

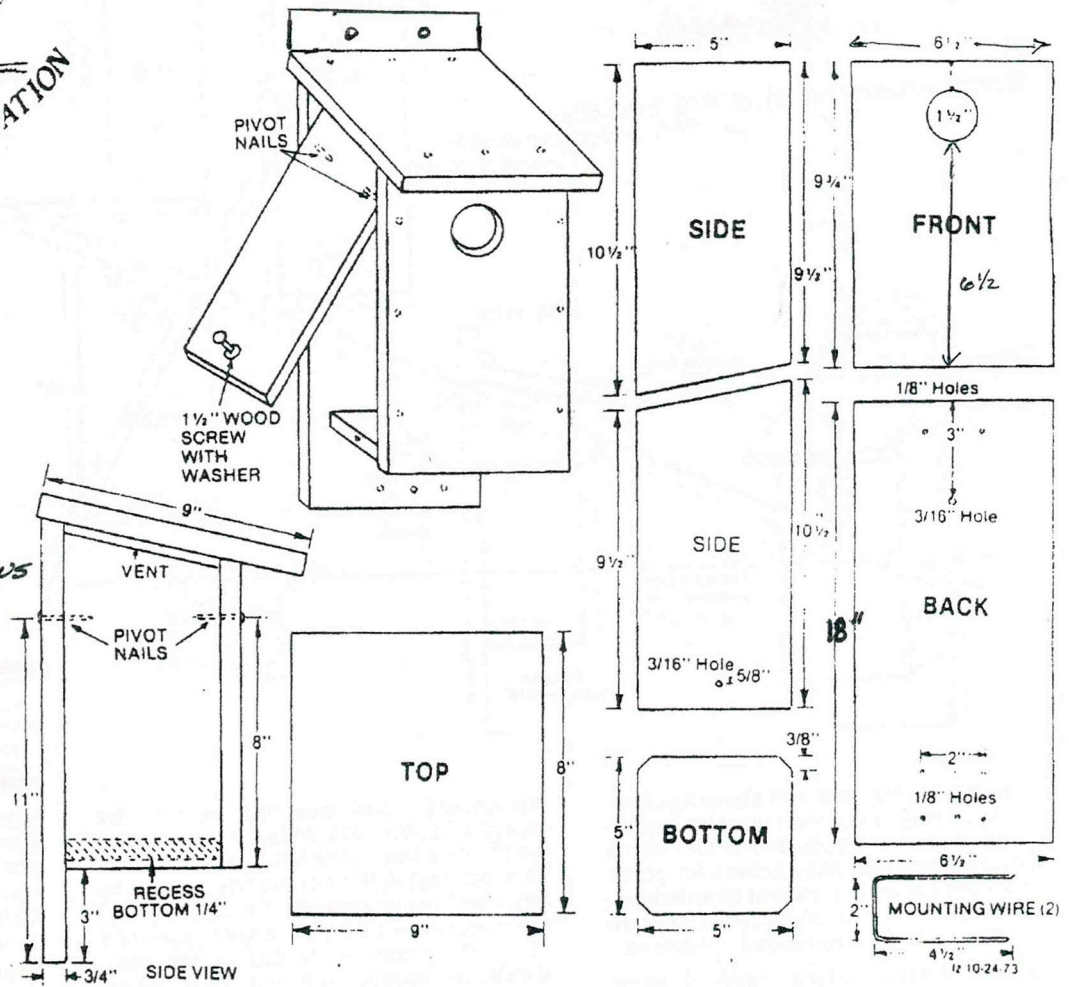


# BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONS

PLAN FOR WESTERN BLUEBIRD

- ROUGH WOOD ON INSIDE.

Dimensions shown are for boards 3/4" thick.  
 Use 1 3/4" galvanized siding nails or aluminum nails. **WOOD SCREWS**  
 Pivot nails must be located exactly opposite each other as shown for proper opening of side board.  
 Cut top edges of front and back boards at slight angle to fit flush with top board.  
 Cut 3/8" off each corner of bottom board as shown.  
 Insert bottom board so that the grain of the wood runs from front to rear of box.



**Side-opening nesting box.** For greater ease in cleaning and monitoring, a side-opening box is sometimes used. Opening the side of the box for inspection while birds are nesting in it is somewhat more disturbing to the birds than in a top-opening box. For this reason it is recommended that a side-opening box containing nestlings more than 13 days old be opened with extreme care, if at all, to avoid the possibility of premature fledging of the nestlings.

**Larger nesting box.** The 4" x 4" box is large enough for practically all broods of Eastern Bluebirds and most broods of Mountain and Western Bluebirds, but the 5" x 5" box may have some advantage for the latter two species and may also be safer for Tree Swallows which often occupy bluebird nesting boxes in the northern states and Canada.

Above is a detailed plan for a side-opening bluebird nesting box with a 5" x 5" floor. This plan can also be used for a side-opening box with a 4" x 4" floor simply by making all boards one inch narrower and the top and bottom boards one inch shorter

than shown. Similarly, a top-opening box with a 5" x 5" floor is easily made from the plan on the other side of this sheet by making all boards one inch wider and the top and bottom boards as well as the dowel and cleat one inch longer than shown in the plan.

There is some evidence that a slightly larger hole may be more suitable for Mountain Bluebirds. A hole size measuring *no larger* than 1-9/16" may be used in these instances. If the hole is even 1/16" bigger, starlings will not be excluded, so great care must be taken to be precise.

The side-opening nesting box may be mounted in ways similar to those described for the top-opening box (see other side of this sheet). When mounting wires (see plan) are used to mount the box on the side of a metal post the two ends of the upper wire are inserted through the 1/8" holes near the top of the backboard. This must be done with the side wide open. If the box is

mounted on the side of a wooden post or tree trunk a round-headed screw may be used in the 3/16" hole in the backboard. A long-handled screw driver is inserted through the entrance hole of the box. A metal washer should be used on the screw.

Raccoon guards as described on the other side of this sheet are recommended for all types of nesting boxes in areas where these animals are troublesome, unless other means are used to prevent them from reaching the boxes.

**Chickadees, titmouse and nuthatch nesting boxes.** Both of the above-described 4" x 4" floor nesting boxes are suitable for and often used by chickadees or titmice, especially when they are located close to wooded areas. Nuthatches will also occasionally use the boxes in these locations. If the entrance hole is made only 1-1/8" in diameter, chickadees, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Pygmy Nuthatches can enter the box readily but House Sparrows are excluded. A raccoon guard with a 1-1/8" hole can be attached to a bluebird nesting box to accomplish the same purpose.