Red-rumped Parrots are small (26cm), slender parrots. The adult male is bright green with a blue green head, a red rump and yellow shoulders and belly. The adult female is a duller olive-green with a green rump and faint yellow or light green scales on the belly. Red-rumped Parrots mate for life and breed from August to January, producing 4-5 white eggs that are incubated for 20 days, with chicks fledging at 4-5 weeks.

Habitat Information
Red-rumped Parrots can be found in open grasslands or lightly timbered plains, as well as along watercourses and in mallee farmlands with access to water. Large grassy parks, golf courses and similar habitats in urban areas are also a favourite. However, it is important to remember that installing a nest box will be most successful if you provide habitat in your own garden that is suitable for the bird. Red-rumped Parrots prefer to feed on seeds and leaves of grasses, as well as seeds, fruits and flowers in trees. To provide good habitat for Red-rumped Parrots, try planting some native grasses.

Shapes needed (based on 15mm thick timber)
- Top: rectangle 200mm x 250mm
- Sides: 2 x rectangles 170mm x 500mm (note: both pieces have to be cut to form a sloping edge for the roof)
- Front: rectangle 200mm x 450mm
- Back: rectangle 200mm x 500mm
- Base: square 170mm x 170mm

Special Notes
More than one nest box can be installed if you wish as more than one pair may nest in different boxes in one tree. Unless you see an introduced bird moving into the nest box, resist the urge to lift the lid and look inside. If you disturb the birds then they may abandon the nest box. Only open the lid to remove unwanted invaders.
Materials Needed

- Timber at least 15mm thick (for adequate insulation). If you use thicker timber, please adjust the dimensions of the nest box appropriately. It is best to use untreated recycled wood, such as off-cuts or plywood, or plantation-grown wood, rather than using unsustainably harvested timber. Never take hollow limbs or branches from the wild. (Note: if using plywood, use glue and nails to assemble your box)
- 5mm timber dowel for a perch (note: this is an optional addition)
- Wood glue (something odourless)
- Non-toxic paint or sealant
- Linseed oil
- Screws
- Stainless steel hinge (x 2)
- Hook latch and eye
- Wire mesh
- Metal staples
- For wire attachment (method 1): wire or vinyl-covered clothesline (ensure you have enough to fit snugly around the tree) and a piece of garden hose
- For mounting strip attachment (method 2): A piece of timber 700mm long and 90mm wide (the mounting strip), plus another piece of timber (the spacer) between the mounting strip and the nest box (slightly smaller than the height of the nest box) + 100mm galvanised screws

Tools Needed

- Hole drill bit (for 70mm hole) and power drill
- Saw
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Stapler
- Safety glasses and dust mask
- Wire mesh
- Wire mesh
- Coarse sandpaper (or a rasp)
- Ladder

Construction

1. Cut out shapes

- Wearing safety glasses and a dust mask, use the saw to cut out all of the required shapes for the box.
- Label each panel with pencil (on the inside) so that you can keep track of each part.
- Paint the outside and edges of each panel with non-toxic paint or sealant. Leave the inside face of each panel raw.

2. Add features to the panels

- Front panel: staple a ladder made of wire mesh to the inside of the panel. This will allow the young birds to climb out of the box. Ensure there are no sharp edges.
- Front panel (optional): to fix a perch to the front of the nest box, drill a 5mm hole through the panel approximately 70mm below the nest box opening. Place wood glue in this hole and then insert the 5mm timber dowel from the outside of the panel until it is flush with the inside. Allow to dry.
- Side panels: Cut a length of garden hose that will fit almost the entire way around the tree. Twist, tightly knot or otherwise secure the wire/clothesline at the back of the nest box with the garden hose, leaving a small piece of wire at the end uncovered and a short piece of wire/clothesline protruding from the other side of the box. Wrap the hose around the tree (sitting snugly and in a fork). Twist, tightly knot or otherwise secure the wire/clothesline (make sure it won’t work loose). The garden hose will not cut into the tree but adjust each year as the tree grows.

Attachment method 1:

Cut a length of garden hose that will fit almost the entire way around the tree. Cover one piece of the wire/clothesline at the back of the nest box with the garden hose, leaving a small piece of wire at the end uncovered and a short piece of wire/clothesline protruding from the other side of the box. Wrap the hose around the tree (sitting snugly and in a fork). Twist, tightly knot or otherwise secure the wire/clothesline (make sure it won’t work loose). The garden hose will not cut into the tree but adjust each year as the tree grows.

Attachment method 2:

- Use the 100mm galvanized screws to secure the box to the tree through the predrilled holes at the top and bottom of the mounting strip.
- If you remove the nest box, be sure to also remove the screws.

Maintenance

Regularly check your box to make sure that the intended species has not been driven from their nest by introduced birds, and always contact an apiarist if honeybees take over the nest. If introduced birds (like Common Mynas or Starlings) move in (though this opening may be too small), remove their nesting material and any eggs. You may need to repeat this more than once. If they are persistent, cover the hole for a while. You can also try a ‘Myna baffle’ that sometimes discourages Mynas from moving in but results for these have been mixed.

After the chicks have fledged and the adults have left the box, clean it out to prepare it for next year. Remember that trees grow in girth as well as height, and be sure to check the fixings on the box every year or two to adjust for growth.