

NUTHATCH HOUSE



Nuthatches are a species of short-tailed birds known for their acrobatics. These cavity-nesting birds are known to use nest boxes, and their name comes from their habit of pushing a nut into a crevice in the bark of a tree and then pounding on it, appearing to make an attempt at “hatching” it.

Nuthatches are frequently found in pairs and flock with chickadees and other birds in the winter, feeding on insects gleaned from the bark of tree trunks and deciduous tree nuts. These birds also favor acorns and beechnuts, as well as pine seeds, grain waste, and berries. Nuthatches store food underneath tree bark in the fall; at feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds, suet, peanut butter, nutmeats, cracked corn, and millet.

Do not open the nest box while it is occupied or the nest may fall out, as nuthatches are typically messy nest builders. They may breed from late April to early May, and nestlings usually leave the nest after approximately fifteen to twenty days.

The white-breasted nuthatch is the most likely species to utilize a nest box. For best results, this nest box should be mounted roughly 15' from the ground in a wooded area with a mixture of trees and open space. Nuthatches may use the nest box all winter as they need night roosts during times of cold weather.

Birds prefer an inconspicuous nest box. The most important thing you can do to preserve the long life of this nest box is to clean it out after each nesting cycle. The side panel tilts out from the bottom for easy cleaning after the young have left the nest. A latch at the bottom secures the panel in place.

MOUNTING YOUR NUTHATCH HOUSE

1. Mount your house 5' to 10' above the ground on a tree or post. The back of the house has 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, with the head sticking out about 1/4". Place the metal hanger over the nail or screw. 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.
2. Your nest box is made from sustainably-grown, eastern white pine, which provides excellent insulation from both heat and cold. Most young birds that die in the nest do so because of inadequate insulation from excessive heat. This item's lumber is custom-milled with a "rougner head" finish, which allows fledglings a foothold when they are ready to exit the nest.
3. Your nest box has not been painted or stained. Over time, the outside will darken, turn gray, and eventually blend in with their environment.
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.



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