



# THE NESTBOX COMPANY LTD

Nesting boxes thoughtfully designed for their inhabitants!

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## Apex Bird Boxes: Information Sheet

Contrary to popular belief, there is no "best" time to put up bird nest boxes.

Birds will quickly become familiar with boxes erected during the latter part of the year and may well use them for winter roosts especially if they contain a little hay or wood shavings. Boxes erected by February stand the best chance of being used that season, but it is not unusual for tits to take over boxes in April if there is a shortage of natural sites. The important thing is to site the box correctly in a position where the birds will be safe from potential predators.

**SITING.** Nest boxes can be fixed to walls, fences, trees or buildings. If the site is exposed it is advisable to position them so that the opening is not exposed to the sun or the wettest weather, and when fixing, try to position them at an angle so that rain is directed away from the entrance hole. Choose a spot between 10ft and 15ft above ground level where there is easy flight access to the opening, and above all make sure that they cannot be reached by any marauding cats. If you can site them near your boundary you may attract birds from some distance away.

**FIXING.** The Apex Bird Box has a concealed keyhole in the back of the box which is designed to make it easy to put up. Simply choose a nail or screw with a head a little smaller than the round part of this hole, and nail or screw it partly in to the tree or wall etc. Fix the box to this by locating the lower part of the hole onto the nail or screw, and then slide the box down so that it engages fully and is locked in place. The hole is opposite the entrance hole to make it easy to see what you are doing, and tighten the screw if you wish. They probably will not be needed, but there are 2 more fixing holes at the base of the box if you wish to secure the box further. Also, as an alternative, the box can be fitted with cord, webbing or cable. Just loop this into the keyhole and secure inside the box with a small peg or similar. Once tensioned, this will hold the box securely.

**MANAGEMENT.** It is advisable to clean out boxes in October/November. Any fleas or other parasites that have built up should be killed off with boiling water and any unhatched eggs should be removed. Once the box is clean and dry, put the box back up to encourage the birds to use it for a winter roost & reserve it for the next breeding season.

Never open a box when it contains any young or live eggs as the parents may well desert with disastrous results. It is far better to watch the activities from a reasonable distance and to enjoy the pleasure of a successful brood brought off the nest.



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