

# fauNature Pardalote Box



## Encouraging wildlife at home!

Thank you for purchasing a fauNature nesting box. It is hoped this “home” will give you many hours of pleasure, as it provides sanctuary for our feathered friends.

The clearing of native trees across Australia has resulted in the loss of millions of natural hollows. The devastation is particularly apparent in urban environments, which account for 85% of the nation’s human population.



## Which birds will use a nesting box?

Over 100 bird species rely on hollows for nesting or shelter throughout the country. These include many parrots, kingfishers, raptors, and ducks as well as other lesser-known species. This nest box has been specifically designed for pardalotes including Striated and the Forty-Spotted. However, many different animals may use the box (e.g. microbats, lizards and insects).

## Siting and installation instructions

You’ve bought this nesting box to enjoy it, so locate the box where you can see it regularly and access it relatively easily.

Pardalote boxes can be mounted in trees, under house eaves or on sheds. A gum tree is ideal; if not, an exotic tree will do, because of the size of the box, even a relatively young tree will suffice. Few birds nest close to the ground - most prefer hollows higher up in a tree. Some species will utilise the box as low as 2m off the ground, however, 4m-6m would be preferable for hollow nesting pardalotes.

The nesting box needs to be protected from the hot north/westerly sun and ideally placed in a relatively shady position. Avoiding the wettest winds either by orientation or installing the box under shelter is also preferable. Thus, the specifics of erecting this nesting box will vary from one location to another.

Hanging a nesting box by wire was historically recommended to prevent damage to the tree. However, the damage done by securing bolts is likely to be minimal; while wire-mounted boxes compromise the tree, if not regularly managed.



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A couple of tek screws (100mm) have been included to enable you to affix the box to a tree or building (smaller screws may be appropriate for the latter). Pre-drill the tree/building and screw in the top tek screw (3/4s of its length), then hang the box through the “keyhole” in the attachment board. Next drill the lower hole, then screw in the second tek screw. Finally, tighten both tek screws, ensuring the box is firmly affixed.

The use of “PV Spacers”, small spacing rings which fit over the tek screw between the tree and the box, is highly recommended. They serve two purposes 1) simplify the installation process on difficult trees; 2) perhaps more importantly allow the tree room to grow while minimising the impact on either the tree or the box. These have been included with your box.

## Potential predators

A range of predators may take advantage of eggs or fledglings present in nests (e.g. cats, foxes or exotic rodents). “Tree collars” are guards which can be placed around the trunk of a tree to prevent these predators from gaining access to the box. While guards are not essential, such devices may be particularly useful in reducing the impact of the threats identified above.

## Keeping the nesting box clean

Putting up the nesting box is just the first step, for its continued success maintenance is crucial. The box (assembled) has already been treated. However, to extend its useful life we would recommend re-treatment/coating the exterior of the box with oil or paint. If oil is used (e.g. environmentally friendly Lanotec timber seal) it is recommended to retreat the box every 1-2 years, or exterior grade acrylic paint is likely to last the life of the box, with a few minor touch-ups. The PV Spacers will need to be replaced every 12-24 months.

Pest species are unlikely to utilise a box of this size.

## Enjoy your new neighbours

Some nesting boxes are occupied quickly, others may take a little longer. Often you will attract the species you are targeting, though not always. Either way, we hope you enjoy providing for your wild neighbours.



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