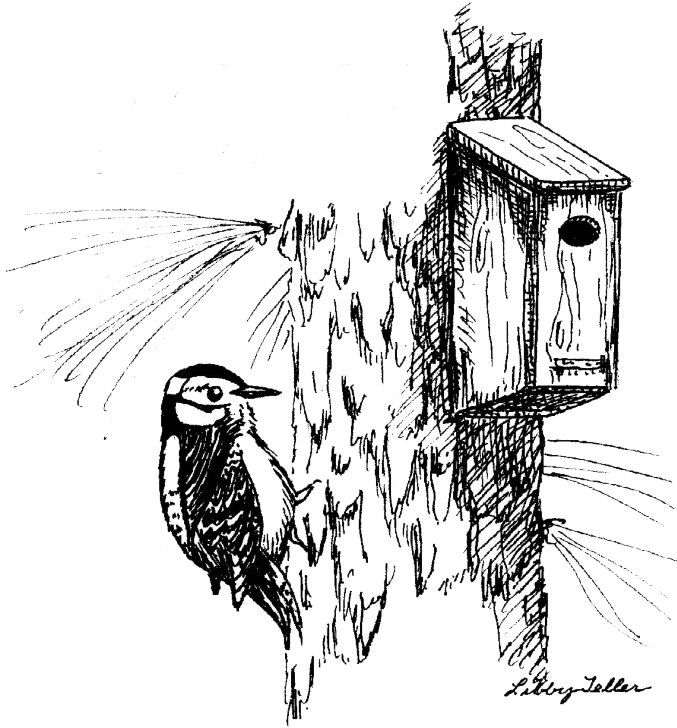


DOWNY WOODPECKER HOUSE



Woodpeckers do not bring in nesting material, since they generally excavate holes in rotten wood, where the soft wood makes good, natural nesting material. Placing 1" to 2" of wood chips in the nest box may help to attract them. Some experts suggest filling the whole nest box with wood chips for the woodpeckers to excavate. Fresh wood chips should be provided for each nesting season.

Woodpeckers are also known to use nest boxes for winter roosting boxes in colder weather even if they do not nest in them. Therefore, it is good to put up a nesting box for them even in the winter months.

One of the best things you can do for woodpeckers is to avoid cutting down dead trees or dead branches whenever possible, as dead trees provide woodpeckers with insects and nesting places. Woodpeckers do not excavate live wood and all other cavity nesting birds depend on woodpeckers to make nesting cavities for them, using these after the woodpeckers have moved on to a new site.

MOUNTING YOUR WOODPECKER HOUSE

1. On the back of the house is a metal hanger at the top and a pre-drilled hole at the bottom. Put a nail or screw into the side of a tree or post, leaving the head sticking out about 1/4". Place the metal hanger over the nail or screw.
2. Put another nail or screw through the pre-drilled hole at the bottom of the rear panel and into the tree or post in order to fasten the house securely.
3. This woodpecker house should be placed between 6' and 20' from the ground, preferably in the woods or at the edge of woods. In an area where starlings are abundant, you may want to set up several nest boxes, so the starlings can have their own and leave the woodpeckers alone.
4. Should you wish to paint or stain, it is critical to only use water-based stain or paint. Oil-based paints and stains are toxic to birds. It is also important to stay away from dark colors that may cause the nest box to become too hot for nestlings. A light, seasonal, external coating of boiled linseed oil is a highly effective non-toxic preservative.



HANDCRAFTED IN MISSOURI 

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