

NEST BOX MAINTENANCE

HOW TO MONITOR

1. Open the box (sometimes a screwdriver or drill is necessary, depending on the design of the nest box).
2. Use the data collection sheet provided to record the contents of the nest box, and take a photo.
3. Remove the nesting materials and dispose of it in a garbage bag, and close the box securely.
4. If necessary, make any necessary repairs to the box, or make note of which need more maintenance.
5. If applicable, refill with 1-2" of wood shavings (waterfowl, chickadee, owl boxes), or fill to top with sawdust (flicker boxes).



WHO LIVES HERE?

Several species of birds may nest in boxes on EALT's lands. These include smaller birds like Tree Swallows, House Wrens, Chickadees, House Sparrows, and Bluebirds, and larger birds like Common Goldeneye, Saw-whet Owls, and others.



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WHY DO WE DO THIS?

- Monitoring nest boxes benefits birds because it alerts EALT of any problems the birds have in using the box – such as with predators and competitors, or if the placement is less than ideal. It also lets us know if any nest boxes require maintenance.
- Bluebirds specifically benefit from monitoring, due to predators and competitive House Sparrows and European Starlings. Mice and wasps can sometimes take over a nest box.
- Cleaning the nest boxes out every year also allows the birds a fresh start. so that they don't have to build on top of previous nests.



Thank you for helping to keep our local bird populations healthy!

WHEN DO WE MAINTAIN BOXES?

Nest boxes should be monitored only during calm, dry weather conditions in early spring, or during the fall. We maintain the boxes during these times because this is when it is no longer breeding season, and because many of migrant birds who use the nest boxes are not around.

