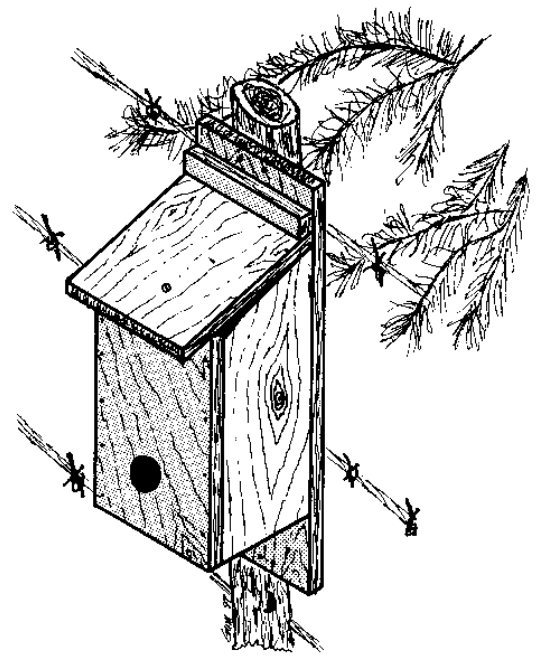


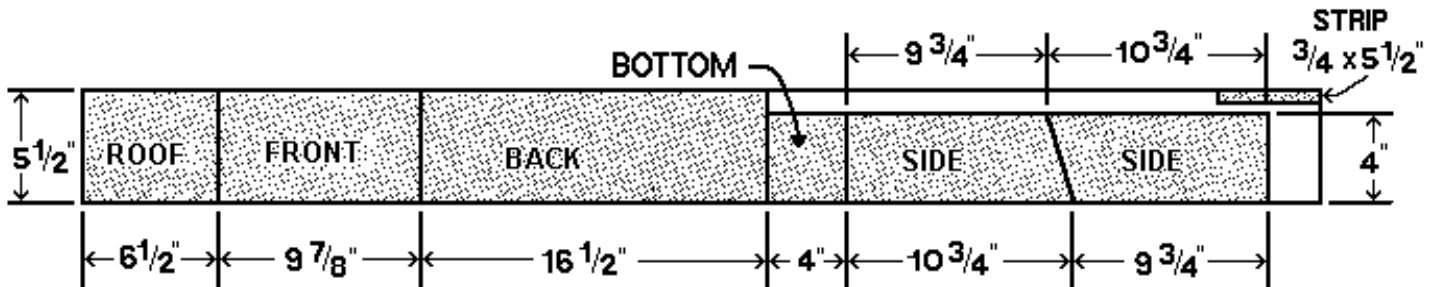
HOW TO BUILD A WINTER ROOST BOX



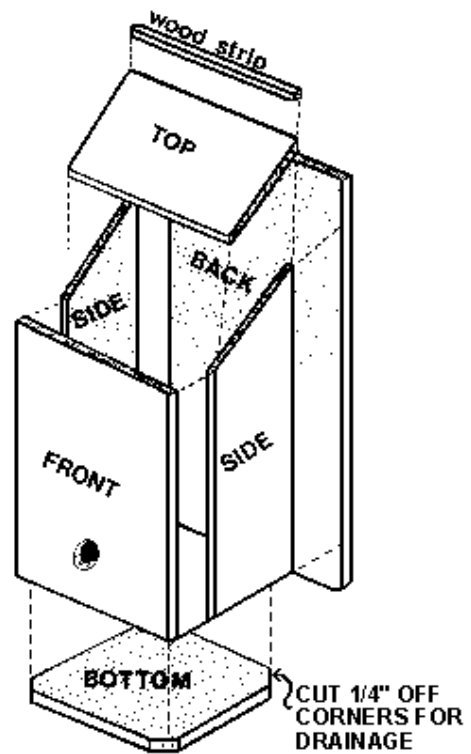
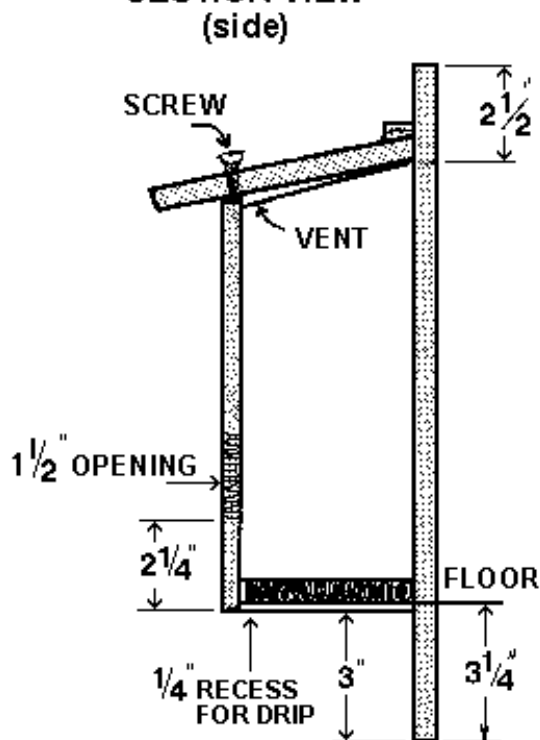
Drawings by
Steve Gunn

Missouri Department of Conservation

ALL PARTS FROM A SINGLE 1 X 6 BOARD 5' LONG



SECTION VIEW
(side)



CONSTRUCTION:

If using rough-sawn cedar, use the rough side for the box interior, which will give the birds something to cling to. Or you can add interior perches by drilling four holes into, but not through the interior of the sides and insert pieces of dowel rod.

The top may be mounted on a hinge, or a 1/2" dowel may be substituted for the hold-down strip for the roof. If the beveled corners on the bottom are omitted, drill four 1/4" holes for drainage. Note that the front edges of the sides are 1/8" shorter than the roosting box front. The resulting rack provides ventilation. The 1 1/2" hole size is important since it keeps out starlings and cowbirds. Painting is not necessary, but if you do paint, light grey or tan is preferred.

When winter ends, rotate the front of the box so the hole is at the top and remove the perches...and you have a bluebird nesting box!

INSTALLATION: Mount your box 4 to 6' high on a post and face the entrance towards the nearest large tree or shrub. Bluebirds like open or lightly wooded country. If you put up more than one box, space them at least 100 yards apart. When the box is being used for nesting, clean it out as soon as the young have left and chances are good that the adults will use the box again for a second or even third brood. Clean and repair the box every February.

While this box is designed for bluebirds, it may be used by wren, chickadees, titmice, tree swallows or even flying squirrels. If you want to try for some of these species, place the box in trees 10 to 15' above the ground in wooded areas.