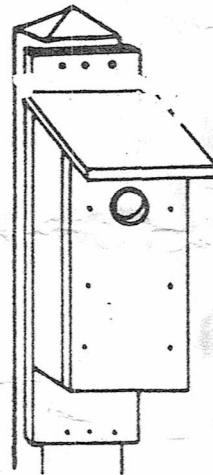
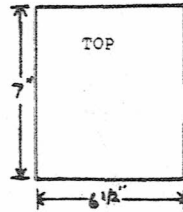
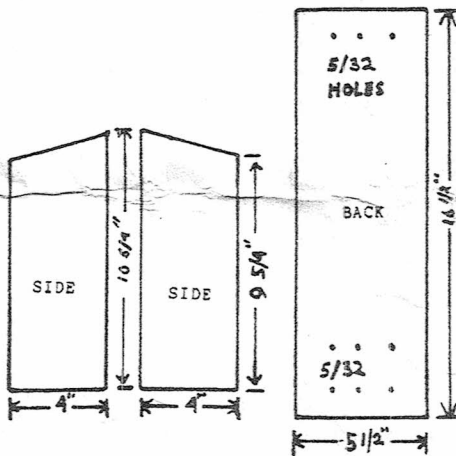
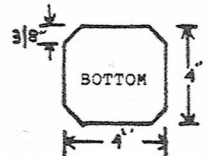
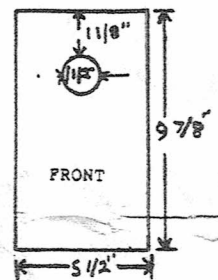
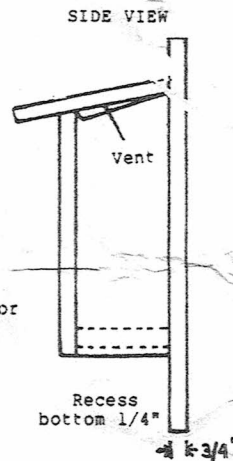




BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX PLANS AND INSTRUCTIONS



Dimensions shown are for boards 3/4" thick



Bluebird nesting boxes should be erected in reasonably open areas since the birds will not nest in the woods and rarely in the deep shade. Best of all is an open area with scattered trees, a considerable distance from buildings, and where the ground is not covered with underbrush or tall grass or weeds. Pastures, fields, open waste lands, large lawns cemeteries and golf courses are usually good locations. Ideally, the nesting box should face an open area with a tree, large shrub or fence from 25 to 100 feet in front of the box. The young birds will usually reach this on their first flight and have a better chance of surviving the first critical hour out of the nest. Bluebirds usually will not nest closer together than about 100 yards.

MOUNTING: By using the small holes shown in the top and bottom extensions of the backboard, the box may be nailed or screwed to the top or side of a wooden post, or it may be bolted or wired to the top or side of a metal post. A smooth metal post such as a galvanized pipe is preferred to a wooden post since it offers better protection against climbing predators, particularly if the post is coated with a soft grease while the bluebirds are occupying the box. A 1/2 or 3/4 inch galvanized pipe threaded at one end can be neatly and firmly attached to the bottom of the box by means of a pipe flange which may be obtained at any hardware store. A bluebird nesting box on a wooden post may be protected from predators by means

of a sheetmetal collar or conical guard 18 or more inches wide attached just below the box. Where predators are not a problem nesting boxes may be mounted conveniently on posts of existing fences, on utility poles (if the utility company permits), or on the trunks of isolated trees (never among the branches). If posts of pasture fences are used the box should be on the side away from the animals. Bluebird nesting boxes should be mounted at a height of from 3 to 5 feet, higher where there is a danger of vandalism. They should preferably be set out by late winter.

RACCOONS: A raccoon guard made of a small board 1 1/2 inches thick with a 1 1/2 inch hole helps to control raccoons and other large predators. This guard is attached firmly to the front of the box so that the hole coincides exactly with the entrance hole in the box. Extra deep nesting boxes are also helpful.

SPARROWS: The common house sparrow, an introduced foreign bird, is one of the worst enemies of the bluebird. Sparrows are discouraged to some extent by the small floor size of the bluebird nesting box, by mounting the box rather low (3 to 5 feet), and by locating the box at a considerable distance from buildings or other places where sparrows to congregate. If sparrows do use the nesting box their nests should be removed repeatedly, daily if necessary, during the nesting season.

MAINTENANCE: Bluebirds nests should be removed from the boxes as soon as the young have left since this will increase the chances of second or third broods being raised in the same boxes. The boxes should be inspected, cleaned, and repaired if necessary in late winter each year, making sure that the drain holes in the floors are open.

THE NORTH AMERICAN BLUEBIRD SOCIETY: