

## “Winterizing” Nest Boxes

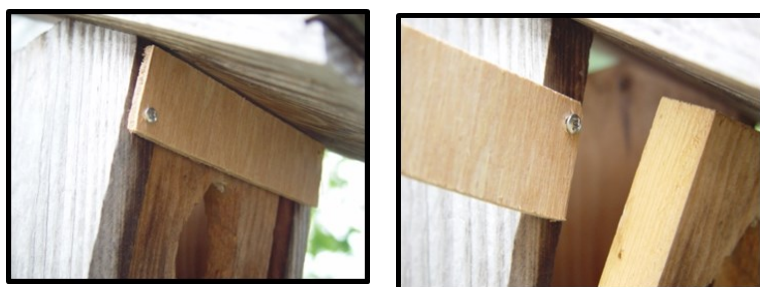
- Cover all ventilation openings on box
- Block drainage holes or add a false floor to prevent drafts
- Add a longer roof if needed to prevent birds from being trapped by ice or snow
- If possible, face the entrance hole away from cold night winds



The nest box on the far left does not have a long enough roof overhang to prevent snow or icicles from trapping a bird inside if it chose to roost in the box at night. The bird could be trapped for days and die if it remained cold for just a few days.

The nest box on the far right has icicles hanging down past the entrance hole, **however** since the roof overhang is long enough (2.5–3 inches or better) the birds can turn right or left exiting the box and safely avoid being trapped inside. FYI the nest box on the left of the picture and the one in the middle of the picture were in the same yard on the same day facing the same direction—the far left one had the entrance hole blocked by snow, the middle one did not. The main differences were that the roof was longer on the middle box **AND** the entrance hole on the middle box was sufficiently high enough on the box to be protected by the longer roof overhang.

Shelter: Good protection in all types of weather conditions



To assist in keeping heat in the box for winter roosting, duct tape or pieces of wood are good options for covering ventilation slits or holes in most nest boxes.

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