FOR THE BIRDS

Birdhouse plans are big savers for the maintenance budget

BY TERRY BUCHEN

There are several hidden benefits of joining the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses, and our club just re-upped its membership. It's the best $100 a year our club has ever spent.

The Audubon Society of New York operates this program nationwide in cooperation with the U.S. Golf Association and the Audubon Green Section, and one of its not-so-obvious benefits is public relations. The society sends press releases to media and others you want to receive them in your community.

This has immensely helped superintendents' public relations efforts, especially in environmentally sensitive communities. Even clubs or courses that like to keep a low profile have used the press releases to great benefit. Probably the best use of Audubon press releases has been by golf course developers.

Another membership benefit is the Birdhouse Plans that the society furnishes to members to build bird houses, nesting shelves and nesting boxes in-house with their maintenance staffs. We built 50 of these structures last winter and saved our club about 75 percent of what it would have cost to buy them from the usual sources.

Here are a few sample blueprints that we used and we hope others can use.

There are now more than 1,500 member golf courses in the Audubon program. Joining helps the environment—and public relations.

Interested superintendents may contact the Audubon Society of New York at 131 Rarick Road, Selkirk, N.Y. 12158; telephone 518-767-9051. They will send an invoice and/or brochure.

BLUEBIRD HOUSE HINTS

Paint the outside of the box any dull color. Don't use white. Face the box opening to the southeast. Roughen the inside surface of the front piece so young birds can cling to it for feeding and to exercise their wings before their first flight. A rough surface can be made by sawing slots 1/8 inch deep, punching shallow holes with a screwdriver, tacking a strip of 1/4-inch hardware cloth, or gluing a strip of wood.

DROP FRONT HINTS

Predator guard

No. 8 x 1 1/2" screw

1/4" grip

Pivot nails

Drop front 1/4" for ventilation

No. 8 x 1 1/2" screw

BECKONING BARN OWLS

The barn owl is one of the most skilled hunters of all raptors. It has been determined that one pair of barn owls and their young can consume 25,000 mice a year.

If you are to encourage them to nest, discontinue use of rodenticides. Study the above diagram, then fasten the sides to the front. The back and bottom are attached afterward. Put the top on after the box is installed.

Since barn owls do not bring nest materials to their nests, cover the bottom with one or two inches of wood shavings or pine straw. Do not paint the inside of the box.

Make sure no nails protrude from the wood. Barn owls prefer to nest in build- ings, so face the box into the barn or building. Secure the box onto a stud and install it as high as possible to lessen human disturbance and help to protect the owls from snakes, raccoons and cats.

The nest box will also work when wired high in a large tree placed away from prevailing winds. When outside, it can be made inaccessible to owl predators by placing a 30-inch-high metal sleeve around the tree.

SUGGESTED LAYOUT 1 x 6

WREN HOUSE HINTS

Wrens are attracted to single-unit, enclosed bird houses. To attract house wrens, place the box very close to or actually in the cover of a bush or small tree. Wrens seek the shade and protection of thick bushes, where mates pairs find nesting materials and food for themselves and their young. The box may be placed three to 10 feet from the ground. If cover is available, wrens will nest as high as 15 feet from the ground.

The wren builds the bulk of its nest of stick. You can encourage wrens to use your box by placing nesting material near the boxes.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the house.

Wrens are attracted to single-unit, enclosed bird houses. To attract house wrens, place the box very close to or actually in the cover of a bush or small tree. Wrens seek the shade and protection of thick bushes, where mates pairs find nesting materials and food for themselves and their young. The box may be placed three to 10 feet from the ground. If cover is available, wrens will nest as high as 15 feet from the ground.

The wren builds the bulk of its nest of stick. You can encourage wrens to use your box by placing nesting material near the boxes.

In hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

Wrens are attracted to single-unit, enclosed bird houses. To attract house wrens, place the box very close to or actually in the cover of a bush or small tree. Wrens seek the shade and protection of thick bushes, where mates pairs find nesting materials and food for themselves and their young. The box may be placed three to 10 feet from the ground. If cover is available, wrens will nest as high as 15 feet from the ground.

The wren builds the bulk of its nest of stick. You can encourage wrens to use your box by placing nesting material near the boxes.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.

JUST DUCKY FOR WOOD DUCKS

Though wood ducks normally nest in hollow trees around marshes, lakes and streams, they readily move into manmade structures. Attach them to sturdy pole set four to six feet or more above the high-water level. When placed in a tree, the house should be eight to 30 feet high. The house must be plainly visible and the entrance hole not obstructed. Try to keep it vertical. Any slant must be forward. Three to four inches of course sawdust or shavings should be placed in the house. Esset any birds or squirrels who try to occupy the houses.