

# Homes For Wildlife



## Tree Swallow

The tree swallow has a snow white breast and beautiful iridescent greenish-black back. It eats flying insects, and nests in all three types of bluebird houses described in the following accounts.

Tree swallows and eastern bluebirds often nest in the same areas. Quite often, however, tree swallows can be attracted to nest boxes in very open farm country that is unsuitable for bluebirds. Nest boxes can be spaced 25 yards apart and they have a definite preference for east facing entrance holes. The nest boxes should be about 4 feet above the ground. Tree swallows are especially abundant near water.

Their nests are often characterized by a feather lining. The eggs are white. The houses should be ready by May 1 and should be cleaned out as soon as the young leave. They generally nest only once each year, but cleaning out the box helps make room for a second brood of bluebirds.

## Great Crested Flycatcher

This fascinating songbird of our hardwood forests, orchards, and parks is grayish above with a yellowish breast. It is more often heard than seen. The call is an ascending loud whistle "Wheeeep!" The nests are often characterized by the presence of shed snakeskins which have been placed there by the flycatchers. The bulky nest also includes twigs, leaves, hair, feathers and bark fibers.

Great crested flycatchers will use the one-board bluebird house in Figure 4, except that the entrance hole should be 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter. Chances of use are best if the house is placed from 10-to-20 feet high. Doug Keran of Brainerd reports that they tend to use nest boxes in pine trees in mixed conifer and hardwood stands.

Newly-fledged flycatchers are a real treat to see. They cling to the side of trees like fuzzy little woodpeckers.

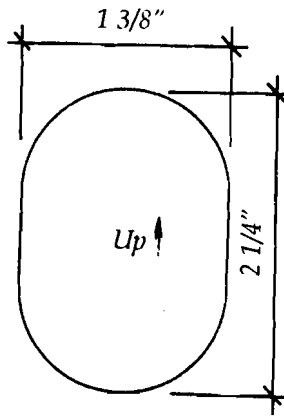
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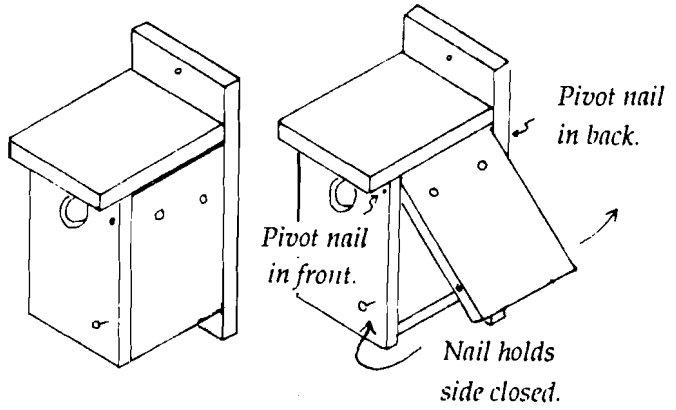
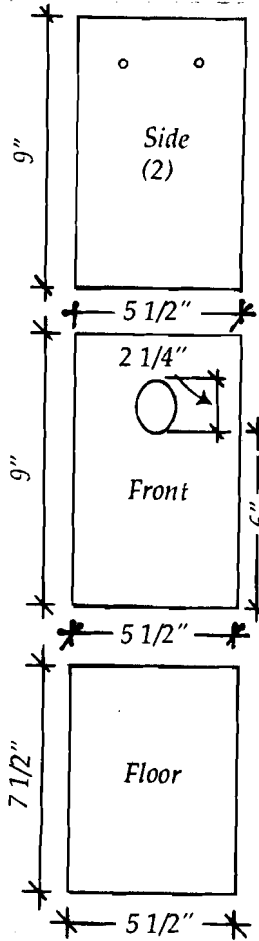
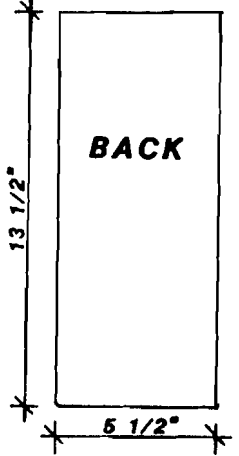
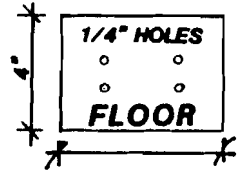
For information or assistance on this publication, contact MDNR, Wildlife Division, P. O. Box 30444, Lansing, MI 48909-7944.

Acknowledgement: Minnesota DNR,  
Nongame Wildlife Program

Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, and Great Crested Flycatcher Nest Box

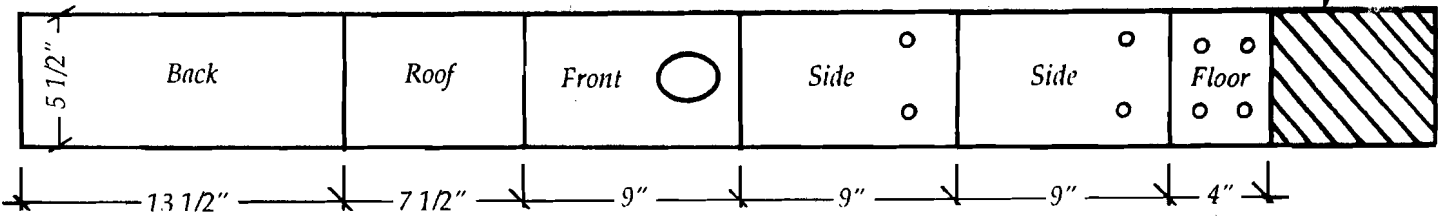


Note: Entrance hole for Great Crested Flycatcher should be a round hole 1 3/4" in diameter.

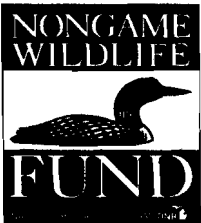


Two "pivot" nails allow side to swing out for cleaning. Use one nail at bottom to close side.

Lumber: One 1" x 6" x 6'



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