

# Parrot Nest Box Designs and Usage

\*This is a collection of information gathered from various institutions in AZA/EAZA. The nest boxes described have worked for breeding parrots at individual zoos. The information provided is a guide to aid in breeding parrots, but is by no means the only way to breed certain species.

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## Macaws:



Nest box used to breed Hyacinth Macaws

Tom Mortimer Tulsa Zoo

### Nest box Dimensions:

36-inches in length

26-inches in width

25-inches in height

Entrance to the nest is; 10-inches by 9-inches.

Inspection door is; 12-inches by 7-inches.



Nest Box used to breed Red-fronted Macaws

Tom Mortimer Tulsa Zoo

**Nest box Dimensions:**

27-inches length

12-inches height

13-inches width

Lip in front of box is 5 inches in height, the entrance to the box is 7 inches in height.

Inspection door is 13 inches by 6 inches.



Whiskey Barrel used to breed Hyacinth Macaws

Gen Anderson  
St. Augustine Alligator

**Nest box Dimensions:**

The hyacinths prefer and have previously been successful on multiple occasions in a whiskey barrel hung horizontally (attached photo is obviously not installed for nesting). I believe it is a 53 gallon which lists the dimensions as:

Height: 35" - 36"

Width: 26" - 28"

Weight: 90 - 120 lbs





Nest box used to breed Hyacinth Macaws

Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

**Nest box Dimensions:**

48" Length

16" Width

17" Height

Hinged inspection door: 17" x 6"

Entrance hole: 8"

$\frac{3}{4}$ " Plywood used to build nest box.

Pine Shavings offered as substrate.

\*Other dimensions that have been used for breeding macaws:

Pressure treated plywood box lined on the inside with  $\frac{1}{4}$ " stainless steel

24" tall x 24" wide x 30" deep

There is a 7" x 7" square opening near the top corner of the box

Some of our nest boxes of this size have a platform just inside the opening that the birds can use like a step down to the bottom of the box and some do not.

These dimensions have been used to breed Red-fronted Macaw, Scarlet Macaws and Blue and Gold Macaws.

\*Blue-throated Macaws have been bred in nest boxes with dimensions:

$\frac{3}{4}$ " Plywood box that is 12" x 12" x 36"

## Conures:



### **“L” Box or Boot Box**

This box has been used to breed Golden Conure and Blue-headed Pionus.

Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

### **Nest box Dimensions:**

L portion of the box is 24" x 24"

Bottom: 24"x 12"

Top and two short sides: 12" x 12"

Long side: 24" x 12"

Inspection door: 12" x 12"

Entrance hole: 6"





This nest box was used for breeding Sun Conures.

Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

**Nest box Dimensions:**

Sides: 17" x 11"

Top/Bottom: 11" x 11"

Entrance hole: 4"

Top is a hinged door used for inspection.

**Other dimensions on nest boxes that have worked for breeding Conures:**

Golden Conure and Illiger's Macaw

1/4" stainless steel rectangular box

30" tall x 12" wide x 12" deep

There is a 4" round hole about 4" from the top of the box

## Thick-billed Parrots:



Nest box used to breed Thick-billed Parrots

John Kiseda El Paso Zoo

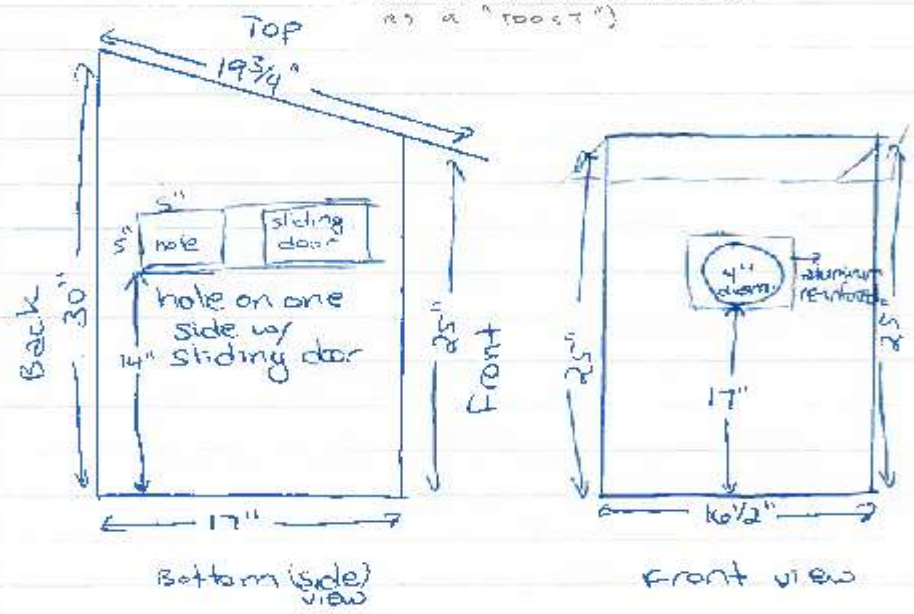
**Nest Box Dimensions:** See photo below. Photo credit: John Kiseda El Paso Zoo



3/21/22 → PVC leader  
 return w/ visitors  
 (to files) ringer  
 - thickness of wood  
 used in box  
 is inside of 1/4"  
 vertical reinforcement  
 in each panel with  
 1/4" aluminum reinforcement

# Parrot nest box (wood-painted brown)

(our birds also use the nest box in inclement weather as a "roost")



Bottom panel slides out for easy access/disinfecting (plexiglass)

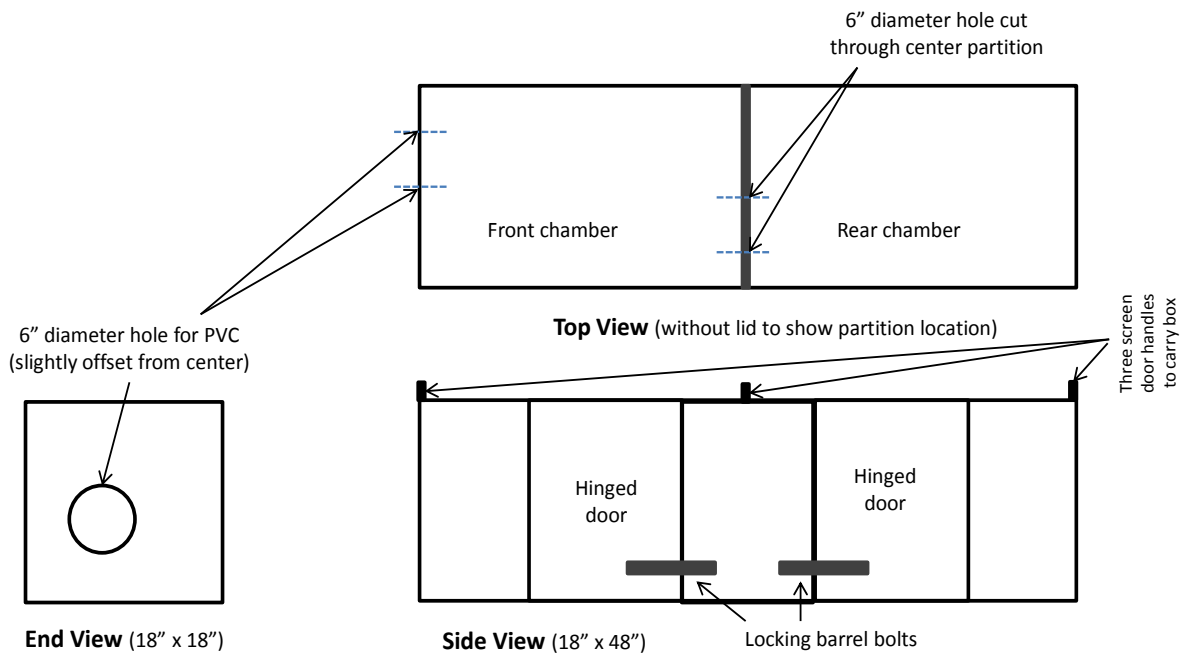
Holes are reinforced w/ aluminum.

All wood edges are reinforced with fairly thick aluminum angle (each side of the angle extends outward for 1/4", "protecting" the wood from parrot destruction)

Thick-billed parrots have also, been bred in natural logs and "L" boxes as well. Since Thick-billed parrots are naturally destructive, reinforced boxes are encouraged, such as using metal to edge the sides or additional wood to reinforce the boxes. Some facilities add pieces of wood to allow the parrots to chew and add additional wood substrate to their nest box.

## Kea

### Kea Nesting Box Plan



- Parts list -
- 1 - sheet 3/4" 8' x 4' plywood (untreated) – outside box
  - 1 - piece 3/4" 2' x 2' plywood (untreated) – inside partition
  - 2 - 1 1/2" x 12" continuous hinges for hinged doors
  - 2 - locking barrel bolts with screws
  - 2 - stainless steel combination locks
  - 3 - screen door handles
  - Box of 1-3/4" stainless steel screws

Kimberly Klosterman  
Cincinnati Zoo

\*Used both single and double chambered boxes elevated 4" off the ground. It seems that the double chambered boxes have helped us to reduce (not eliminate) egg breakage by the males or other intruding kea (other females, juveniles in the flock).



Combination lock

Kimberly Klosterman  
Cincinnati Zoo



Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

\*This is a chamber nest box. It designed with a burrow type nest in mind. The foundation of the nest box is stacked cinder block. The cinder blocks are stacked sideways three deep on a sheet of plywood.

\*The tunnel is a 6" pvc pipe that goes into the cinder block chamber.





Photos: Phillip Horvey Sedgwick County Zoo

## Palm Cockatoo

\*nest box design is built of  $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood. Hexagonal in shape 39" tall, 19" across with a hinged top having a 9" diameter entrance hole.

The interior is laddered on 3 sides with rungs 5" apart. These boxes have to be replaced fairly regularly due to chewing by birds.

\* Other facilities have used an open top hexagonal or square shaped box.



Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

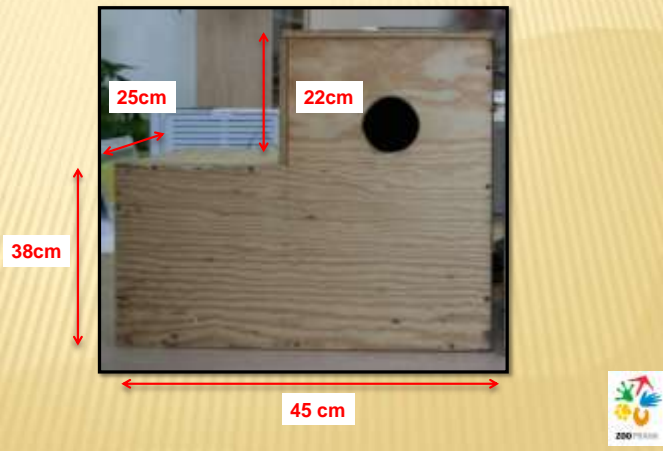
# Lorikeets

## FIRST NEST BOX USED FOR LORIES



Antonin Vaidl  
Prague Zoo

## NEST BOX - WOODEN L SHAPE TYPE



Antonin Vaidl  
Prague Zoo

\* Other types of nest boxes include a metal box that is 12" x 12" x 18". Used for breeding Swainson's and Green-naped Lorikeets.



## Cockatoo's



Phillip Horvey  
Sedgwick County Zoo

PVC nest box is used to breed Galah's.

**Dimensions:**

Length: 25"

Width: 8.5"

Entrance hole: 6"

The top is a piece of plywood that swivels to act as inspection hole.

Have had no issues with birds chewing since the plastic is so thick and dense.

### L SHAPE TYPE FOR UMBRELLA COCKATOES



Antonin Vaidl  
Prague Zoo

## Various Parrot Species

### Pesquet Parrots:



Gen Anderson  
St. Augustine Alligator Farm

### Lorikeets:

#### NEST BOXES WITH TRANSPARENT PLASTIC ROOF (PREVENTION OF PLUCKING)



Antonin Vaidl  
Prague Zoo

#### **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot**

- \*Rectangular plywood box
- \* 7.5" height and width
- \*6.25" depth
- \*2" diameter of entrance hole

#### **Hawk-headed Parrot**

- \*The large apartment nest box has interior dimensions that are 20.5" tall, 16" side to side, and 9.5" front.
- \*Wood Blocks offered for substrate.

#### **Bourke's Parrot**

- \*Rectangular wooden box.
- \*1' height, 8" wide, and 8" depth
- \*Entrance hole 3" diameter