

Eagle Hack Boxes

- Overall: The purpose of a hack box is to duplicate a "nest". It will include:
 - Shelter
 - View
 - Protection
 - Elemental
 - Predator
 - Natural manipulatives (sticks, grasses, etc.)
 - Interaction with nest mates
 - Isolation from humans.
- Specs:
 - 8'x8'x6', with 2-3 eaglets per box.
 - At least 20' off the ground.
 - Walls:
 - Front barred
 - Sides 2/3 solid and 1/3 barred
 - Ceiling: half barred/half solid
 - Back solid
 - Doors and feeding mechanism that do not allow eagles to see humans.
 - Inside box should have
 - Perches
 - Provide measurement of releasability (3' off the ground)
 - Sticks in the back of the enclosure.
 - Serve as manipulatives. "Nest" is actually the entire hack box - not the sticks. Birds typically manipulate the sticks to unrecognizability.
 - Water bowl: see below.
- Water:

- Eaglets in the wild do not have a water source. Water is provided for:
 - Bathing
 - Associating food and water
 - Behavioral enhancement
- Ingested water is provided from food
- Hack-box water is from natural environment and may appear "dirty". It is the collected from the water body they will be hunting in.
- Water is changed/filled every night. We do not change or fill water during the day, so as to minimize disturbance to the birds.
- Most important feature of hack box is eliminating signs of human presence.
 - Feeding mechanism, approach, etc. must not allow any association of humans and food.
 - Location of hack site should be protected from human activity.
- "Porch" is an area that is open on three sides that extends the floor of the hack box. When the boxes are opened, the porch allows
 - the birds to venture out of their hack box without actually having to take the big leap of fledging.
 - the birds to expand their perception of their world.
 - the birds to test the wind under their wings.
 - an open feeding area once birds are fledged.