### Nest Box

Build a Duck

#### Predator Guards

A predator guard can help to improve the chance of a successful hatch by preventing egg-eating predators from entering your nest box. A predator guard will help to improve the chance of a successful hatch by preventing egg-eating predators from entering your nest box. This is the most effective predator deterrent. Cut a 36" diameter circle of sheet metal. Cut an appropriately-sized hole in the middle to accommodate the contrast in color caused by the entry of predator guards. Plastic pipe provides a good reason to keep your boxes in top condition. You never know when somebody might be popping in!

- **Steel Sheet Sandwich**
  - Drill two holes, 3/4" apart (see diagram)
  - Along one 36" side, make a 1" fold towards the inside centre
  - Fold the sheet in half along the 49" length, creating a front and a back, each 24" wide
  - Fold 36" x 49" sheet of 28-gauge steel and rivet together.
  - Remove an 8" slice from the circle, join the edges to form the cone, 36" x 49" x 8"

- **Galvanized Sheet Metal Cone**
  - Cut a 36" diameter circle of sheet metal. Cut an appropriately-sized hole in the middle to accommodate the contrast in color caused by the entry of predator guards. Plastic pipe provides a good reason to keep your boxes in top condition. You never know when somebody might be popping in!

- **Cone Guard**
  - Photo of sheet metal guard. A conical metal predator guard.

### Predators

#### Cat and Dog

- Cats are the most common predators of duck eggs, often to ensure tree growth hasn't popped the guard off.

#### Raccoons

- Raccoons from entering your nest box.

#### Small rodents

- Small rodents from crawling through, place a crumpled piece of chicken wire between the pole and the guard.

#### Tree Mount

- Tree mount: nail the guard in place—if the tree is alive, check the guard often to ensure tree growth hasn't popped the guard off.

#### Pole Mount

- Pole mount: bolt the guard into place about 2" below the nest box.

#### Nest Box Guides

- Plastic pipe guard
- Plastic pipe guard
- Steel Sheet Sandwich
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- Galvanized Sheet Metal Cone
- Cone Guard

#### Predators to Watch Out for

- A predator guard can help to improve the chance of a successful hatch by preventing egg-eating predators from entering your nest box. A predator guard will help to improve the chance of a successful hatch by preventing egg-eating predators from entering your nest box. This is the most effective predator deterrent. Cut a 36" diameter circle of sheet metal. Cut an appropriately-sized hole in the middle to accommodate the contrast in color caused by the entry of predator guards. Plastic pipe provides a good reason to keep your boxes in top condition. You never know when somebody might be popping in!

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**Tools and Materials Needed**

- Measuring tape
- Pencil
- Jigsaw
- Drill and 1/2" bit
- Handsaw or table saw
- Sandpaper
- Screwdriver
- Wood screws
- Pencil (4 1/2" x 3 1/2" oval)

**Procedure**

1. Measure and cut your wood to produce the material measurements.
2. Attach the back (1) to the side (2) using four screws fastened from the back of the box. See exploded view. Proper entry hole dimensions are critical. The horizontal slots will provide toe-clearance for nesting material.
3. Drill five 1/2" drainage holes into the floor 1 each 1 x 10 x 12' wood.
4. Draw the entry hole on the front (4) using a jig saw. See exploded view. Fasten the hinge and allow the door to open. Pin the door shut with a nail from the front or add a latch.
5. Score the inside face of the front (4) with a straight-edge and cut out the entry hole using a jig saw. See exploded view. Fasten the floor by fastening two screws through the back and two through the side.
6. Attach the front (4) using six screws.
7. Round the top outside edge of the door with sandpaper (5). See exploded view. Fasten the roof (6) using four screws from the front or add a predator guard (see last page). The two screws form the Right Place.
8. Attach the roof (6) using four screws from the front or add a predator guard (see last page). The two screws form the
9. The entrance hole to the box should face the water. You can tip the box forward a little bit to help the ducklings reach the entrance. The entrance hole must be open when you place the box, or close to other nest boxes.
10. Drill two holes in this pole to accommodate a predator guard (see last page). Make sure the poles are fixed solidly in the soil or marsh bottom, to ensure that the nest boxes are stable. Drill two holes in this pole to accommodate a predator guard (see last page). Make sure the poles are fixed solidly in the soil or marsh bottom, to ensure that the nest boxes are stable. Drill two holes in this pole to accommodate a predator guard (see last page). Make sure the poles are fixed solidly in the soil or marsh bottom, to ensure that the nest boxes are stable. Drill two holes in this pole to accommodate a predator guard (see last page). Make sure the poles are fixed solidly in the soil or marsh bottom, to ensure that the nest boxes are stable.