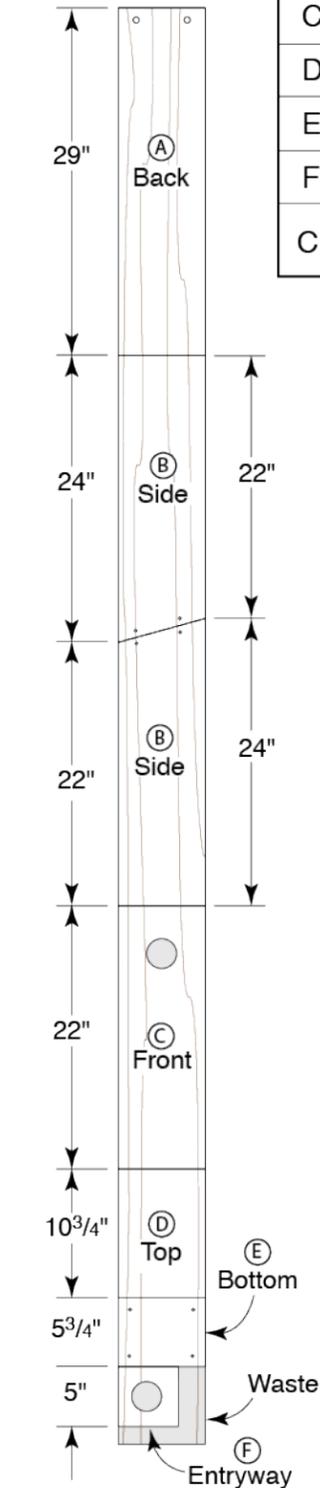


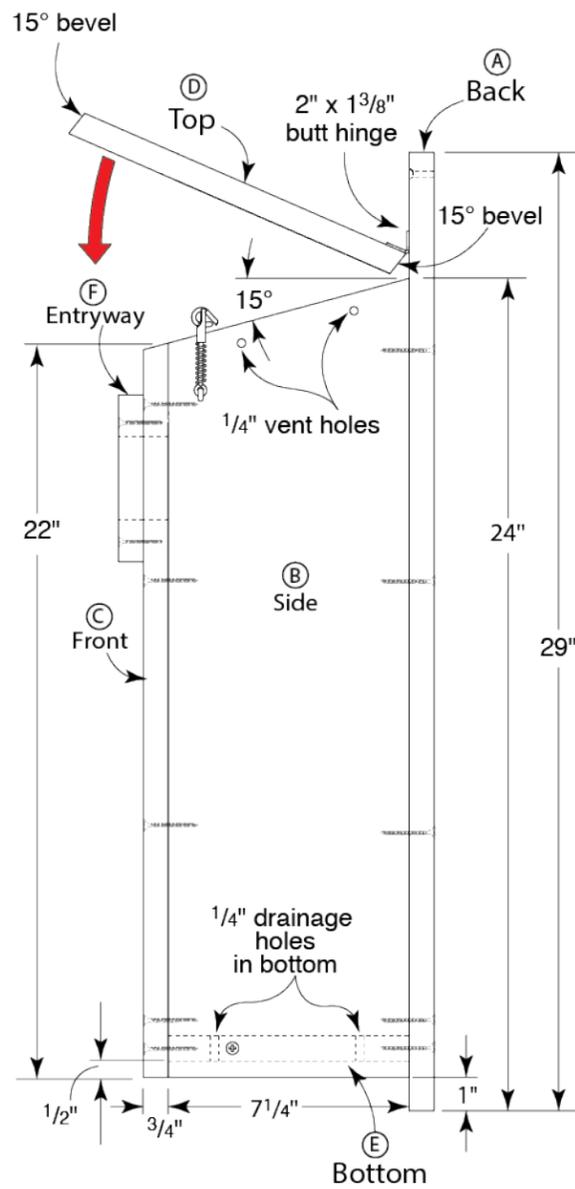
**MATERIALS LIST FOR NORTHERN FLICKER NESTING BOX**

Parts	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Pieces	
A	back	3/4"	7 1/4"	29"	C	1
B	sides	3/4"	7 1/4"	24"	C	2
C	front	3/4"	7 1/4"	22"	C	1
D	top	3/4"	7 1/4"	10 3/4"	C	1
E	bottom	3/4"	7 1/4"	5 3/4"	C	1
F	entryway	3/4"	5"	5"	C	1

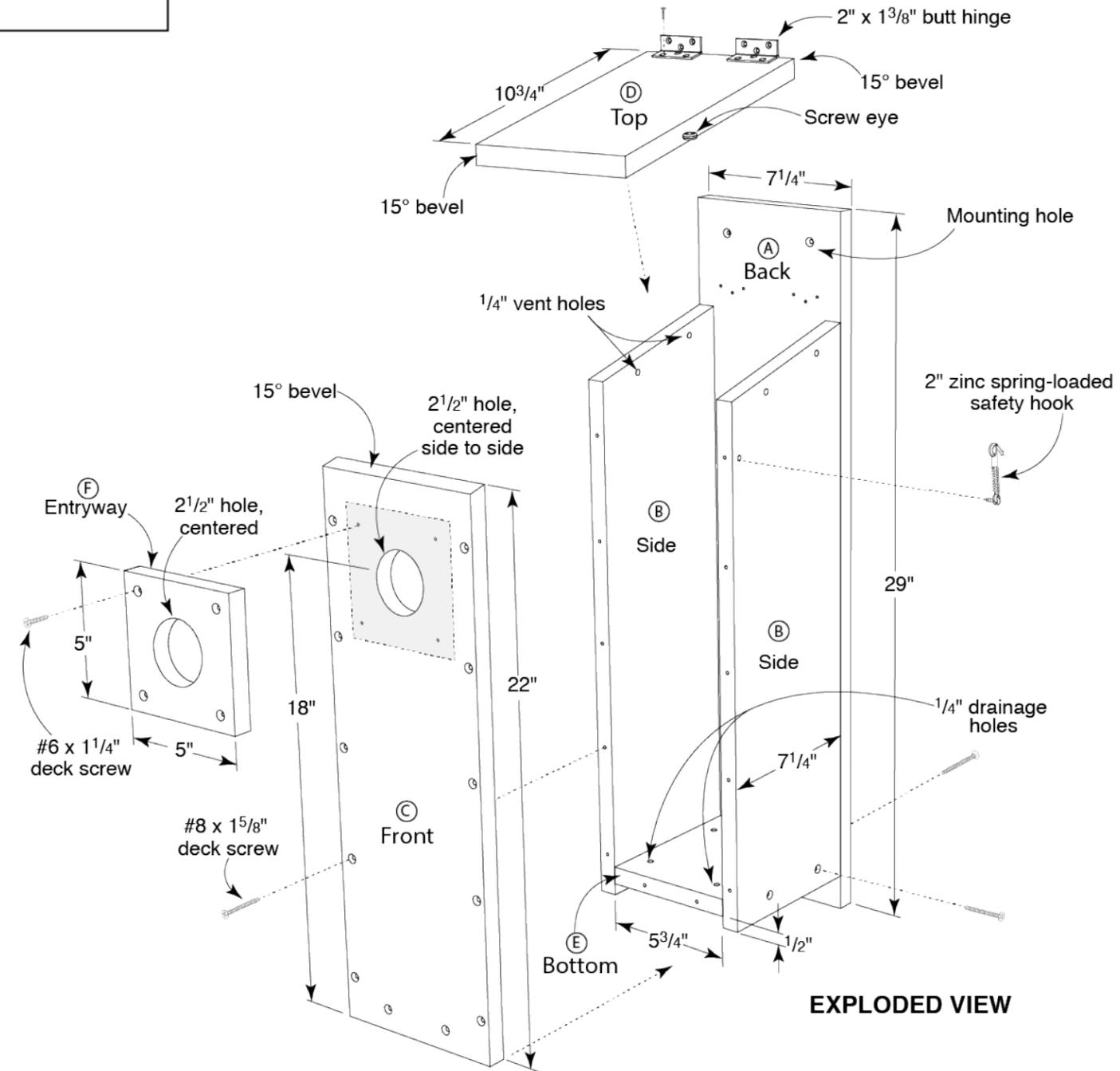
Choice of cedar, redwood, cypress, or painted white pine



**CUTTING DIAGRAM**



**SIDE VIEW**



## Nest Box Building Instructions

1. Cut pieces according to the plan drawing. Measure from the top of the front piece 4” down and cut out the 2 1/2” entrance hole, with the center of the hole lining up with the 4” mark and centered equally from both sides of the front piece. Center and cut out a second entrance hole in a 5” square piece. Pre-drill holes, then attach this entryway to the outside of the front piece, centering one entry hole over the other.
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 the sides to it.
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 or dead tree with screws. If attaching to a live tree, string vinyl coated wire through the mounting holes on the nest box and form a loop large enough to suspend the nest box from a limb, with the nest box resting against the trunk of the tree.
11. Fill the entire nest box with wood chips, and flickers will “excavate” enough chips to provide a suitable nesting cavity.

### credits:

research and publication design by Taylor Danger, 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 Mike's Birds - Northern Flicker Uploaded by Magnus Manske, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21096174>

Published with the support of:

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

## Northern Flicker *Colaptes auratus*

Northern Flickers are large, brown woodpeckers with gentle expressions and handsome black-scalloped plumage. During walks don't be surprised if you scare one up from the ground. This isn't where you'd expect to see a woodpecker, but this is normal behavior for flickers who mainly eat ants and other insects, probing and hammering in soil with their powerful bills.

When flickers fly, you'll see a flash of color from under their wings – yellow if you're to the east of the Rocky Mountains, red if you're to the west – plus you'll notice a white flash from their rump patch. Northern Flicker numbers have been significantly declining for several decades, and it is a species of Greatest Conservation Need in Iowa. You can help these cavity-dwellers, who are more apt to utilize nest boxes than other woodpeckers, by building and installing your own nest box.

## Habitat Needs

### Best Locations for Nest Boxes:

- forest edge, open woodland and savanna habitats
- short grass or bare ground that provides access to foraging on ants
- excavated nesting cavities in large dead standing trees
- readily occupies nest boxes than other woodpeckers
- place the nest box on a pole or isolated tree 10-20 feet above ground
- place a metal predator guard beneath the nest box
- orient the nest box opening toward the east or southeast

### Nest Box Locations to Avoid:

- placing the nest box low to the ground
- avoid placing the nest box in a tree where squirrels or other predators can reach it
- avoid facing the nest box north to lessen impacts of winter storms.

