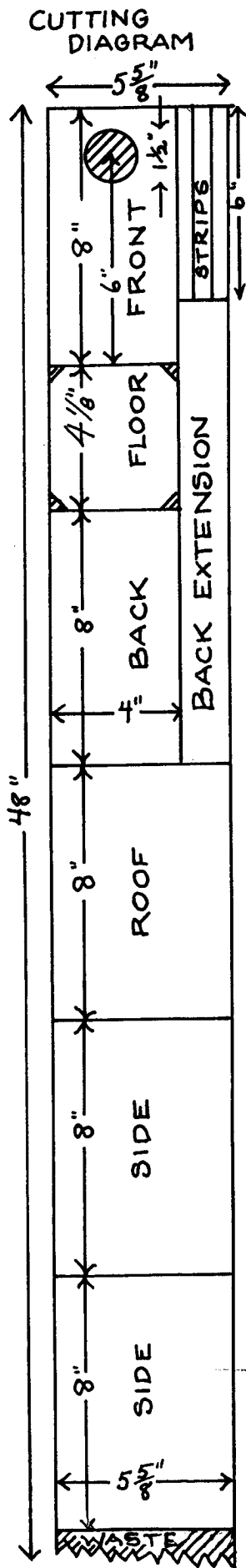


HOW TO BUILD A BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX



With the passing of untended orchards and the usurping of nestholes by the belligerent House Sparrows and Starlings, you can help the Bluebirds by putting up nesting boxes.

Build a box that meets the specifications given below. Follow the directions, and place the box in a suitable habitat.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

Bluebirds are early nesters, so the bird house should be in place in March. However, a box put up later than this date may be accepted for their second nesting. Place the box in an open area (for instance, at the edge of a woods rather than in the woods). The box may be placed between 5-12 feet high, but 6-8 feet probably is best. The nesting site will be enhanced by the presence of grassy areas, preferably long-stemmed grasses.

Do not be disappointed if Bluebirds fail to take up residence immediately; remember, they are still very scarce.

Discourage the use of boxes by House Sparrows or Starlings, by destroying their nest and/or eggs, cleaning out the box each time after they have nested.

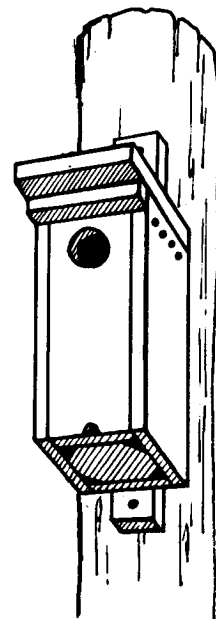
This house may be used by Tree Swallows which also like open areas. If the opening is made 1" in diameter, and the house placed just inside the wood's edge, it may attract House Wrens.

Clean nesting material out of house after first nesting, but do not clean box after second nesting until the following spring.

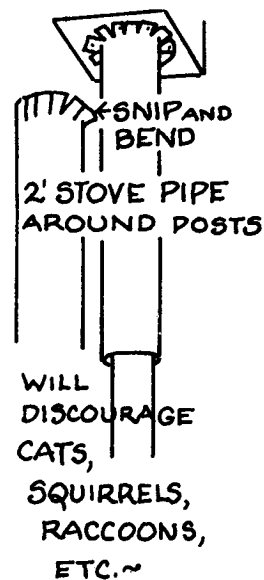
LUMBER *

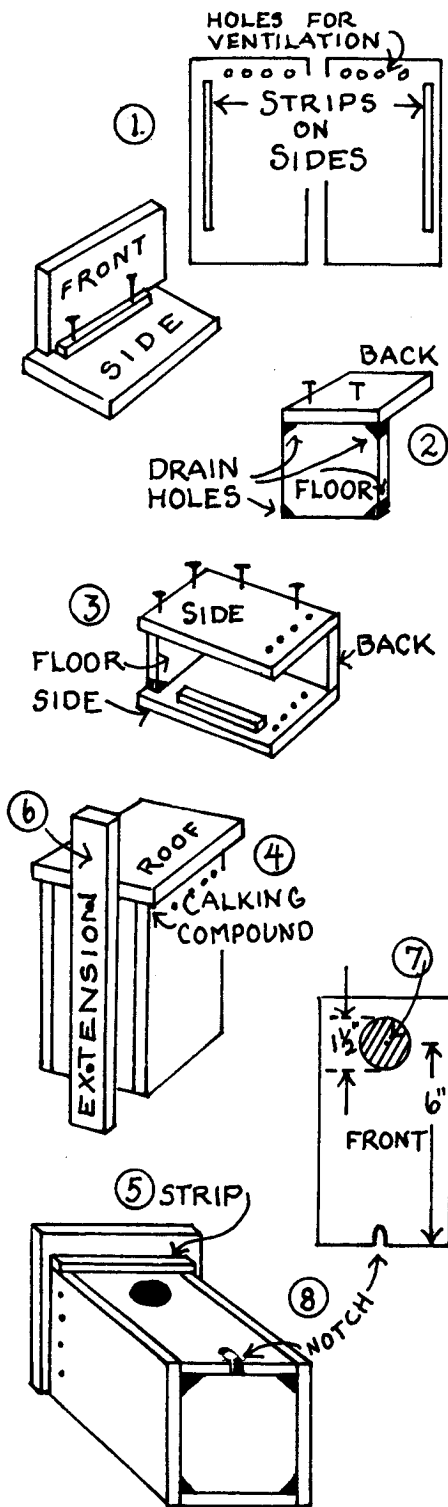
A Bluebird house, as pictured, may be built from one piece of 1" board, 6" wide by 48" long, of seasoned pine, spruce or redwood, and cut according to diagram. In order to allow for the wood wasted in the saw cut, be sure to mark and cut one piece at a time; i.e., mark board for the front of the box, cut and label, then mark board for floor, cut and label, etc. Corners cut from floor provide drainage.

*In lumberyard measurements, a 1-inch thick board is $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick and a 6-inch board is $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide.



Box may be mounted on post, using back extension, or on pipe using pipe flange on bottom of box.



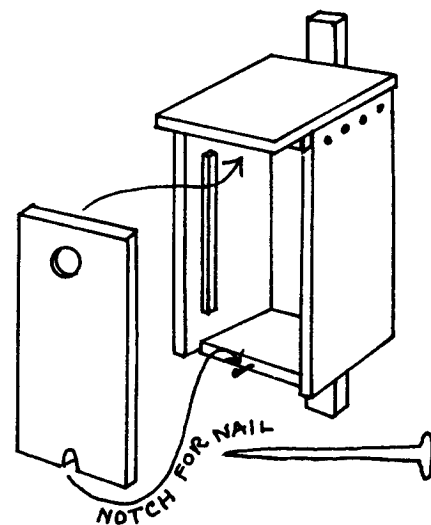


ASSEMBLY

1. Nail a 6"-strip to each side, the thickness of the front in from the edge. For ventilation, drill four 1/4"-holes in each side, 1" below the roof line.
2. Nail the back to the floor.
3. Attach sides. They will be wider than the floor, since the front slides up inside them and flush with their edges.
4. Attach the roof, flush in back and overhanging the front. Use glazing or calking compound as well as nails to ensure a tight, waterproof fit between roof and house.
5. Nail the remaining strip across front of box just under roof, and cut flush with sides.
6. Attach extension to back with screws. Allow it to project 3" at top.
7. Drill 1 1/2" entrance hole in front, center of hole 6" from bottom edge of front.
8. Cut 3/8" notch in middle of bottom edge, and place on box to mark position of nail. Hammer nail into bottom at top of notch.

Stain house *outside* (not inside) if you wish, but remember birds prefer natural wood.

Do not put perch on outside. Instead, scratch wood below hole (outside and inside) with nail or knife.



Bluebird facts: In New England the male Bluebird may arrive first, with the female arriving one or two weeks later. Although arrival occurs in March, not much time is spent at the prospective nesting site. In April, the pair stakes out a territory, and as the weather warms up starts building a nest. Depending on the temperature, the nest may take from a week to a month to build. One to five days after completion, the first egg is laid, and thereafter one egg is laid daily until the clutch is complete (normally 4 or 5 eggs). Incubation begins when the last egg is laid and continues 14 days. The nestlings, fed by both parents, remain in the nest 15 to 19 days. After fledging, the young are cared for by both parents for 10-15 days, but then are left in the care of, the male, while the female renests. The young of both broods may remain together as a family well into the fall.

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