

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

— MOURNING DOVE NEST BASKET —

Mourning doves are one of Mississippi's most abundant and adaptable birds. They do not nest in tree cavities or nest boxes, but they will use a simple shallow cone of 1/4-inch or 1/2-inch mesh hardware cloth that is wired into the horizontal crotches of tree limbs.

First, cut out a 12-inch-square piece of hardware cloth with tin snips. Then trim the square to form a circle 12 inches in diameter. You can also use composition asphalt shingles with the black side up. If you do, cut a 1-inch-diameter circle in the center of the cone to allow drainage.

Next, cut out a pie-shaped wedge from the circle that is about 2.5 inches wide along the outer edge of the circle. Pull the two cut edges together and overlap them about 1 inch. Wire or staple the two edges together.

Evergreens, particularly pine and cedar are favorite nest sites, although hardwoods are also used.

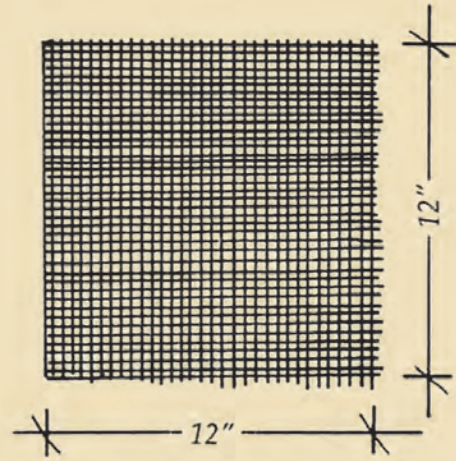
Dove nests are very simple structures made of twigs and are usually placed on a fairly flat, horizontal branch in a more open area of the tree.

Place the nest cone in moderate shade in the crotch of a horizontal tree limb from 6 to 16 feet above the ground. There should be open space around the nest cone for easy access by the doves. Use roofing nails, staples or wire to securely fasten the nest in place. Bend back the cut edges of the cone so that the sharp points of wire do not stick out.

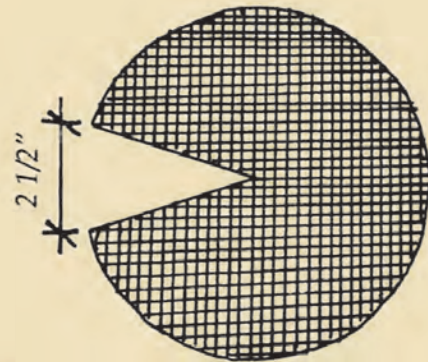
This simple and inexpensive nest cone is an excellent project for young people.



PHOTO FROM WIKIMEDIA.ORG



Materials: One 12" x 12" piece of hardware cloth.



Cut with tin snips to form a circle. Cut out a narrow pie-shape, and wire edges together to form a cone. Wire and/or staple cone into the crotch of a tree limb.



Plans from *Woodworking for Wildlife*
Compiled by the
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
and
Arkansas Forestry Association