**Materials**

* 24 or 26 gauge galvanized sheet metal (which won't rust), 3 feet x 3 feet (can also be made with sturdy hardware cloth, but beware sharp edges)
* 3 wooden mounting blocks, 4" x 1.5" x 1.5". You can also cut tabs that bend over and use them to fasten the cone to the post.
* 1/4" round head stove bolts or small, pan-head sheet metal screws
* Tin snips
* Hardened drill bits (for holes)
* Paint (if desired, to cut down on heat reflectivity and for aesthetics.

**Instructions**: (also see alternative installation below.)

* Cut a 3 foot square piece of 24 or 26 gauge galvanized sheet metal. (You can get three guards out of a 3x8 foot piece of metal - see drawing below from Zeleny's book.)
* Then cut out circles.
  + Your circle will be 18" from the center of the circle to the edge (i.e., 36" in diameter when flat - when formed into a cone the finished diameter will be less).
  + You can make a homemade compass to scribe the metal, using a stick of wood with two sharp nails placed 18" part, or a piece of string and a magic marker.
* To facilitate cutting, follow the numbering sequence. To make the first cut (A-B line) make a slot at A with a cold chisel to insert metal shears.
* You can either attach the cone to the post using angled wooden blocks (see Step 6) or metal tabs from the center hole that bend over and are nailed to the pole. Make the tabs about 1.5" wide, and bend them up to nail to pole/box. The blocks might be better as they will make the baffle wobbly, which is harder to climb.
* Include a hole (with tabs if desired) in the center that will be big enough for your post:
  + 5" hole fits 4" diameter post
  + 6" hole fits 5" diameter post
  + 7" hole fits 5.5 - 6.5" diameter post
  + 7.25" hole fits 6" diameter post
  + If you have a metal/T-post, or small wood post, you can make a V cut instead in the center with three small tabs that can be used to attach the cone the bottom of a 2x4 on the back of the nestbox.
  + **Very Important:  Do not leave any spaces between the post and the cone.  A one inch snake can fit through a ½ inch hole.  Fill with foam or caulk.**
* If you don't make pre-cut metal tabs you can make angled wood blocks to nail the guard in place. The ends should be angled to fit flush against the post. Drill pilot holes through the nailing block to the post.
* When installing the guard, overlap the cut edge to the dotted line in the drawing below.
* Join the ends with two to four 1/4" round head stove bolts or use four small, pan-head sheet metal screws to hold it together.
* Paint if desired.