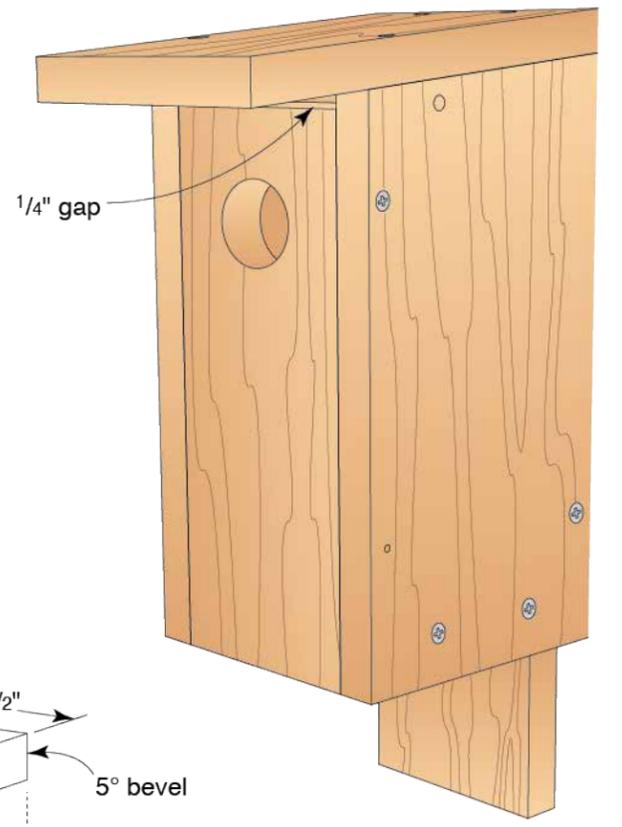
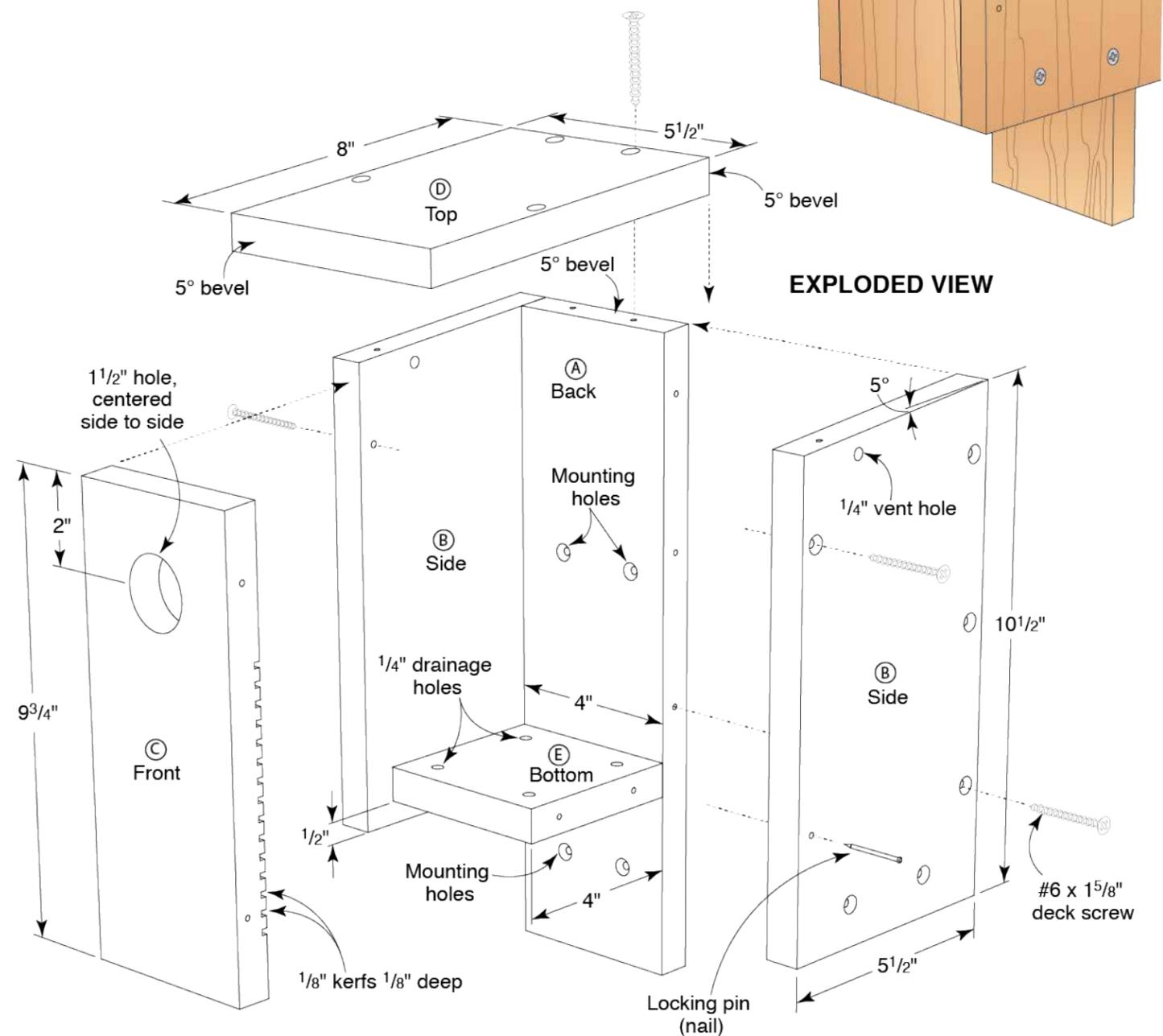
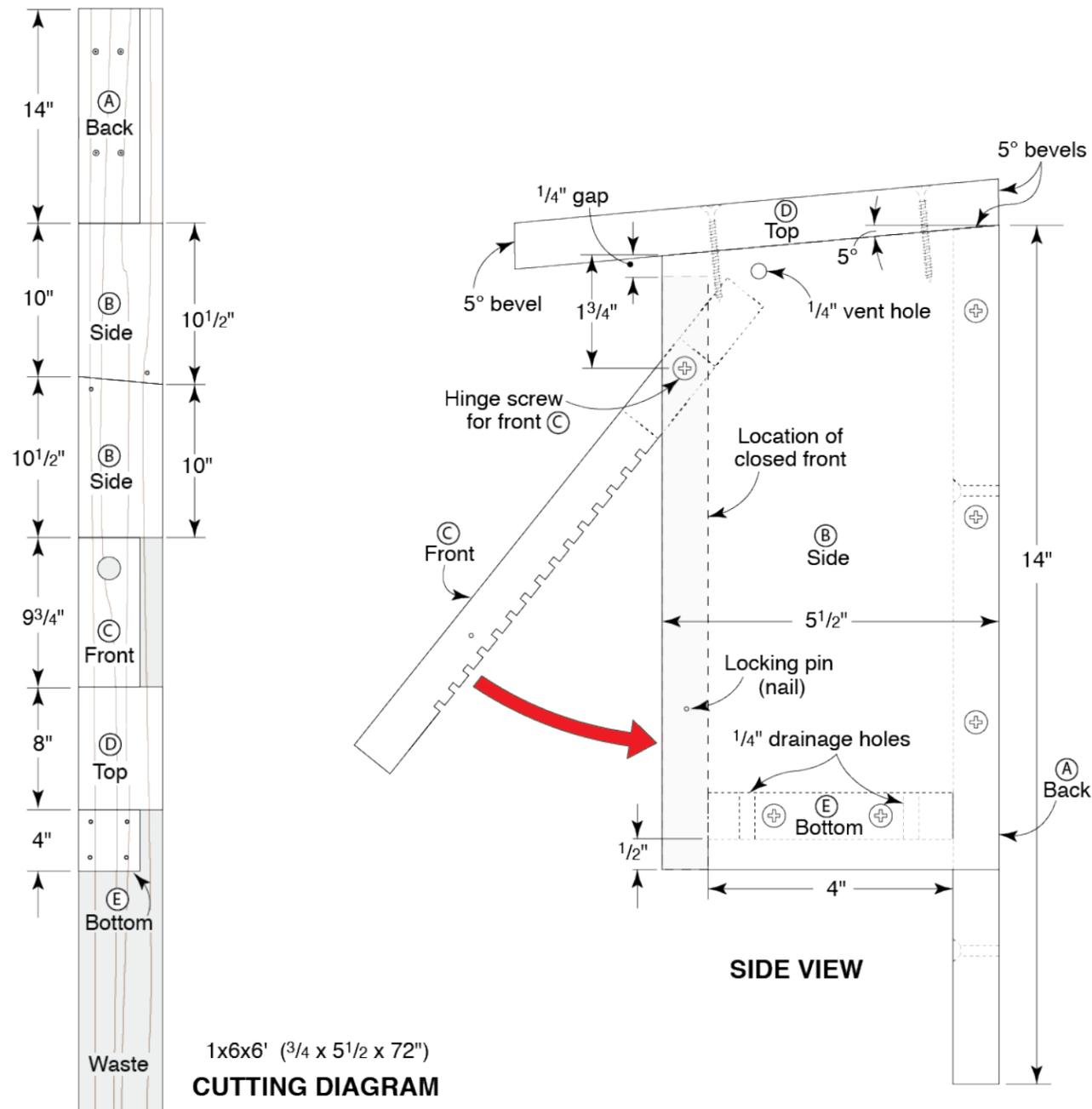


### MATERIALS LIST FOR BLUEBIRD NESTING BOX

Parts	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Pieces
A	3/4"	4"	14"	C	1
B	3/4"	5 1/2"	10 1/2"	C	2
C	3/4"	4"	9 3/4"	C	1
D	3/4"	5 1/2"	8"	C	1
E	3/4"	4"	4"	C	1

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



# Nest Box Building Instructions

1. Cut pieces according to the plan drawing, including 1/8" kerf cuts 1/8" deep on the inside of the front board (as indicated in the diagram). Measure from the bottom of the front piece 7 3/4" up and cut out the 1 1/2" entrance hole with the center of the hole lining up with the 7 3/4" mark.
2. Measure and drill four – 1/4" drainage holes in the floor piece, as depicted in the first diagram.
3. Place the sides on the back piece, for assembly, so that the angled side pieces slope downward toward the front. Mark and pre-drill pieces for attachment, as shown in the second diagram. Attach sides to the back piece with #6 x 1 5/8" wood or deck screws.
4. Recess the floor piece 1/2" from the bottom to reduce wicking water infiltration. Pre-drill holes for the floor piece in the sides, then screw the sides to the floor piece.
5. As shown in the first diagram, pre-drill one hole in each side 1 3/4" down from the bottom of the top board, for front piece attachment to the sides. Attach loosely with screws, since the front also is the access door to check contents of the nest box. As shown in the diagram, be sure to leave 1/4" space down from the bottom of the top board, when the front piece is attached, so that the front door does not bind on the top when opened.
6. Place the roof piece on top of the sides and make sure that it is centered. Pre-drill holes in the top and attach to the sides and back with screws.
7. Drill one 1/4" vent hole in each side (about 3/4" down from the top) as shown in the first diagram.
8. Drill four mounting holes in the back piece (as shown in the second 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 four 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.

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## Eastern Bluebird *Sialia sialis*

Bluebirds historically nested in cavities of old oaks and elms, across the plains in savannas and along forest edges. Lacking the tools of woodpeckers and squirrels, the bluebird is a secondary tenant, waiting for these excavators to create (and then leave) suitable nest cavities. Today most of these old stubs and snags are gone, cut for fuel, cleared for farm ground, or removed because they were deemed unsightly. Deprived of nesting sites and their short-grass hunting grounds, the bluebird needs our help re-establishing safe and secure nesting sites.

## Habitat Needs

### Best Locations:

- savanna habitat, with short to medium height grassland as ground cover
- large live or dead tree cavities available to provide nesting and roosting habitat
- in winter, native red cedars provide both cover from harsh weather and berries that bluebirds can eat to survive
- orchards, green golf courses bordered by large trees, or backyards, when part of a larger savanna landscape
- place the nest box on a pole or post ~five feet above ground
- place a metal predator guard beneath the nest box
- nest boxes also can be mounted on the side of a building
- orient the nest box opening toward the east or southeast

### Locations to Avoid:

- large woodlands or in cultivated areas lacking grassland and trees
- avoid facing the nest box north to lessen impacts of late winter/early spring snowstorms.