

# Nest Box Instructions

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## *Habitat*

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Marshes, swamps, lakes, ponds, and stream with overhanging woody cover are attractive to breeding wood ducks. More food means more ducks, and food resources are usually higher in marches than in swamps; in placid waters than in swift or turbulent ones. In wooded areas, wood ducks will nest up to a mile from water. For best results place nest box within a quarter-mile of water.

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## *Height*

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Nail the houses to trees 10 to 25 feet above ground. When using 1 inch pipe, mount houses a minimum of 3 feet above water surface. Pipe mounted houses are successful over land devoid of trees and heavy cover. Mount houses a minimum of 5 feet from the ground.

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## *Spacing*

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In woods, place houses 20 to 50 yards apart depending on tree density (farther apart in open woods). In open areas, such as water, 75 to 100 yards is recommended.

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## *Nest Material*

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Place 3 to 4 inches of sawdust, chips or wood shavings in the nest bowl. Change the nest material and check box for damage annually.

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## *Nesting Season*

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Place house prior to nesting season. In Deep South, wood ducks nest in early February. At latitude of Kentucky: Mid-February. At Latitude of Central Illinois: Early-April. At Latitude of Central Minnesota: Mid-April.

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## *Predators*

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The nest box is constructed to minimize raccoon, squirrel, and snake predation. In latitudes south of the Ohio River, small coons and large rat snakes can gain entrance. For houses on pipes, use an inverted, circular cone of sheet metal, 24 inches in diameter, snugly fitted to the pipe. Apply grease to the pipe alone or in conjunction with the inverted cone to deter climbers.