

A Tutorial for Building a Bluebird Nest Box

By Herb Goulden, Photos by Carlyn Duncan, Blueprint by Warren Enns

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Components, dimensions and assembly of the Bluebird nest box commonly used by "Friends Of The Bluebirds"



- Roof made of 3/4 in standard spruce plywood – 10 in wide x 9 in deep
- Back made of either 1 in x 8 in x 16 in spruce board or 3/4 in plywood 7 in wide x 16 in long
- Sides made of 1 in x 6 in x 11 in spruce boards
- Front made of 1 in x 6 in x 11 in spruce board

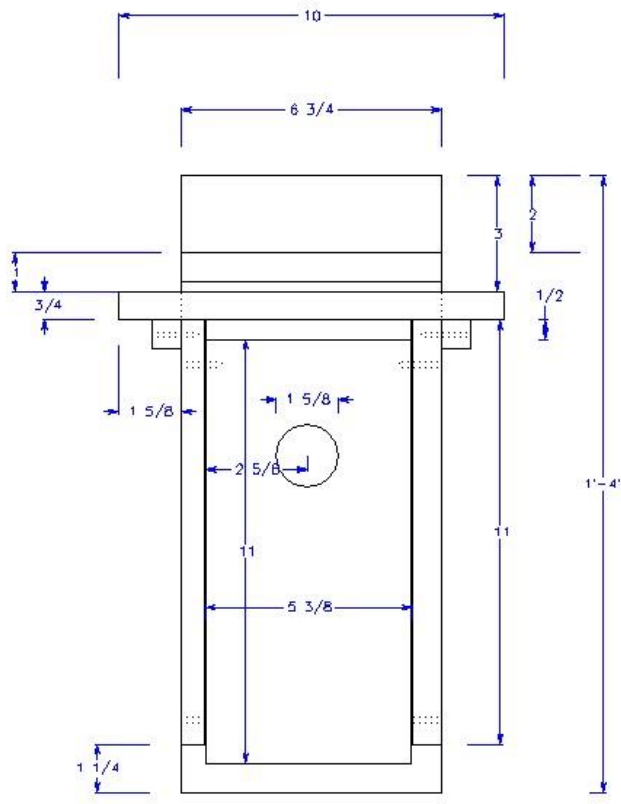
- **Bottom made of either 3/4 in plywood or 1 in x 6 in spruce board. Dimensions 5 1/2 in x 4 3/4 in (may have to cut to fit)**
- **Rain cap made of 3/4 in x 1 in x 7 in spruce board**
- **Cleats made of 3/4 in x 3/4 in x 3 in long spruce board**
- **Door hinge - use 1 1/2 in deck screws**
- **Pins – (3) 3 in coated common nails bent per box**
- **10 to 12 deck screws or common nails 1 1/2 in long per box**

Note: In this document in after a numeral means inch.

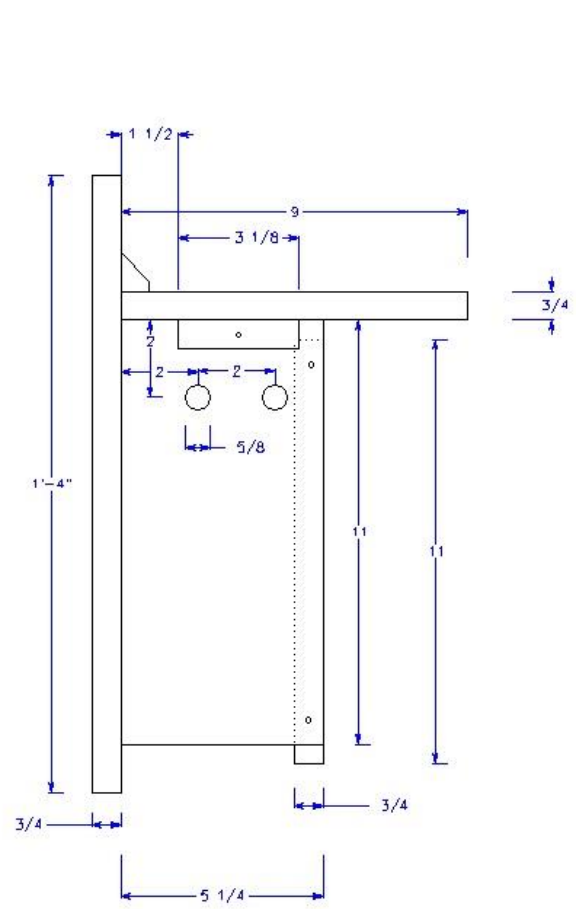
Material Preparation

- **In each side drill two 1/2 in holes 3 in from the top for air flow**
- **In the front panel drill a 1 5/8 in entrance hole located midway between each side and 8 in from the center of the hole to the bottom of the panel**
- **On the inside of the front panel score the board for 4 inches below the hole with saw kerfs (shallow saw cuts) to provide fledglings a means to climb from the nest out of the entrance hole.**

Blueprint for a Bluebird Nest Box



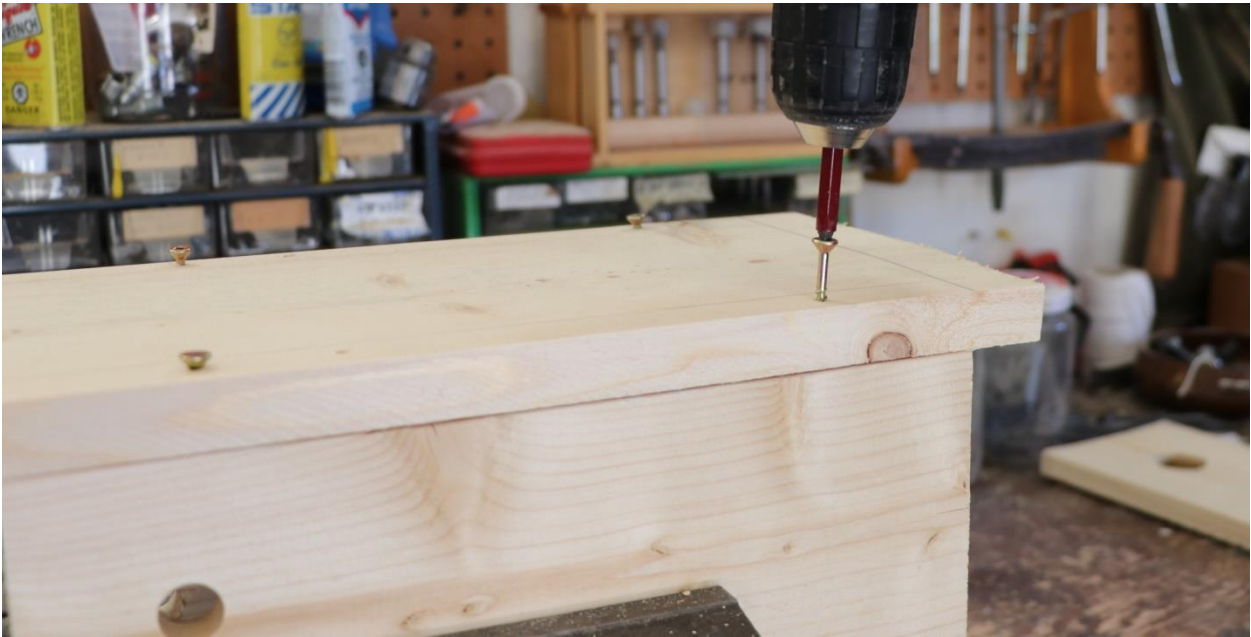
Front View



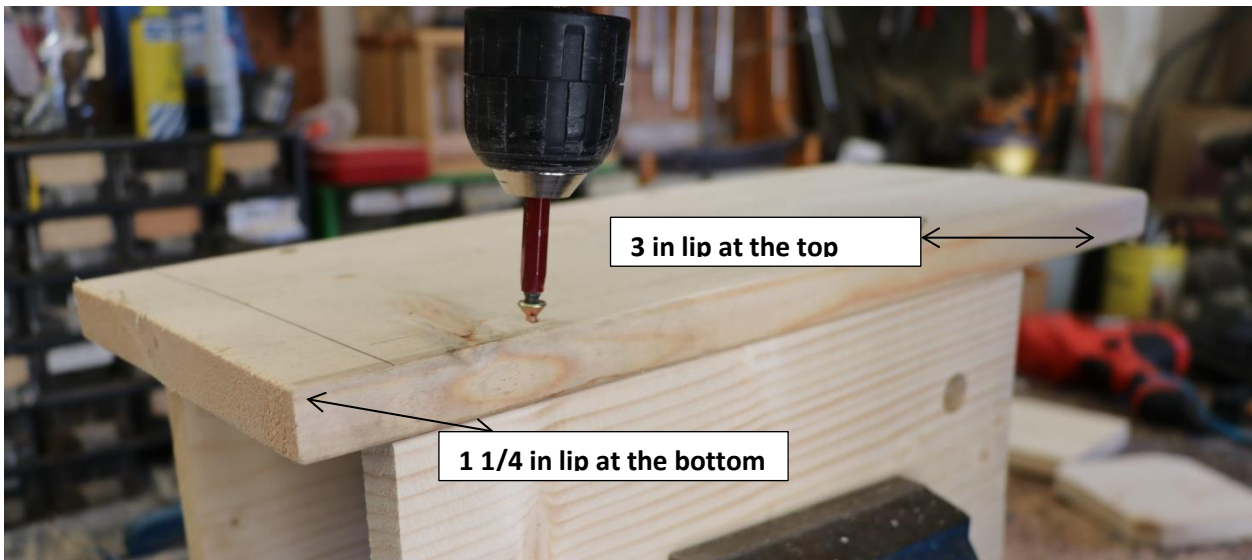
Side View

Tutorial

Attach the back to one of the sides with nails or screws. Leave a about a 3 in lip at the top and a 1 1/4 in lip at the bottom



Attach back to other side



Step 2 – Fit bottom to box --- note corners cut off to allow for drainage



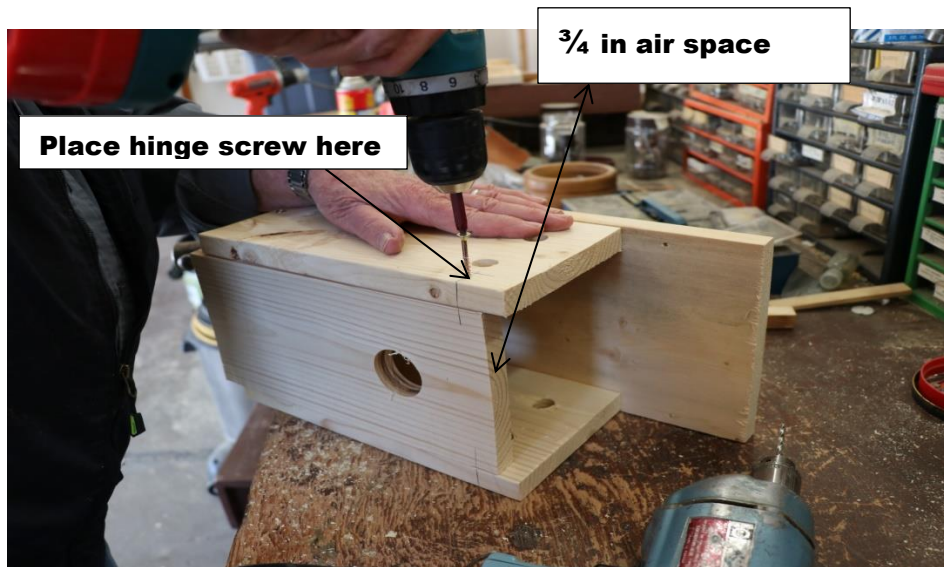
Cut corners to allow for drainage

Secure the bottom to the sides and back



Step 3 – Attach the front to the nest box by placement of the hinge screw. Note air space left at the top of the front

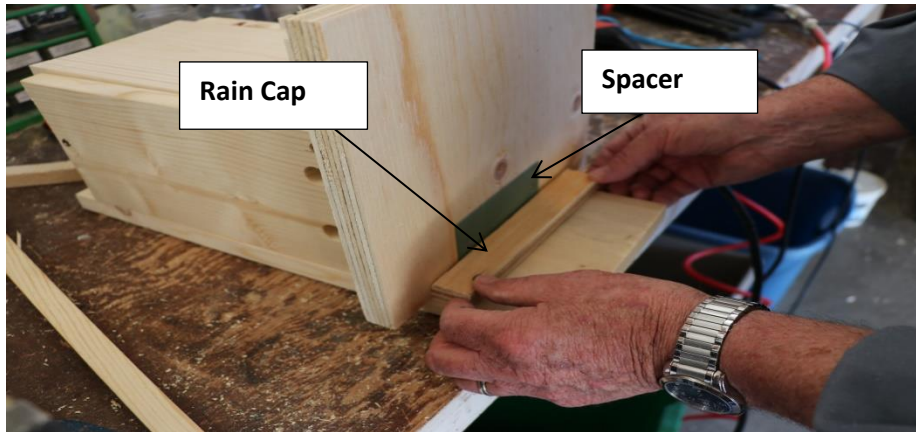
Insert hinge screw for front attachment



Install roof



Insert a temporary spacer between roof and rain cap so that the roof does not fit too tight



Mark the underside of the roof for installation of roof cleats



Secure roof cleat along pencil line shown above



Drill a 3/16 in hole through roof cleat and the nest box for a pin to secure the roof in place as shown below



Drill a 3/16 in hole for a pin to hold the front closed



Drill a 3/16 in hole for a pin to hold the front open in winter



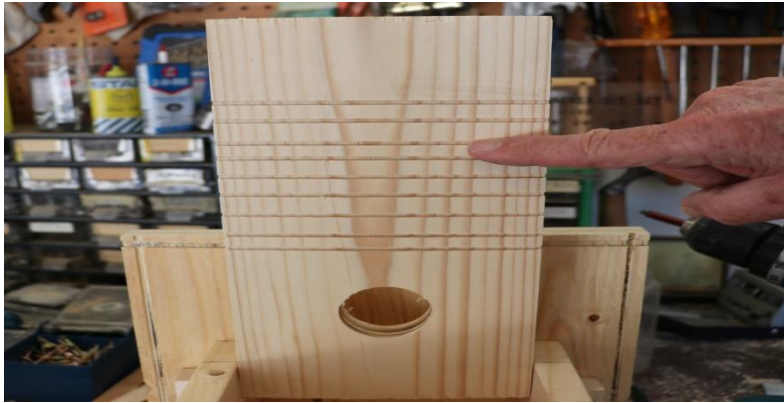
The front is held open after fall nest removal until spring to prevent mice nests



In spring the front is closed and held shut with a pin in preparation for nesting



Note saw kerfs (shallow cuts) to provide a ladder for fledglings to exit nest box when ready.



Drill holes in top and bottom for attaching box to a post



Completed nest box



Remove the roof for monitoring nest production



Front can be opened to clean out nest



Front can be held open by pin for the winter so mice do not build a nest



MATERIALS LIST TO CONSTRUCT FOUR BLUEBIRD NEST BOXES

For sides and fronts for 4 boxes – purchase one 1 in x 6 in x 12 ft spruce board

For backs - purchase one 1 in x 8 in x 6 ft spruce board or obtain 4 pieces of 3/4 in plywood 7 in x 16 in

For roofs obtain 4 pieces of 3/4 in plywood 9 in x 10 in

For bottoms, rain caps and cleats, use materials left when cutting backs, sides and other scrap material on hand

Per box you will need about a dozen 1 1/2 in # 8 Robertson deck screws or 1 1/2 in common nails and three 3 in common nails bent for pins

Prices for materials will vary but are estimated to cost between \$5 & \$6 per box

TOOL SUGGESTIONS

A power saw or hand saw

Power drill with a 1 5/8 inch hole saw or drill bit, a 1/2 in drill bit, and a 3/16 in drill bit.

A #8 Robertson screw driver or drill bit

Hammer and carpenters square