

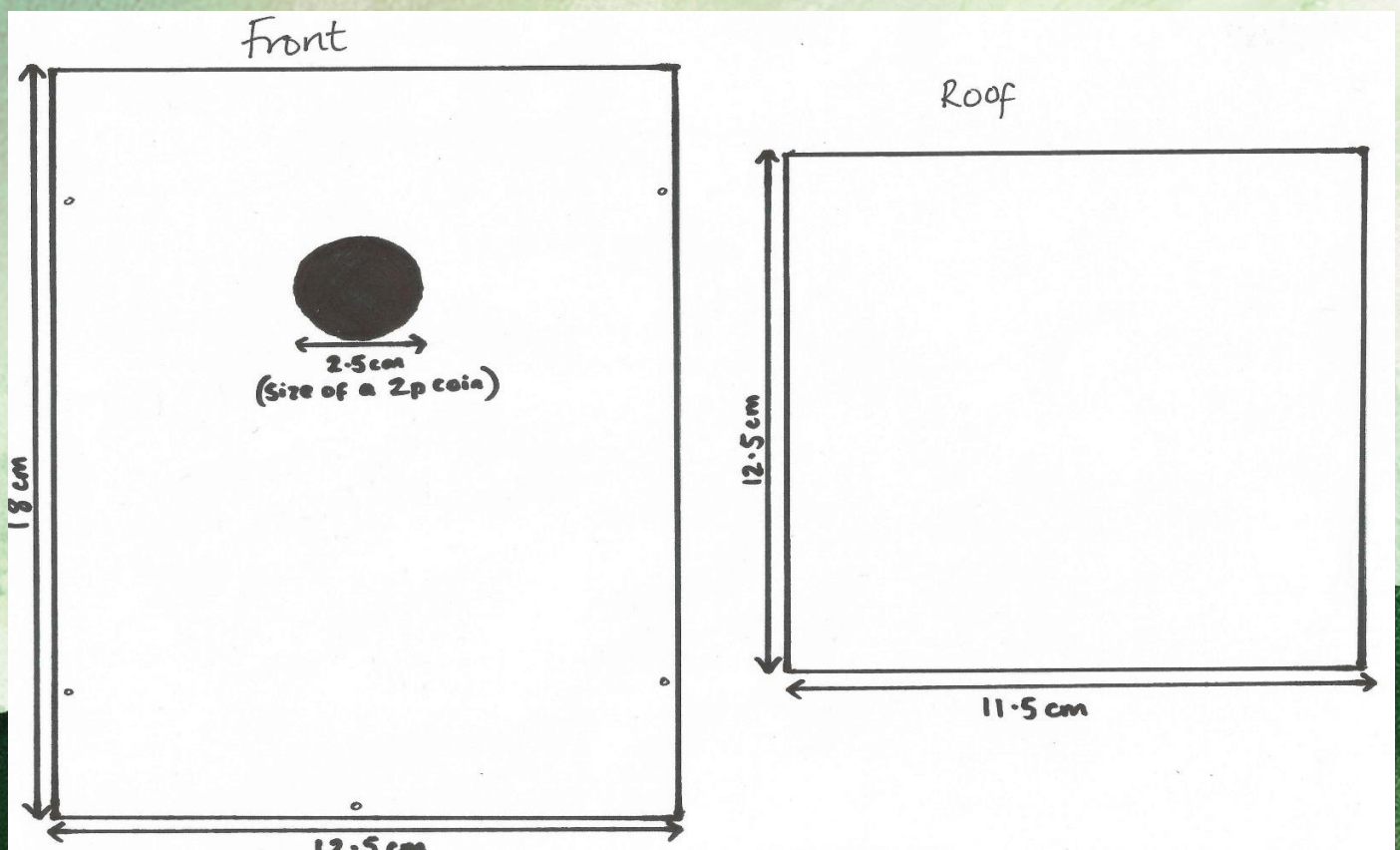
How to make a nest box for birds

You will need...

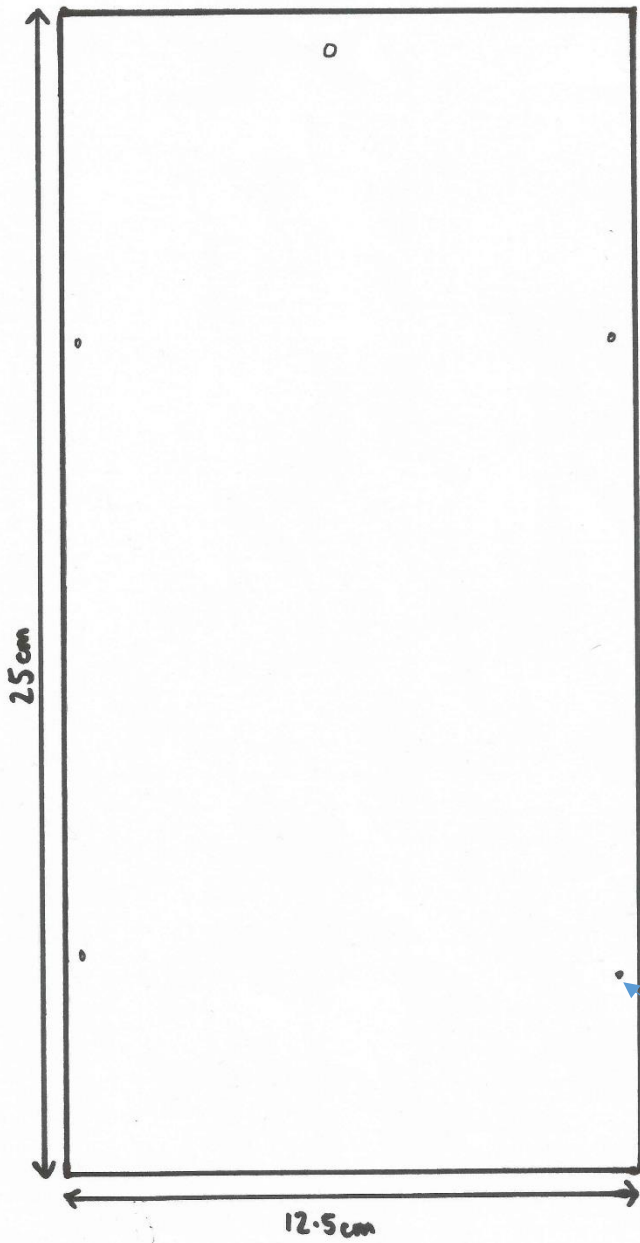
- 12mm Exterior grade plywood (you could try using an old pallet)
- Saw
- Hole saw or spade drill bit (to make entrance hole)
- Thin panel nails and drawing pins
- Hammer
- Rubber strip or hinge for the lid
- Animal safe wood stain/paint
- Paint brush

Remember to get an adult to help you with any steps involving sharp tools and nails!

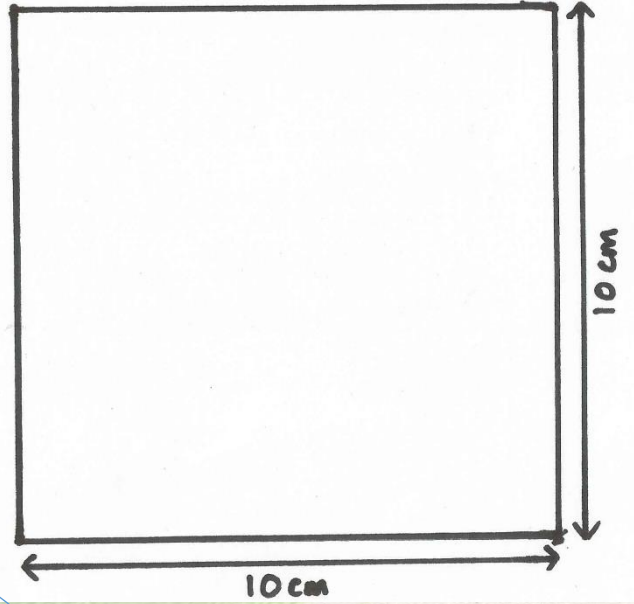
Step 1 Cut your wood into the following sizes...



Back

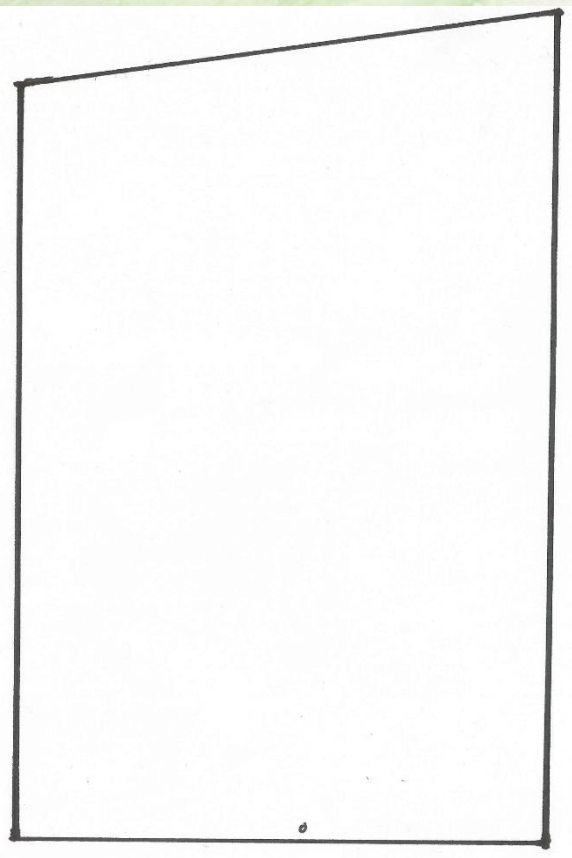
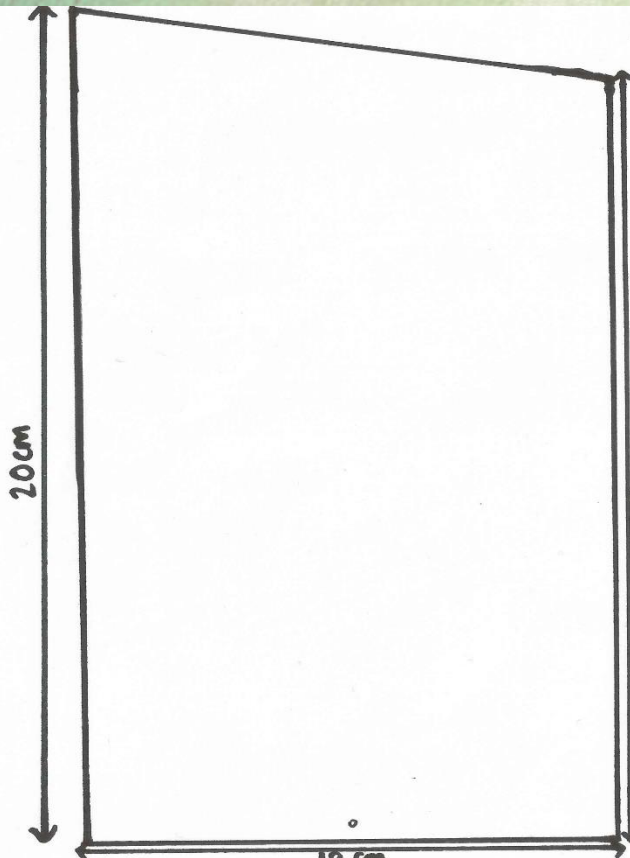


Base



These dots show you where the nails will go. You may find it helpful to drill pilot holes.

Sides



Step 2

Paint each of the parts. You only need to paint the sides that will face outwards and ensure you use an animal safe wood stain or paint. It should state this on the packaging...



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Step 3

Assemble your box by hammering thin panel nails or pins to join each piece. Do not attach the lid yet as you need to put this on a hinge so it can be opened for cleaning and the end of each nesting season...



Step 4

Use drawing pins to attach a thin strip of weatherproof rubber to the lid and back piece so that you can open and close the lid. You could use a hinge instead. Your bird nesting box is now complete...



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Putting up your bird box

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- For new boxes don't put a perch on it as a perch makes it harder for the birds to defend.
- Tilt box forward slightly so rain bounces off.
- Try to position your box in an easterly direction. North facing sites can be very cold. Directly south facing sites can get too warm and west facing sites receive the full force of wet winds.
- The bottom of the entrance hole should be at least 125 mm from the base of the box to prevent young birds falling out.

Cleaning your bird box

- Each autumn remove old nesting material and clean your bird box with hot water to help reduce the risk of infectious diseases. This should be done outside and gloves should be worn.

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