

Caring for your Habitat Structure RED BREASTED NUTHATCH



CREDIT VALLEY
CONSERVATION



Thank you!

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners like you play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

Habitat

Red-breasted nuthatches are found in coniferous forests, particularly those dominated by spruce and fir. They can also be found in more open forests with scattered trees.

When to Expect Them

Late April to July

Call

Sounds like: A high pitched, nasal call, “*yna, yna.*” It also makes a high-pitched “*ank, ank*”

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Interior forest
Height off Ground (m)	2 – 3
Entrance Hole Facing	Away from prevailing wind
Spacing	45 m apart
Attach to	Live or dead tree, building
Installation Time	September to April

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in April. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Nuthatches prefer to excavate their own cavities. Add about 5 cm of wood shavings every year before the breeding season.

Interesting Fact

Nuthatches are agile birds. You will often see them foraging on tree trunks and vertical surfaces sideways and upside down.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for nuthatches on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space. Plant trees such as balsam fir, white spruce and eastern white pine to help provide food and shelter.

Photo Credit: Matt MacGillivray