

# Portland Audubon

## Bird Nest Box Information

As wildlife habitat dwindles in urban areas and elsewhere it becomes harder for birds that depend on woodpecker-drilled nest cavities to find natural nesting sites. Although they are no substitute for retaining large expanses of native habitat, artificial nest boxes can provide birds with alternatives. Since nest boxes are meant to replace natural cavities, they work best when made of natural wood and without any adornments, including perches, which would allow easy access to predators. A table of dimensions for birds common in the Pacific Northwest can be found below.

### Nest Box Dimensions

<i>Species</i>	<i>Floor of Cavity</i>	<i>Depth of Cavity</i>	<i>Entrance above Floor</i>	<i>Size of Entrance</i>	<i>Height above Ground</i>
<b>Birds of Prey</b>					
American Kestrel	8" x 8"	15" - 18"	12" - 18"	4"	10' - 30'
Common Barn Owl	10" x 18"	20" - 24"	4"	5"	12' - 18'
Western Screech Owl	8" x 8"	15" - 18"	12" - 14"	3"	10' - 30'
<b>Bluebirds</b>					
Western	5" x 5"	8"	6"	1 1/2"	5' - 10'
<b>Chickadees</b>					
Black-capped	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	8' - 10'
Chestnut-backed	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 7"	1 1/4" - 1 1/2"	8' - 10'
<b>Ducks</b>					
Wood Duck	8" x 10"	24"	16"	4"	15'
<b>Nuthatches</b>					
Red-breasted	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	12' - 20'
<b>Swallows</b>					
Tree	5" x 5"	6"	1" - 5"	1 1/2"	10' - 15'
Violet-green	6" x 10"	6"	4"	2 1/4" w x 7/8" h	10' - 15'
<b>Woodpeckers</b>					
Downy	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1 1/4"	6' - 20'
Northern Flicker	7" x 7"	16" - 18"	14" - 16"	2 1/2"	6' - 10'
<b>Wrens</b>					
Bewick's	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1" - 6"	1 1/4" - 1 1/2"	6' - 10'
House	4" x 4"	6" - 8"	1" - 6"	1" - 1 1/2"	6' - 10'

**Habitats:** Like all wildlife, different birds thrive in different habitats. The table below indicates what birds can be found in various habitats.

<i>Suburban &amp; Urban</i>	<i>Coniferous Wooded Areas</i>	<i>Mixed Wooded Areas</i>	<i>Open Fields &amp; Farmlands</i>	<i>Wetlands, Ponds &amp; Streams</i>
Kestrel	Chestnut-backed Chickadee	American Kestrel	Kestrel	Wood Duck
Screech Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Western Screech Owl	Barn Owl	Tree Swallow
Black-capped Chickadee	Downy Woodpecker	Black-capped Chickadee	Bluebird	
Violet-green Swallow		Red-breasted Nuthatch	Flicker	
Downy Woodpecker		Tree Swallow	House Wren	
Flicker		Downy Woodpecker		
Bewick's Wren		Flicker		
		Bewick's Wren		
		House Wren		