

Tree Swallow

(Tachycineta bicolor)



Did you know that one swallow can consume about 1000 mosquitoes a day? These birds will reduce the number of mosquitoes in your yard.

The population of insectivorous birds is declining. The installation of artificial nest boxes creates habitats. Deadwood is sometimes hard to find and birds will spend less energy searching for shelters and nesting sites. To make their life easier, you can provide dry straw as nesting material.

Vision H2O would like to thank the New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund for funding this educational project.



Tree swallows nest box installation

Every year, it is recommended to clean the inside of your tree swallows nest boxes to remove old nests. At the same time, you can check the success of your nesting boxes and move them as needed if there is no success after a few years. Tree swallows nest in tree cavities and they often use nest boxes in early spring. These birds are in our region in mid-April and leave in early July.

Here are some tips for having more success with your nest boxes.

1- Selecting a site.

-It's very important to choose open areas with not too many trees (to avoid squirrels), buildings, and free of clutter in front of the entrance.

-A site preferably near the water.

-A warm and sunny spot (facing south).

- Avoid installing near bird feeders and install them too close to each other to avoid disturbances.

2- For the nest box, you must:

-Have a 1 1/2 "diameter hole size for the entrance (black-capped chickadee and Eastern bluebird may also use it.). Do not install the wooden support stick below the hole. (Swallows can enter without a perch. The stick only encourages predation).

-Choose a box EASY ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE with a door to clean the interior each year.

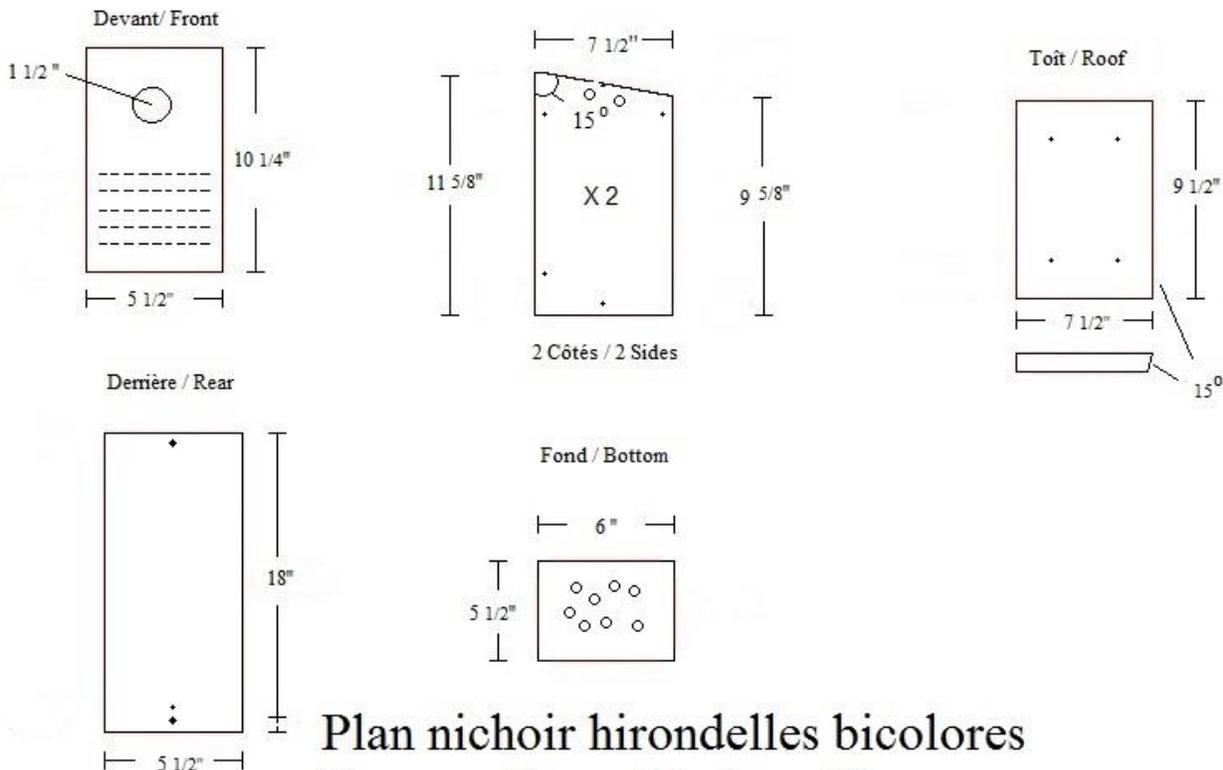
-Drill holes underneath to evacuate water and ventilation slots.

-Use screws rather than nails (if you want to move or open your box).

-Preferably install it on a pole or stake rather than a tree with a minimum height of 1.5 m.

-Wooden materials (cedar will last longer). Metal and plastic are not recommended.

- Use a non-toxic wood preservative. Avoid black paint (which could cause the mortality of chicks because the temperature could be too hot).



Plan nichoir hirondelles bicolores
Tree swallows Nestbox Plan