

Sussex Wildlife Trust WG7

Gardening for Wildlife

Factsheet

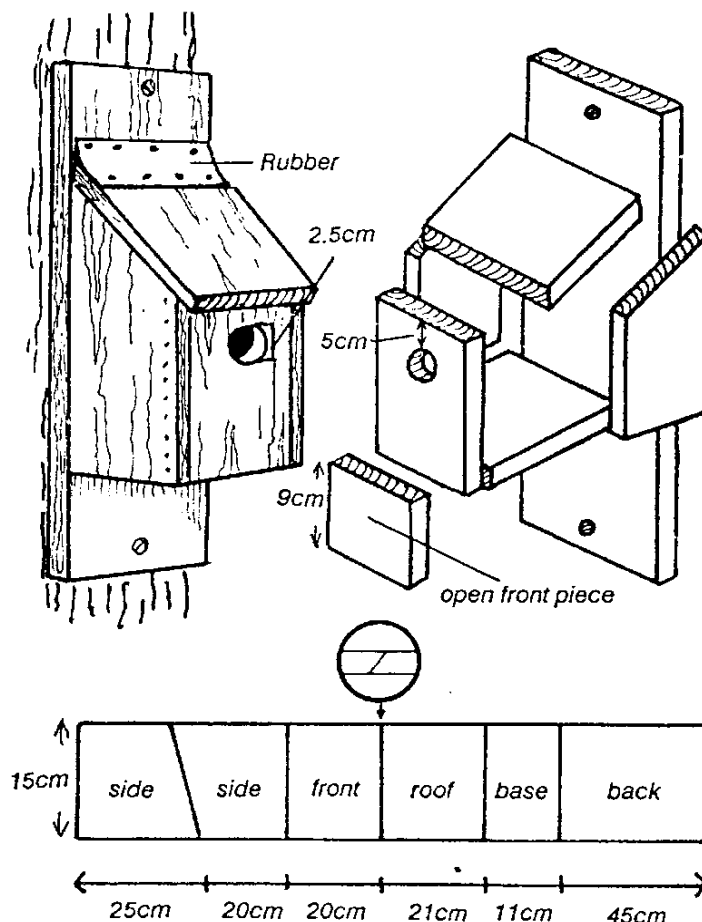


This is an introduction to providing suitable nesting and roosting places for birds in your garden. If you would like more detailed information, please contact the Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Bird boxes

There are a great variety of nest boxes, which are suitable for different species of birds. These two designs will be used by many of our common garden birds.

Box one is a simple closed box to attract tits, sparrows and nuthatches.



Hole size

The diameter of the hole will depend on which species you want to attract.

27mm – Blue, coal and marsh tits

28mm – Tree sparrow

29mm – House sparrow

30mm – Great tits

32mm – Nuthatch, pied flycatcher, redstart

Bird Boxes

WildCall

01273 494777

The Sussex Wildlife Trust manages 36 nature reserves and uses its knowledge and skills to help the people of Sussex enjoy, understand and care for wildlife and the places where it lives.

The Sussex Wildlife Trust is one of 47 trusts working to protect wildlife in town and country throughout the whole UK.

For more information on the work of the Sussex Wildlife Trust and how to become a member please contact:

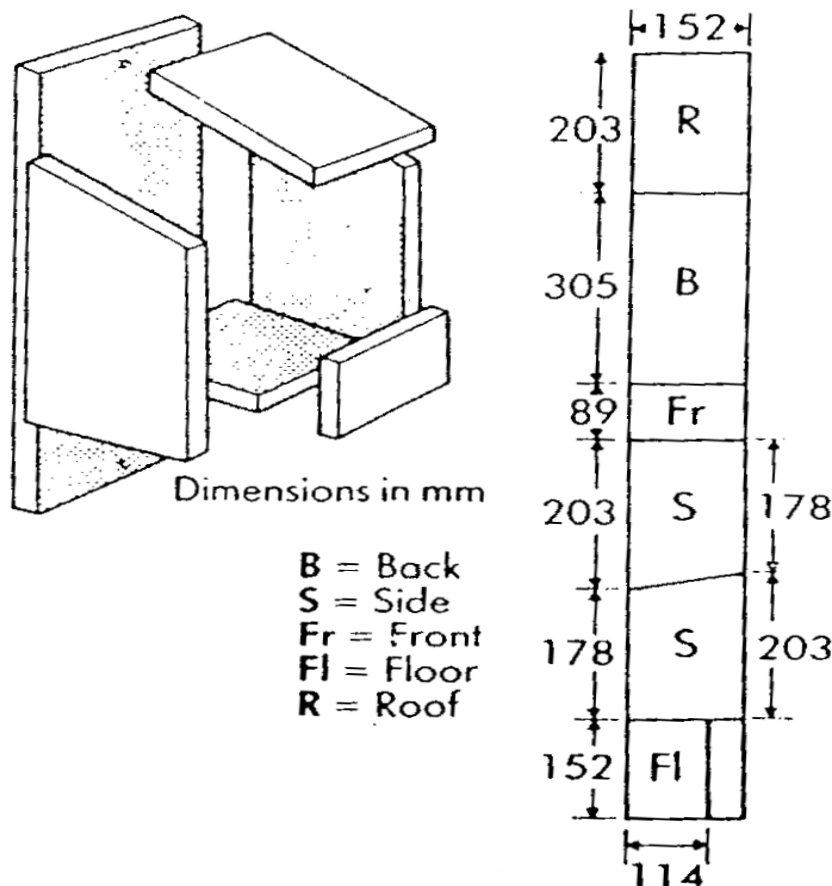
Sussex Wildlife Trust
Woods Mill,
Henfield
West Sussex,
BN5 9SD

01273 492630

www.sussexwt.org.uk

Registered charity
 No 207005

Box two is similar to box one but the upper front is removed to create an open fronted box. This box will attract robins, pied wagtails and wrens. Spotted flycatchers will prefer a shallower, open fronted box.



Where to put the box

The box should be placed at least two metres off the ground and away from overhanging branches to stop cats finding the nest. Avoid placing the box so that it faces strong sun or is exposed to wet south-westerly winds. A sheltered position facing north-east or south-east is best.

It is best to angle the box forward slightly, kept away from the wall or tree by a strip of wood. Boxes can be hung from wires to discourage predators, but you must use four wires to ensure that the box will not spin.

You should not encourage birds such as tits unless there are plenty of trees and shrubs nearby. Without these to supply insects the young will starve.

Try not to disturb the nestbox. You will see much more if you watch quietly.

Cleaning the box out

Clean out the box out each autumn to prevent a build up of parasites. It is important to leave it for a few weeks until the young have fledged as they may roost in the box for a while after they have left the nest.

Make sure to where gloves when removing old nesting material.

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