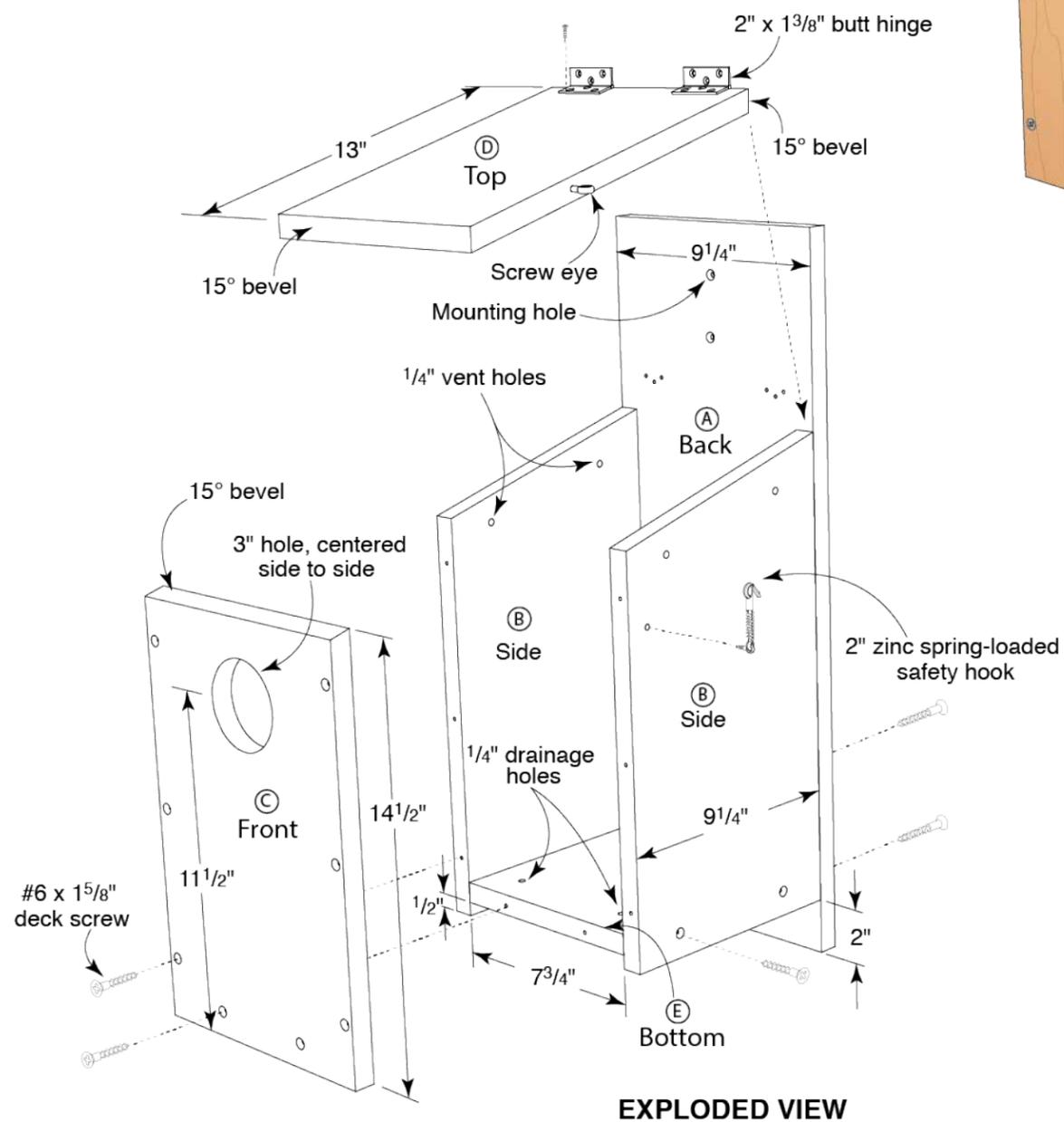
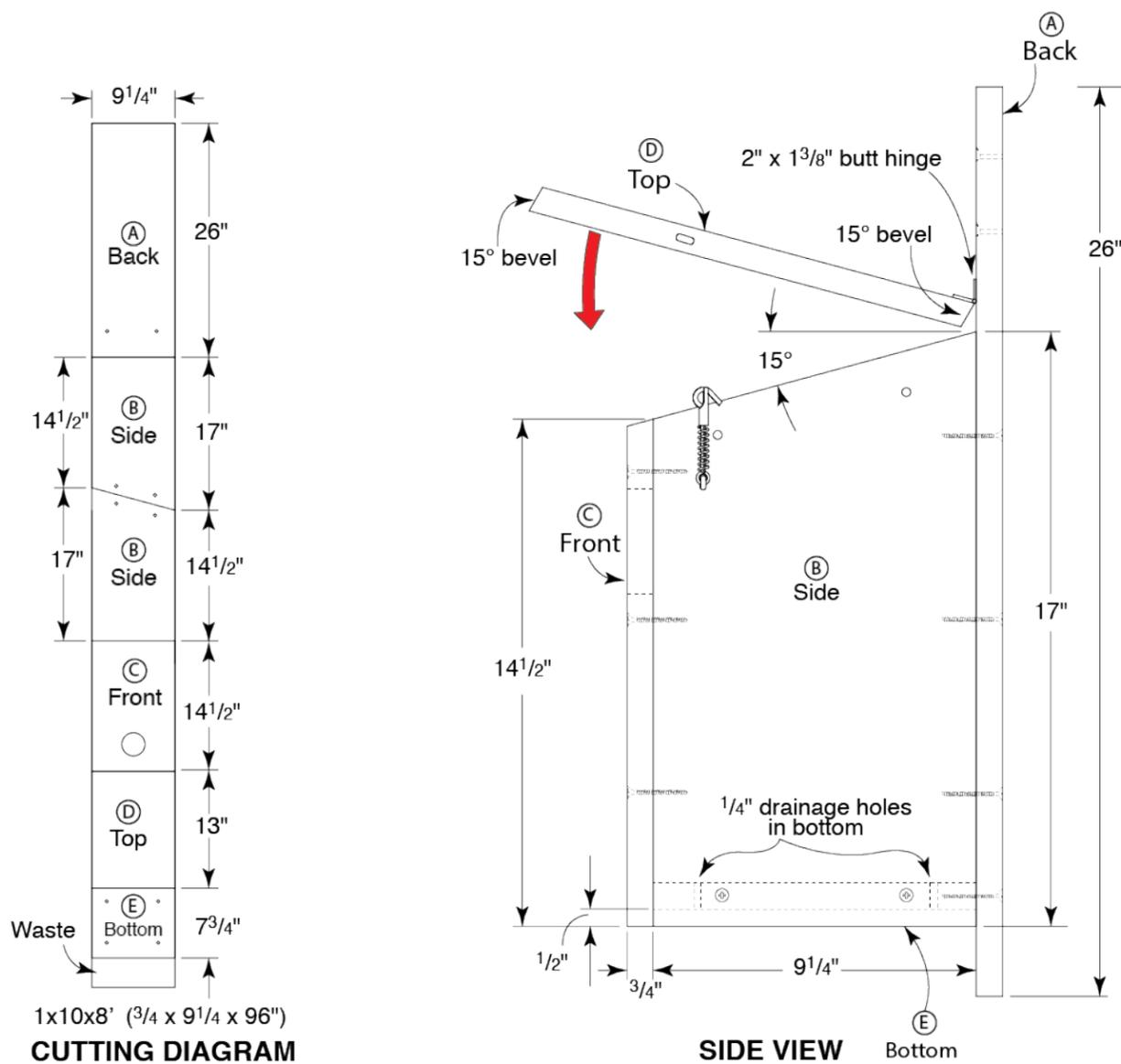


### MATERIALS LIST FOR AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX

	Parts	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Pieces
A	back	3/4"	9 1/4"	26"	C	1
B	sides	3/4"	9 1/4"	17"	C	2
C	front	3/4"	9 1/4"	14 1/2"	C	1
D	top	3/4"	9 1/4"	13"	C	1
E	bottom	3/4"	9 1/4"	7 3/4"	C	1

Choice of cedar, redwood, cypress, or painted white pine



# Nest Box Building Instructions

1. Cut pieces according to the plan drawing. Measure from the bottom of the front piece 11 ½” up and cut out the 3” entrance hole with the center of the hole lining up with the 11 ½” mark.
2. Measure and drill four ¼” drainage holes in the floor piece.
3. Place the sides on the back piece for assembly. Mark and pre-drill pieces. Attach sides to the back piece with wood screws.
4. Recess the floor piece ½” from the bottom to reduce wicking water infiltration. Pre-drill holes for the floor piece, then screw to the sides.
5. Attach the pre-drilled front piece to the sides and to the floor. Be sure that the front piece is aligned with the angle of the sides at the top, as this allows for a tight fitting roof.
6. Place the roof piece on top of the sides and make sure that it is centered. Attach the hinges to the roof so that they are equal distance apart from the edge, approximately 1” from the edge of the roof. Attach the hinges to the back piece.
7. Install spring-loaded hook and eye closure (as pictured in the diagram). The hook is attached to the upper left side of the box, and the eye is attached to the left side of the top so the hook fits into it.
8. Drill two mounting holes in the back piece (as shown in the diagram) so the nest box can be attached to a pole.
9. Finish the exterior with a low-to-no VOC exterior water-based semi-transparent light-colored stain or paint. Do not stain or paint the interior areas. Apply two coats on the roof. Allow stain or paint to dry before installing nest box.
10. Using the two pre-drilled mounting holes, attach the nest box to a wooden pole with screws or to a metal pole (with matching spaced pre-drilled holes) with bolts.

credits:  
research and publication design by Rachel Kehoe, MLA 2019, Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture and Bruce Ehresman.  
text editing and graphic design: Bruce Ehresman, Julia Badenhope, Chad Schultz.  
nestbox design by Marleen Kemnect and technical drawings by Roxy LeMoine.  
images by Alan Vernon - American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)....1 of 3Uploaded by Snowmanradio, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=12111096>

Published with the support of:  
Iowa Ornithologists' Union, [iowabirds.org](http://iowabirds.org)  
Bird Friendly Iowa, [birdfriendlyiowa.org](http://birdfriendlyiowa.org)  
& Iowa State University

## American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

North America's littlest falcon, the American Kestrel packs a predator's fierce intensity into its small body. It's one of the most colorful of all raptors: the male's slate-blue head and wings contrast elegantly with its rusty-red back and tail; the female has the same warm reddish hue to her wings, back, and tail. Hunting for insects and other small prey in open territory, kestrels perch on wires or poles, or hover facing into the wind, flapping and adjusting their long tails to stay in place. Kestrel numbers are declining in many parts of its range, and it is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Iowa. You can help it by putting up nest boxes.



## Habitat Needs

### Best Locations for Nest Boxes:

- open grassland habitat, with a few large live or dead tree cavities for nesting and roosting habitat
- old farm woodlots, surrounded by nearby vegetation that harbor small mammals, grasshoppers, and small bird prey
- place the nest box on a pole or post 8-10 feet above ground
- place a metal predator guard beneath the nest box
- the side of a building, as long as predators cannot access the nest box
- orient the nest box opening toward the east or southeast, if possible
- add 1-2 inches of wood chips inside the nest box to provide nesting material, since kestrels do not build nests

### Nest Box Locations to Avoid:

- edge of large woods to avoid larger predators
- near smaller bird houses or bird feeders
- Avoid facing the nest box north to lessen impacts of winter storms.