



Special Supplement  
Courtesy of Ducks Unlimited

### What Is a Greenwing?

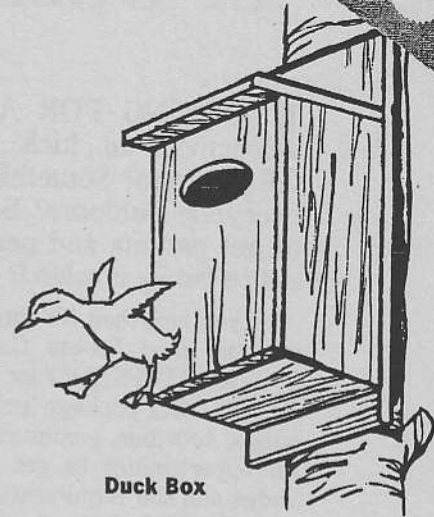
Ducks Unlimited's Greenwings are enthusiastic young people up to age 17 who take part in hands-on activities aimed at increasing awareness and appreciation of wetland ecosystems. They learn about wetlands, wildlife and conservation, and have a lot of fun doing it! Wildlife identification competitions, nest box building, archery, fishing and canoeing are just a few activities Greenwings take part in at gatherings across Canada.

### Benefits of the Greenwing Program

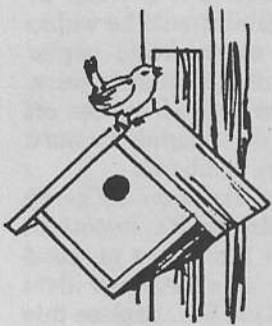
For only \$10.00 per child, every new Greenwing receives a subscription to a quarterly youth magazine about wetlands called *Puddler*.

They also get a personalized certificate, Wetland Wizard adventure comic, wildlife stickers and a handy wetland field book called *Marsh World*.

As a special offer to Cub packs involved in the "Eco-systems JUMPSTART," we will provide a free nest box kit for every three Cubs who belong to Greenwing. We have three high-quality, pre-fabricated, cedar nest box designs that are suitable for Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, Goldeneyes, Mergansers, Screech Owls, Kestrels, Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, Chickadees, Wrens and Nuthatches. You can choose the type(s) of nest box you want your group to build. All you need to provide is a screwdriver and a bit of "elbow grease."



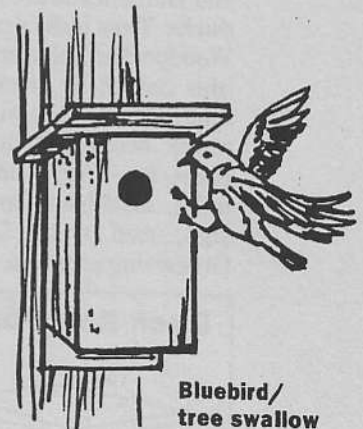
Duck Box



Chickadee/wren/  
nuthatch house

### Cub Badge and Star Requirements

Taking part in Greenwing activities can assist your pack in gaining many of the necessary badge requirements towards earning the Black, Green and Tawny Stars. Cub badges you could earn at a Greenwing event include Naturalist, World Conservation, Canadian Wilderness Award, Trailcraft, Hiking, Watercraft, Carpenter and Collector.



Bluebird/  
tree swallow  
house

### How to Get Your Pack Involved with Greenwing

- o List the names, birthdates and complete addresses for all your pack members.
- o Include a cheque payable to Ducks Unlimited Canada for \$10/child.
- o Indicate the type(s) of nest boxes you'd prefer (one for every 3 Cubs) and include a shipping address.
- o Send all this information to: Greenwing and Cubs,

Box 1160,  
Oak Hammock Marsh, MB,  
R0C 2Z0



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Please allow at least 2 weeks for delivery.  
If you have any questions, call 1-800-665-DUCK.  
Good luck with Eco-Systems JUMPSTART!



SCOUTS CANADA

# Make Bird Houses or Duck Boxes with Ducks Unlimited

by Ross Francis

**L**OOKING FOR A GREAT activity to kick off your fall program? Something to get everyone outdoors? Something to get parents and perhaps the entire family involved?

If you are, then it's time to check out the new Scouts Canada Eco-Systems JUMPSTART for Cubs. This JUMPSTART package includes great songs, activities, games and wonderful opportunities to get started on budget and star requirements.

You could even plan an all-day Saturday activity, building and placing bird houses and duck boxes from Ducks Unlimited. Not only would this be a terrific way to attract new youth to your program, but it might also provide good opportunities to meet parents and perhaps even recruit several leaders.

## Build this Duck Nest Box

Wood Ducks, Barrow's Goldeneyes, Common Goldeneyes, Hooded Mergansers, Common Mergansers and Buffleheads are all cavity nesting ducks. They build nests in abandoned Woodpecker holes or natural tree cavities caused by disease, fire or lightning. These ducks will also use a man-made nesting structure. Here are plans for a nest box that you can build, install and maintain. The design, used by the Ducks Unlimited Greenwing program, may even attract

other cavity nesting birds such as kestrels, flickers, woodpeckers or screech owls.

## Building Instructions

Use cedar lumber because it's naturally resistant to weather and insects, but make use of any materials available, such as pine or plywood. The box uses 1" x 10" lumber (finished to 3/4" x 9 1/4") that is rough on one side (the inside of the box).

You'll need a hand or table saw, jig saw, drill and 1/2" bit, hammer and nail, 23 screws, and a screwdriver.

1. Measure and cut your wood to produce the six pieces. Number the pieces as shown.
2. Attach the back (1) to the side (2) using four screws fastened from the back of the box. (See diagram)
3. Drill five 1/2" drainage holes in the floor (3). Attach the floor by fastening two screws through the back and two through the side.
4. Draw the entry hole (4 1/2" x 3 1/2" oval) on the front (4). Drill a pilot hole and cut out the entry hole using a jig saw.
5. Score the inside face of the front (4) using a saw. The horizontal slots will provide footholds when the ducklings climb out. (See diagram)
6. Attach the front (4) using six wood screws.
7. Round the top, outside edge of the door (5). Fasten the door at the top

with one screw from the front and one from the back. The two screws form the hinge and allow the door to open. Pin the door shut with a nail from the front.

8. Attach the roof (6) using four screws from the top and three screws from the back (be careful not to screw into the door). The box is now ready to install.

## Finishing Touches

Apply a finish to your nest box using a nontoxic wood preserver or a light shade of earth tone paint. Do not apply finish to the inside.

Erect the nest box over water or land. Boxes on land should be within 200 metres of water. Avoid poplar trees — a favourite target of beavers. Try to mount the box 3.5 metres off the ground and tilt it slightly forward to help ducklings climb out.

Cavity nesting ducks do not carry nesting materials, so it's important to place four to six inches of wood chips, shavings or coarse saw dust in the bottom of the box. Replace this old material once a year to reduce parasites. Do all your maintenance and cleaning before nesting season begins.

If you want to learn about Ducks Unlimited's outstanding Greenwing program, see the reverse side of this page. You'll find more nest box plans on Duck's Unlimited home page: <http://www.ducks.ca/>

## Duck Box Construction

