

FORTY-SPOTTED PARDALOTE NEST BOX

Information Sheet



Photo: Chris Izarovs

Construction

Recommended

Do not

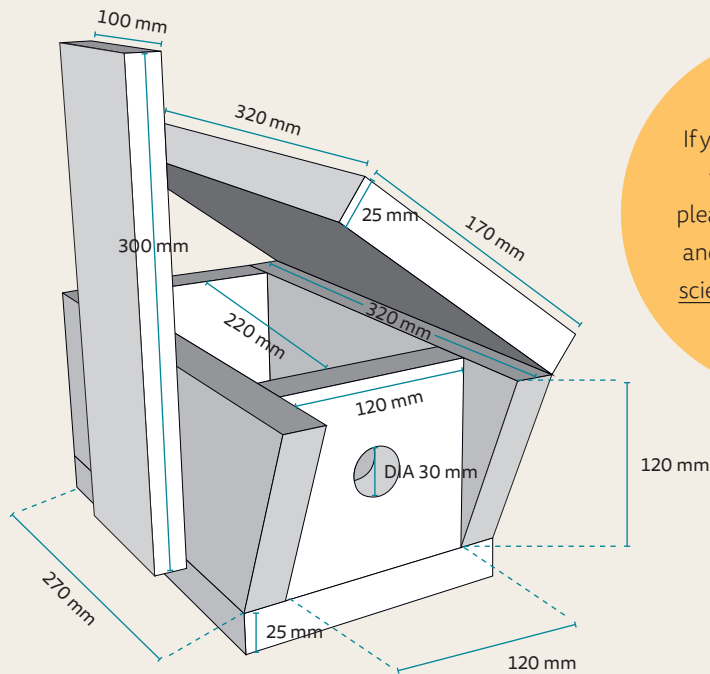
> SHAPE	✓ Horizontal profile, shallow, baffle plate	• Vertical boxes require internal laddering to allow chicks to exit
> WOOD SELECTION	✓ Hardwood (15 mm or > thick), Exterior Ply (e.g., Ausply, 17 mm or > thick). Ausply construction ply is an exterior grade Australian plantation ply made with the same standard of glue as marine. A low VOC glue is used. If the edges are sealed it will last as long.	• Never use treated pine, painted weatherboards, stained timber, MDF, form ply, composite board, particle chip board, plastic, wire mesh, tin or artificial material
> NESTING MATERIAL	✓ Shallow layer of bark chip, leaf litter, rotting wood, from under tree	• Do not put any other material inside for nesting e.g. grasses, straw, mulch, sawdust
> ENTRANCE HOLE	✓ Critically 25 mm – 30 mm max diameter	• Greater than 30mm diameter will allow other species in e.g. sparrows
> ACCESSING ENTRANCE HOLE	✓ Exterior landing point beneath hole, overhanging roof	• Do not use wire mesh or allow larger species to perch in front of hole
> NAILS / HINGES etc	✓ Galvanised or stainless-steel screws and hinges. Galvanised baton screws are best for attaching to trees, deck screws (e.g. 8g 30mm) for construction. Hinge the lid for inspection and cleaning. Ensure lid is securely closed – the hinge is the ‘weakest link’.	• Nails and staples typically create weaker joints and sharp edges. However, a nail gun used in addition to a waterproof low VOC glue can be sufficient. Do not use other materials to substitute for lid hinges i.e. rope or rubber tubing, cable ties etc.
> DRAINAGE HOLES	✓ A drill hole (5mm diameter) in each corner to allow water drainage even if box is tilted.	• Do not weaken the floor and big holes will allow flies/ insects etc to enter.
> OUTSIDE PAINTING	✓ 2 coats of water-based exterior house paint – white / pale colours for cooling.	• Never use solvents or paints inside the box and avoid oils etc as they are quickly absorbed
> TREE PLACEMENT	✓ Sturdy limb of mature white gum or other eucalypt close to white gum, below leaf canopy, out of direct sun, cluster boxes in good areas.	• Better to cluster boxes in suitable trees than scatter widely. Select sturdy limbs or the tree trunk not low or flimsy branches for convenience.
> HOW	✓ As high as possible, extension ladder (with care), arborist or tree climber.	• Do not attempt installation without necessary skills or equipment. Your safety is the priority.
> TREE ATTACHMENT	✓ Habisure zigzag, wire with garden hose, or attachment plate to side of box (see web sites). The plate can be secured with galvanised button screws (x2), not done too tight to allow growth (drive screws through plate and then spin a few times to strip thread in plate, then screw to tree).	• As the tree grow the nails and screws will break. Minimise any damage to the tree.
> MONITORING	✓ Number your box (paint or tag tree), keep data of box activity, share with others.	• Regular checking on box condition is essential as is box maintenance post breeding if required.

Monitoring nest box example

Your Name: Sally Bryant **Property Address:** 123 Pardalote Road, Tinderbox **Contact:** 0411 191111

Box Number: TI 2 **Box Location:** GPS 529328, 5222935 **Date Installed By:** Feb 2021 Edworthy

Date Checked	Used / Not Used	Species Using	Activity Seen	Evidence of breeding	Other Info
2 Sept 2021	Not used	NA	NA	NA	Box in good condition
1 Oct 2021	Used	40 S-P	Going In and out of box	Birds carrying twigs	Lots of pardalote calling
20 Oct 2021	Used	40 S-P	Going In and out of box	Yes, occupying the box	40 spots busy gathering food nearby
22 Oct 2021	Used	Tree Martin	Going In and out of box	Yes, carrying material	Tree Martins using, 40 spots have gone



If you install nest boxes, we'd love to know: please email the number and location of boxes to science@tasland.org.au



Information Sources

Nest box construction and installation nestboxtales.com/nest-box-materials/ by Alice McGlashan
 Bruny Island Environmental Network bien.org.au/projects/40-spotted-pardalote/

