

Swan Nesting Platform Options

Option 1: From Dave Hoffman, Iowa DNR:

"I have had the best luck using two 4'x10' sections of floating dock fastened together to make a 8'x10' platform. The galvanized metal construction is very strong and withstands the ice action. I like at least 8'x10'. I have also repurposed used swim platforms, and even an old 8'x12' pontoon boat. I would recommend natural nest materials that don't draw mold or decompose, ie produce heat and "cook" the eggs. Fresh cut willow branch side rails provide a sense of security for the female, keep materials from blowing off and offer shade when they leaf out."

Option 2: Western nesting platform construction plan

The structure is 6' x 6' - 2x4 frame. Materials; (6) 2x4x8,(3)sheets of ½" CDX plywood, (1) sheet of 2" Styrofoam blue board.

A 10" piece of the bottom piece of plywood, 5" on each side of the last piece of the bottom plywood, allows the birds to step up on to the structure. We have had these last 8-10 years, or better if totally submerged slightly.











