 1 piece of wood or plastic, 4 inches wide by 6 inches long

- 1 hole saw, 1.5 inches in diameter

- 1 drill

- 1 screwdriver

- 1 hammer

- 1 box of nails or screws

To build the nest box, follow these steps:

1. Cut the 12-inch by 18-inch piece of wood or plastic into two pieces, each 6 inches wide by 18 inches long.

2. Cut the 6-inch by 18-inch piece of wood or plastic into two pieces, each 6 inches wide by 9 inches long.

3. Cut the 6-inch by 12-inch piece of wood or plastic into two pieces, each 6 inches wide by 6 inches long.

4. Cut the 4-inch by 12-inch piece of wood or plastic into two pieces, each 4 inches wide by 6 inches long.

5. Cut the 4-inch by 6-inch piece of wood or plastic into two pieces, each 4 inches wide by 3 inches long.

6. Drill a hole in the center of one of the 6-inch by 9-inch pieces of wood or plastic, using the hole saw.

7. Assemble the nest box by attaching the 6-inch by 9-inch pieces of wood or plastic to the 12-inch by 6-inch pieces of wood or plastic, using nails or screws.

8. Attach the 6-inch by 6-inch pieces of wood or plastic to the bottom of the nest box, using nails or screws.

9. Attach the 4-inch by 6-inch pieces of wood or plastic to the front and back of the nest box, using nails or screws.

10. Attach the 4-inch by 3-inch pieces of wood or plastic to the inside of the nest box, at the bottom, using nails or screws.

Tips for Attracting Birds to Your Nest Boxes

Once you have built your nest boxes, you can attract birds to them by following these tips:

- **Place the nest boxes in a safe location.** The nest boxes should be placed in a sheltered location that is protected from the wind and rain. They should also be placed at a height of 5 to 10 feet off the ground.

- **Clean the nest boxes regularly.** Nest boxes should be cleaned once a year, in the fall after the nesting season is over. To clean the nest boxes, remove the old nesting material and wash the boxes with a mild soap and water solution.

- **Provide food and water for the birds.** Birds are more likely to nest in areas where they can find food and water. You can provide food for the

birds by placing a bird feeder in your backyard. You can also provide water for the birds by placing a birdbath in your backyard.

Building nest boxes for backyard birds is a fun and rewarding project that can provide you with years of enjoyment. By following the tips in this guide, you can build nest boxes that will attract birds to your backyard and provide them with a safe place to raise their young.
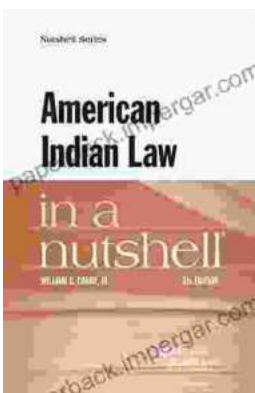
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