Plans for a Bluebird Nest Box

Making a bluebird nest box can be a wonderful project for any member of the family, or it can be done by school, church, or scout groups. It is also an excellent way to foster interest in birds and the environment.

We have included our own plans for an easily made bluebird nest box. There is nothing wildly unique about it. It just has all of the requisites of an excellent bluebird nest box and is also easy to build.

Directions — The whole box can be built from lumber 1 inch by 6 inches (which actually measures ¾ inch by 5½ inches) by 5 feet long. Pine or cedar boards are good choices. In areas where pine or cedar is not available, ¾-inch plywood can be used.

1. Draw the various pieces to size on the board and cut them out. This can be done with either a hand saw or an electric saw.

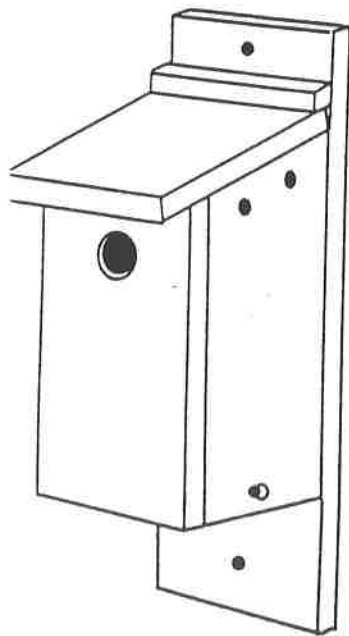2. In the front panel, drill the entrance hole 1½ inches in diameter for eastern bluebirds and 1⁹⁄₁₆ inches for mountain and western bluebirds. Then drill ¼-inch-diameter ventilation holes near the top of each side piece. Next drill a ⅛-inch-diameter hole near the bottom of the right-hand side, where it will overlap the floor; a fastener will go through it and screw into the edge of the floor to keep the side-opening door closed. Finally, drill holes near the top and bottom of the back panel for mounting the box.

3. Nail the pieces together with galvanized nails. Be sure to fasten the right-hand side panel near the top only — one nail through the front of the box and one nail through the back — placing each nail 8 inches up from the bottom. This will allow the side to pivot open on these nails.

4. A small strip of wood can be nailed to cover the seam where the top meets the back, in order to keep rain out.

5. The outside of the box can be finished with a little linseed oil. Let it be totally absorbed and dry before putting up the box.

6. Be sure the side opens smoothly, and then place a fastener, such as a screw eye, through the hole drilled for that purpose and into the floor to hold it closed.

The finished bluebird nest box

Ventilation holes

Left Side

11 inches

9 inches

5½ inches

Ventilation holes

Right Side

9 inches

11 inches

5½ inches

Hole for fastener

Front

5½ inches

9 inches

From the bottom of the
entrance hole to the top
of the floor should be
5½ inches

Top of floor

Back

5½ inches

Mounting hole

16 inches

Mounting hole

Top

5½ inches

9 inches

Bottom

5½ inches

4 inches

Corners are notched