MEDIUM PARROT

Habitat Box Designs

Five species of small parrots are found in the Frankston area that use tree hollows, these include the regularly recorded **Rainbow Lorikeet. Red Rumped Parrot, Musk Lorikeet and Scaly-Breasted Lorikeet**. The **Crimson and Eastern Rosella** are also found within Frankston area.

Parrot habitat boxes are best installed on trunks where there is some room for the birds to fly to and from the box. They will only use the boxes during the breeding season, which varies between species.

Rainbow Lorikeets will explore a number of hollows before one is chosen and their nesting can continue for 8 months of the year beginning in March.

Musk Lorikeet (Photo Credit: Kym Farnik (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

Crimson Rosellas are generally more dominant and will out-compete smaller more timid Rosellas such as Eastern Rosellas. So it is a good thing to ensure that you install habitat boxes with slightly different entrance dimensions if you have more than one Rosella species in your area.

It is recommended that an Anti-Myna Baffle is attached to the box which shields the entrance hole and prevents Indian Mynas from entering.

The Rosellas prefer an entrance hole a diameter of 7.5-6.5cm. The smaller parrots and lorikeets prefer slightly smaller with a 60mm diameter.

It is not advisable to put out seed to encourage parrots to your backyard as seed will also attract rats and mice and have health impacts for the parrots.

Eastern Rosella (Photo Credit: Ricardo Simao)

General tips:

- Face away from prevailing winds
- Face them away from direct midday sun- north-east
- Ensure water proof with drainage and sealant
- Monitor your habitat box (from a distance as to not disturb the birds)- this data is useful for council and Birdlife
- Be aware of unwanted visitors moving in!
- Please resist feeding your new neighbours as it creates a dependency on artificial food sources

Materials

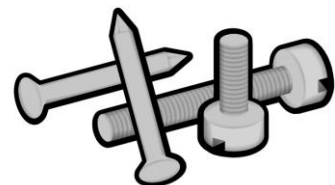| Material	Quantity (per box)
Timber	1300mm x 520mm wide x 18mm **marine ply**
	600mm x 70mm x 35mm **treated pine**
Screws	40 x 40mm treated pine screws
Gap sealer	To seal box eg. Silastic
Cup head bolts	1 x bolts nut and washer, recommend M8 ≥60mm (for attaching box to mount)
Coach / screws	2 x coach screws M8 ≥90mm (for attaching box to tree). Can also use large treated pine screws of similar length (would need washers for TP screws)
Rubber Grommet	4 x grommets, 2 per screw
Butt Hinge	1 x butt hinge for lid of box
Gate hook and eye	1 gate hook and eye
Paint / timber seal	Acrylic paint or organic sealer to preserve box (eg Tung Oil)
Box lining	To insulate box - natural wood chips / shavings. Avoid treated wood
Anti-Myna Baffle	*Please refer to Birdlife Australia's Anti-Myna Baffle attachment document for instructions.*

Equipment

Bench Saw	To cut timber lengths
Cordless Drill	For construction and installation
Jig saw or similar	For entrance hole – drill pilot hole (8mm bit) so jig saw blade can fit in
8mm drill bit	For drainage holes, for jig saw, fixing cup head bolts to box mount and coach bolts
Screwdriver / screwdriver bit	For box construction
3mm drill bit	Pilot holes for screws
22mm Spade Bit	To countersink nuts and washers into box mount

Socket wrench	Helpful to tighten cup head bolts into box mount / coach screws into pole / tree

Assembly

Prepare the Pieces

1. Cut the timber to the dimensions provided to make the pieces. **See Diagram Insert.**
   N.B *Dimensions are for 18 mm ply and will need to be adjusted for other materials.*

2. Use a jig saw to cut the 60mm or 70mm entrance hole towards the top of the box at the front– drill pilot hole (8mm bit) for jig saw blade to fit into first.

3. Cut shallow climbing groves 2-3mm deep all the way down across the outside and inside front panel.

4. Drill (8mm drill bit) 4 drainage holes in the bottom piece.

5. To prepare for assembly- drill pilot holes (3mm drill bit) into ply to avoid splitting. 2 holes on short edge and 3 holes on long edge are recommended.

6. Mark and drill 1 pilot hole (8mm drill bit) on the back piece and the box mount. Countersink 1 bolt holes with 22mm spade bit into box mount pilot hole for the washers and nut. Add another 2 pilot holes (3mm drill bit) to box mount 40mm from each end.

Construction

7. Bolt the box mount to the back panel using cuphead bolts, nut and washer (cuphead on the inside of the box). Don't tighten it until you have determined the positioning of the box on the tree.

8. Prepare the joints with Silastic or similar sealant.

9. Screw the box edges together. Place the lid to allow 40mm overlap on each side, placing the butt hinge to be evenly positioned in the middle. Attach gate hook on lid and eye, on the other side of box, to fit snugly.

10. If attaching Anti-Myna Baffle- screw into top panel infront of entrance, the distance the baffle is placed in front of habitat box should be same as the diameter of the entrance hole (see Anti-Myna Baffle document).

11. You can now paint or coat the outside of the box. Acrylic paint or an organic timber seal is preferable.

12. Add two handfuls of your insulation (e.g. wood chips etc.) to the box.

Installation

Note: Your box can be installed professionally by an arborist or wildlife expert. If you are using a ladder to install, follow manufacturer's safety instructions.

> **Rosellas, small Parrots and Lorikeets like a habitat box that is easily accessible by flight and 4-5m above ground.**
>
> *It is recommended that a professional installs due to the required height.*

13. Select a suitable site for your habitat box. With the box mount against the tree, drill and mark the position of the holes on the tree.

14. Return box to the ground and drill 2 holes (8mm drill bit) for coach screws / timber screws (3mm bit) into the tree.

15. Attach box to tree with coach screws using the socket wrench (put grommets on screws before screwing into place). If using timber screws, place a washer between the screw head and the two grommets to ensure screw doesn't go through the grommets while drilling into the tree.

16. Congratulations- your nest box is ready for use!

Diagram

TOP

300

330

SIDE

500

214

BACK

500

250

SIDE

500

214

FRONT

Ø80

500

250

TREATED PINE MOUNT

600

214

214

HINGED