

Homes For Wildlife

American Robin

One of Minnesota's most enjoyable backyard bird species is the American robin. It is a welcome sight in the spring, its song is beautiful, and it provides great enjoyment for people as it raises its young each summer. Their grassy nest is lined inside with mud, and the eggs are bright blue.

A robin nesting shelf can be placed on a wall by a window where the robin family can be easily seen. Or the nesting shelf can be placed on the trunk of a tree about 6-to-10 feet above the ground. The nesting shelf can be left unpainted, or it can be painted an earth tone.

Remove the robin's nest after the young leave as robins build a new nest each year.

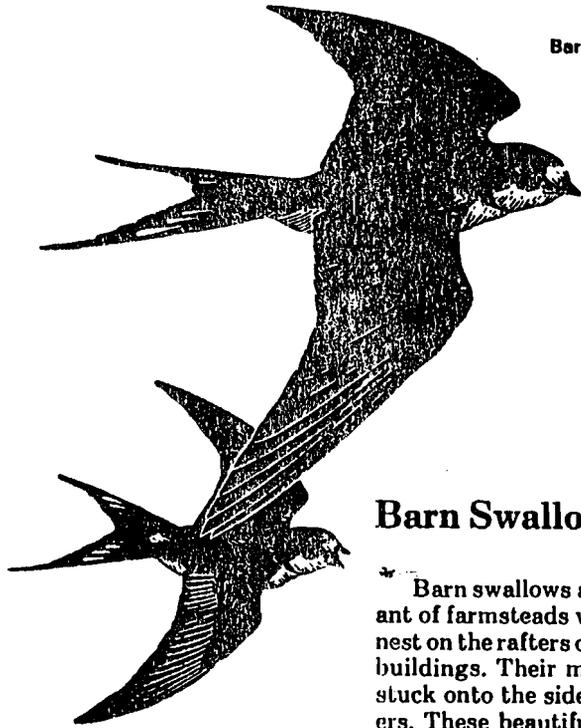


Eastern phoebe

Eastern Phoebe

The eastern phoebe is a small gray songbird which usually feeds on insects while flying over water. Phoebes sit on low branches overhanging the water of a pond or creek; then make a short abrupt flight out over the water to catch insects.

Phoebes often build their nests on nesting shelves under the eaves of lake homes or cabins. The delicate nest is a beautiful cup-shaped structure made of mosses and lichens. The phoebe's call is a distinctive buzz-like "free-bee."



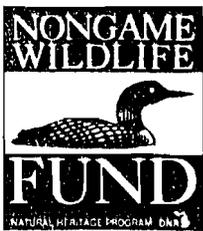
Barn swallow

Barn Swallow

Barn swallows are a common inhabitant of farmsteads where they frequently nest on the rafters of barns and other out-buildings. Their mud nests are usually stuck onto the sides of rough-sawn rafters. These beautiful birds eat flying insects and are characterized by iridescent bluish-black backs, reddish breasts and deeply forked tails.

Barn swallows will also use the nesting shelf illustrated in Figure 6. Sometimes barn swallows are a nuisance because they nest over light fixtures in doorways. Then they "defend" their territory against people trying to pass through the doorway. To solve this problem, staple a small piece of clear plastic above the light fixture after knocking down the nest. The plastic will prevent mud from sticking to the wall. The nest should only be removed after the young have fledged. Then place a nesting shelf nearby on the house or garage wall so it is at least 10 or 20 feet from the doorway.

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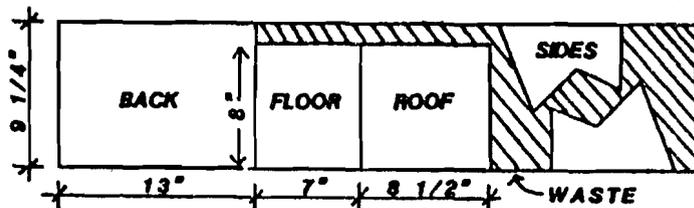
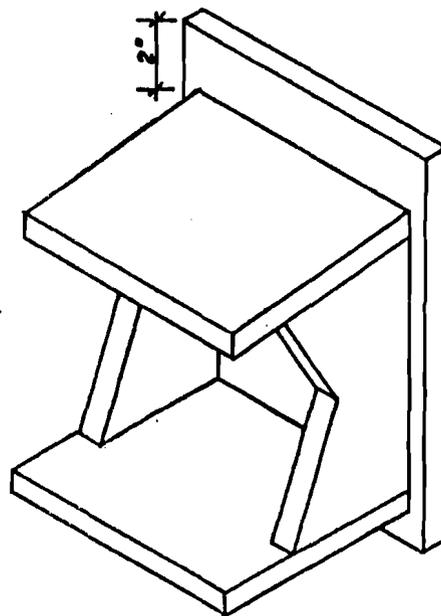
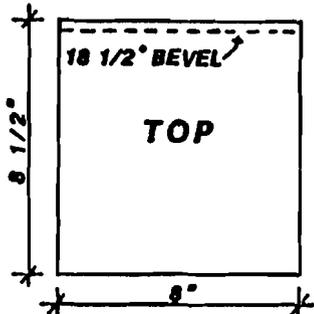
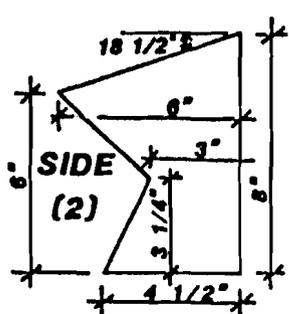
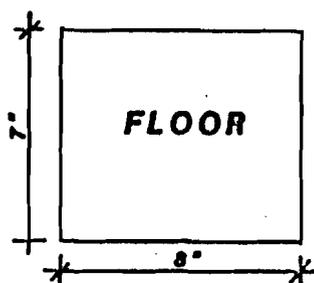
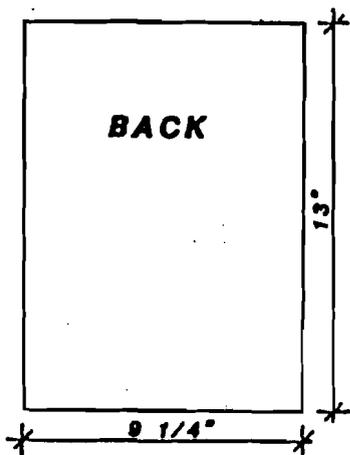
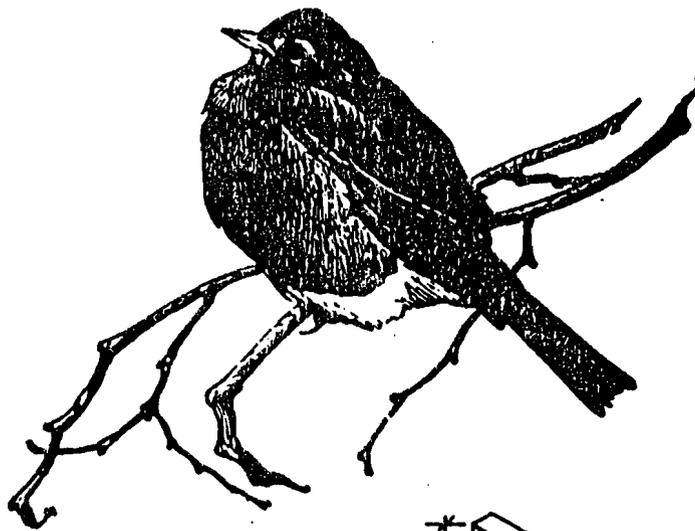
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Your contributions are the primary support for critically important work for Michigan's nongame wildlife and endangered plants and animals.

Acknowledgment:

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Nongame Wildlife Program

**AMERICAN ROBIN
BARN SWALLOW
EASTERN PHOEBE
NEST SHELF**



**LUMBER:
ONE 1" x 10" x 6'0"**