



# Wild Bird Center Bird's Picket Nest Box

The following instructions are for a simple nesting box to accommodate birds that use either a chickadee or bluebird sized box. The lumber for this box is one "6 inch wide" dog-eared cedar fence picket which is relatively inexpensive. The entrance hole size will determine whether you are making a chickadee or a bluebird sized box.

1. Identify all the nest box pieces. Make sure the sides are of equal width and the front and back are of equal width. If there is a significant difference in either set, use a plane or belt sander to make them equal in width (and square).
2. Make marks on the edges of the back 2" from the top. Attach the sides to the edges of the back on each side flush with the back and your mark. Use two nails/screws per side.
3. Attach the top flush with the sides using two nails/screws per side and one through the back. Note the "dog ears" face forward.
4. Make sure that the depth of the bottom plus the front will be flush with the front edges of the sides. Make any necessary changes to the bottom using a plane or belt sander so that the front and sides are flush. Attach the bottom to the sides using one nail/screw per side and one through the back.
5. Make a small mark 2" down from the top on the front edge of each side. Use a 1/2" spacer to gap the front under the roof and attach the front to the sides with one nail/screw per side using the mark you made to guide where they should be attached. This will allow the front to "hinge" on these points for easy cleaning. Finish attaching the front by driving a screw through the front and into the bottom. Note the front will extend below the bottom, again for easy cleaning.
6. Drill 1/2" vent holes in the sides centered 1" from the top and 1" from the back. Drill 4 drain holes in the bottom using a 1/4" bit. Place the drain holes towards the corners and avoid the nails/screws used to attach the bottom.
7. Choose an entrance hole size. 1 1/8" holes are used for chickadee sized boxes. This size would also accommodate house wrens. Bluebird sized boxes have 1 1/2" holes and can also be used by many other birds, including house sparrows, wrens, swallows, nuthatches, and downy woodpeckers. Drill the hole centered 1 1/2" down from the top of the front.

[www.wildbird.com/bld](http://www.wildbird.com/bld)

Designed by Stephen Frye, Owner of the Wild Bird Center in Boulder, CO.

**Wild Bird Center** - On 28th south of Canyon - 1641 28th St, Boulder, CO 80301  
303-442-1322

*"Your backyard birding Specialists"*

