

The Hironbec Anti-Sparrow Pendulum

Hironbec Anti-Sparrow Pendulums (Figure 1) utilize species' weight differences to prevent House Sparrow entry into nest boxes intended for Tree Swallows. They were invented by Rene Lepage of Quebec, who tested and refined his unique idea over 30+ nesting seasons. If they are as successful as claimed Pendulums could protect many other small cavity-nesting bird species from House Sparrow competition.



Figure 1

Pendulums mount on a nest box fronts with their openings aligned with nest box entrances. They do not fit tightly against boxes (Figure 2, below). Instead, there is only one point of attachment, where a flat metal angle slips over a small plate and is fixed in place by a single screw. The metal angle is connected to the rest of the Pendulum by an axle that is free to rotate. If a bird of sufficient weight lands at the Pendulum entrance the entire device pivots sideways, blocking passage into the box by obstructing the box entrance hole (Figure 3, below). A locking screw attached to the box prevents the Pendulum from tipping too far.



Figure 2



Figure 3

The rear view below (Figure 4) shows the circular balancing weight. This can be rotated by hand, which moves it gradually left or right along its horizontal screw, making the Pendulum more or less apt to tip. In this way a Pendulum can be set not to tip when a 20 gram Tree Swallow lands and enters but does tip to block box entry when 28 gram House Sparrows land.

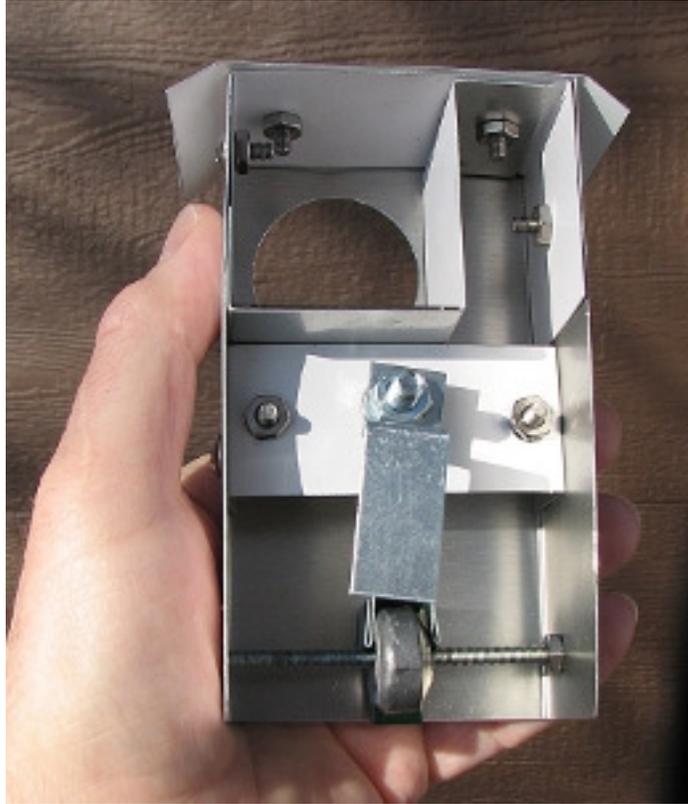


Figure 4

Mr. Lepage has developed a specific set of procedures for using his Pendulums. They can be found on the Hironbec web site:

<http://www.hironbec.com/ENbicoloreInst.htm>.

The Salmon Creek Tree Swallow Project conducted a small but successful test of Pendulums and developed its own, slightly different set of procedures for their introduction and use. These can be found at:

<http://treeswallowprojects.com/files/PenSuggestions2.pdf>

