

Nest Boxes – Excluding House Sparrows

By John Carroll

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Using fishing line as an excluder to deter house sparrows from nesting in birdhouses is an effective and humane method. We think if you are having problems with house sparrows invading your flying squirrel boxes they will work there too.

Here are instructions for adding a fishing line excluder to a nest box:

Materials Needed:

- Nest box with an existing entry hole
- Fishing line (monofilament line)—8-10 lb test.
- Several fishing weights if you choose to use the second method
- Scissors
- Screwdriver or hammer
- Screws or nails

Step-by-Step Instructions:

- 1) **Gather Materials:**
 - a) Collect all the necessary materials listed above.
- 2) **Prepare the Fishing Line:**
 - a) Cut several pieces of fishing line, each about 12 inches in length.
 - b) The number of pieces needed depends on the size of the entry hole. You'll need enough pieces to cover the entire entrance without any gaps.
- 3) **Attach the Fishing Line:**
 - a) Attach one end of each piece of fishing line to the roof edge above the entry hole using screws or nails. Make sure the lines are firmly secured. Make them about 1 inch apart—3 or 4 lines.
- 4) **Create a Barrier:**
 - a) Pull the other ends of the fishing lines tightly across the entry hole and attach them below the entry hole—4 inches below. This creates a barrier that house sparrows find difficult to pass through.
 - b) The other option is to attach a fishing weight to the bottom of the line rather than attaching to the box.
 - c) There are a number of different patterns. See pictures below.
- 5) **Trim Excess Line:**
 - a) Trim any excess fishing line with scissors so that it doesn't obstruct the entry hole or create any safety hazards for the birds.
- 6) **Monitor the Nest Box:**
 - a) Regularly check the nest box to ensure that the fishing line excluder remains intact and effective.
 - b) If you notice house sparrows attempting to nest despite the excluder, you may need to take further measures, such as trapping or removing them, in accordance with local regulations.

A fishing line excluder is a simple yet effective method to discourage house sparrows from nesting in birdhouses while allowing native bird species like bluebirds to use the nest box.

