Making a Nestbox

BirdLife MALTA

Making the box

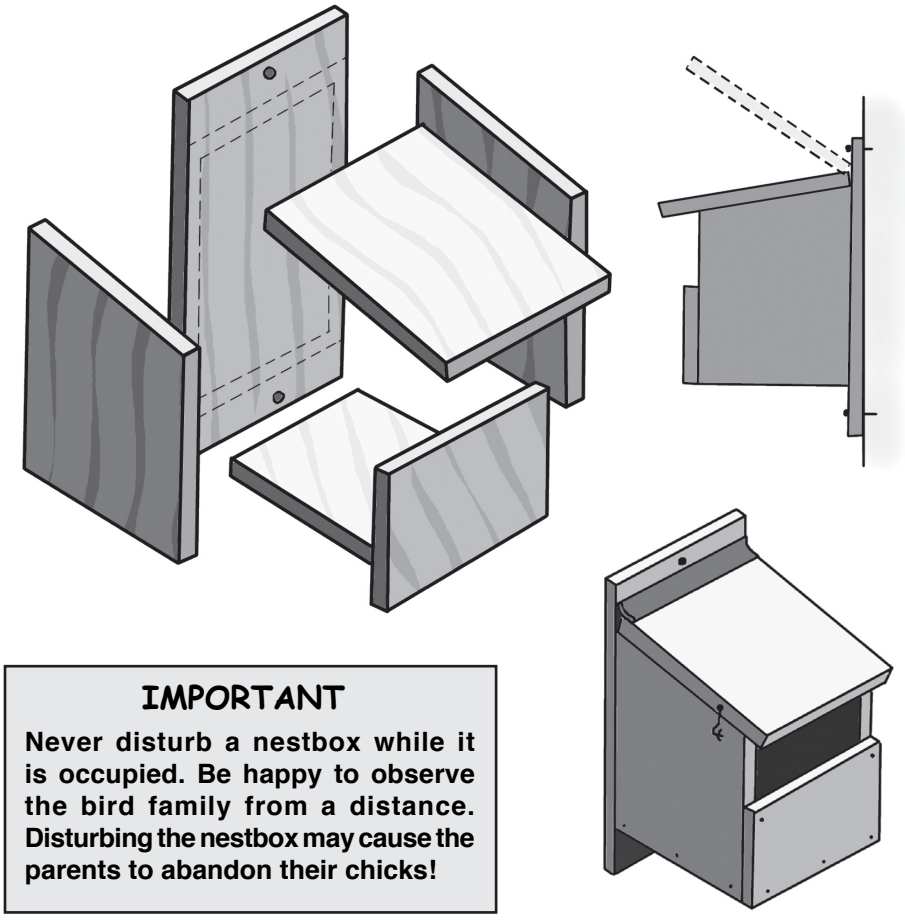
- Take a strip of wood about 15mm thick. Follow the dimensions shown on the right and cut out the sections.
- Assemble the parts as shown below. Use galvanised nails if you can, or use carpenter's glue to join the parts together. The lid may be hinged to the back with a strip of leather or rubber, e.g. a piece of old inner tyre tubing. Use a catch to keep the lid shut.
- Only apply wood preservative to the outside of the box. Allow three weeks to dry and air before placing box in its final site. DO NOT paint the box - paint is toxic and young birds in the nest may eat paint flakes.

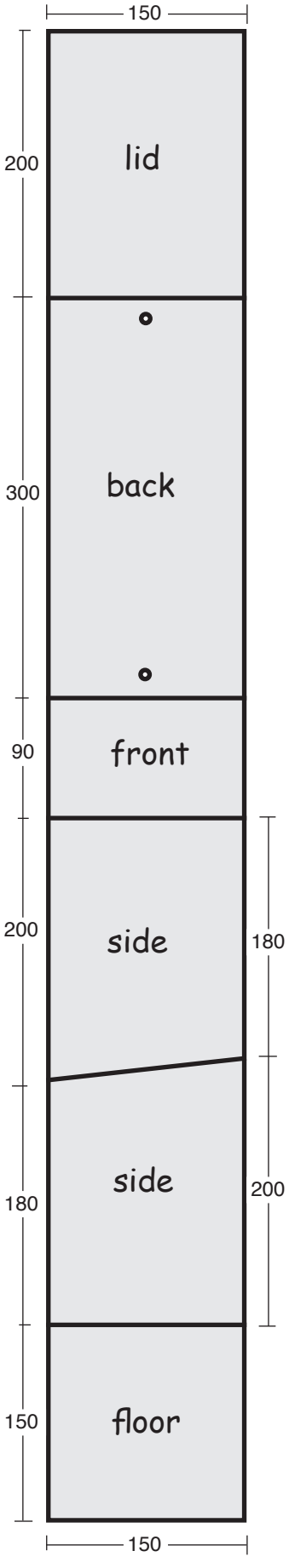
Placing the box

- Place the box at least 3-4m high on a fence or wall so that it is safe from cats and other disturbance. Angle it slightly forward so rainwater won't drip inside. Don't place the box in a position that receives direct afternoon sunlight - it can get very hot inside the box on a sunny day.
- If you choose a tree, DO NOT nail the box to the trunk, but tie it with rubberised wire around the trunk. Don't make wire too tight - remember trees grow in girth as well as in height! Check wire every 2-3 years and slacken if it looks tight.

Cleaning the box

- Each autumn clean the box out to remove feather parasites and old nesting material.





IMPORTANT

Never disturb a nestbox while it is occupied. Be happy to observe the bird family from a distance. Disturbing the nestbox may cause the parents to abandon their chicks!

Measurements are in millimetres

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