

of sight, the distance between can be as short as 300 ft (92 m). Entrance holes also should face south to south-east, away from prevailing winds and storms. Boxes can be wired at top and bottom to posts, poles, or smaller trees or nailed through the holes to large-diameter trees at a height of about 5 ft (1.5 m) for ease in checking. No nesting material need be added to boxes because bluebirds bring in their own nesting material; but boxes should be cleaned out each year after the nesting season by removing debris and old material.

Information on construction and optimum placement of the various kinds of nest boxes can be obtained from State wildlife agencies or conservation organizations, such as the Bluebird Recovery Program, Box 566, Minneapolis, MN 55458; the North American Bluebird Society, Box 6295, Silver Spring, MD 20906-0295; or a local chapter of the Audubon Society.

Table I.11-1—Dimensions (in inches) of nest boxes for several avian species

Species	Diameter of entrance	Entrance height above bottom	Depth of cavity	Bottom of cavity
American kestrel	3.0	12 – 14	14 – 18	8 × 8
Downy woodpecker	1.25	6 – 8	8 – 10	4 × 4
Northern flicker	2.5	14 – 16	16 – 18	7 × 7
Red-headed woodpecker	2.0	9 – 12	12 – 15	6 × 6
House wren	1.0	5 – 6	6 – 8	4 × 4
Bluebird	1.5	7 – 8	8 – 10	5 × 5
Tree swallow	1.5	4 – 5	6	5 × 5
Chickadee	1.25	6 – 8	8 – 10	4 × 4

Note: Entrance should face south to southeast. Height of box is variable: larger birds prefer greater heights (about 10 feet or more), and smaller birds use lower boxes (about 5 feet or more above the ground).

KESTREL NEST BOX

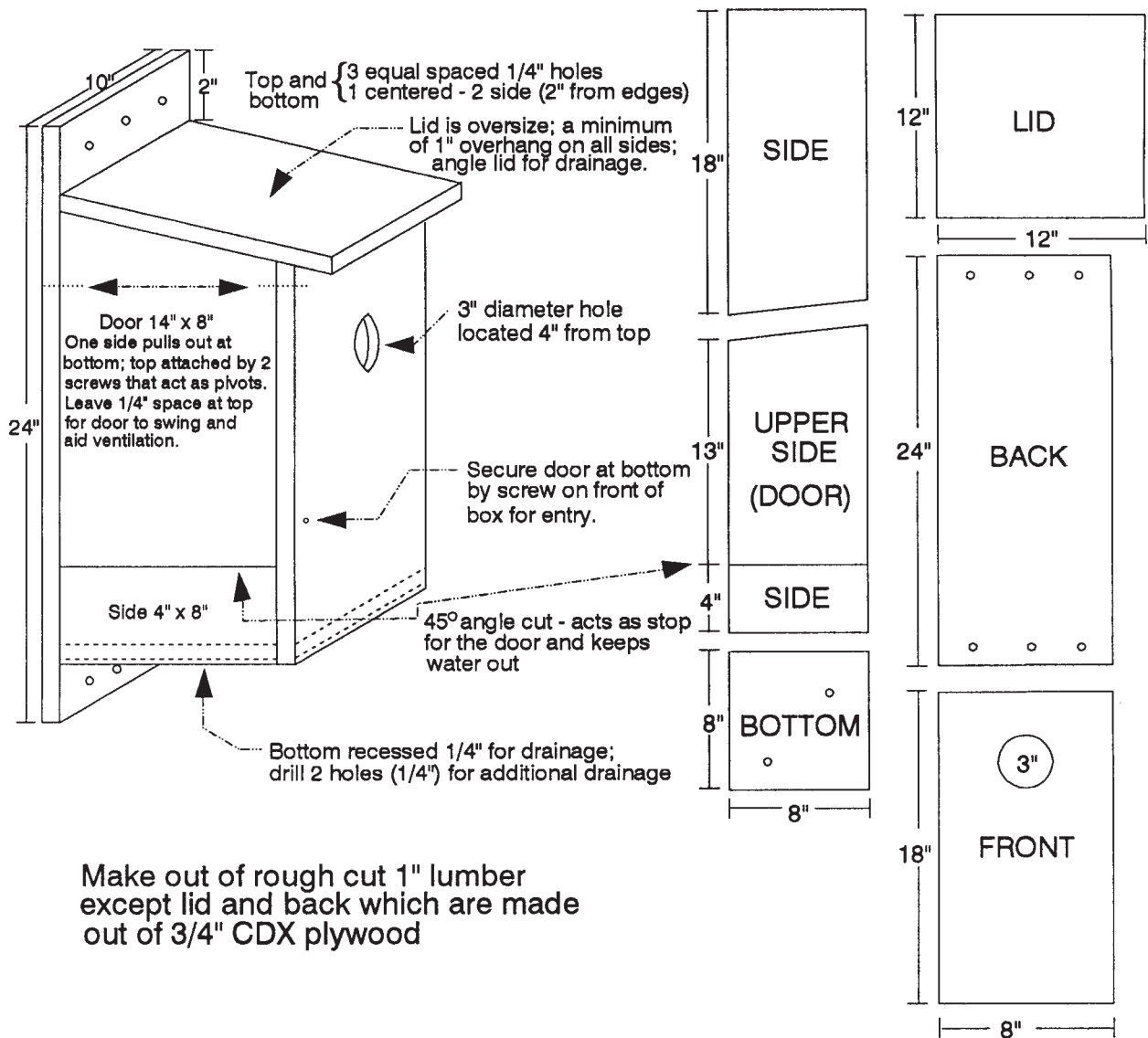


Figure I.11-2—American kestrel nesting box construction plan with dimensions and description of door mechanism. Entrance should face south to southeast, away from prevailing winds and storms. Boxes can be attached to trees, poles, or posts. Optimum height of boxes is a minimum of 10 ft (3 m), but lower attachments can sometimes be successfully used if taller ones are not available.

BLUEBIRD NEST BOX

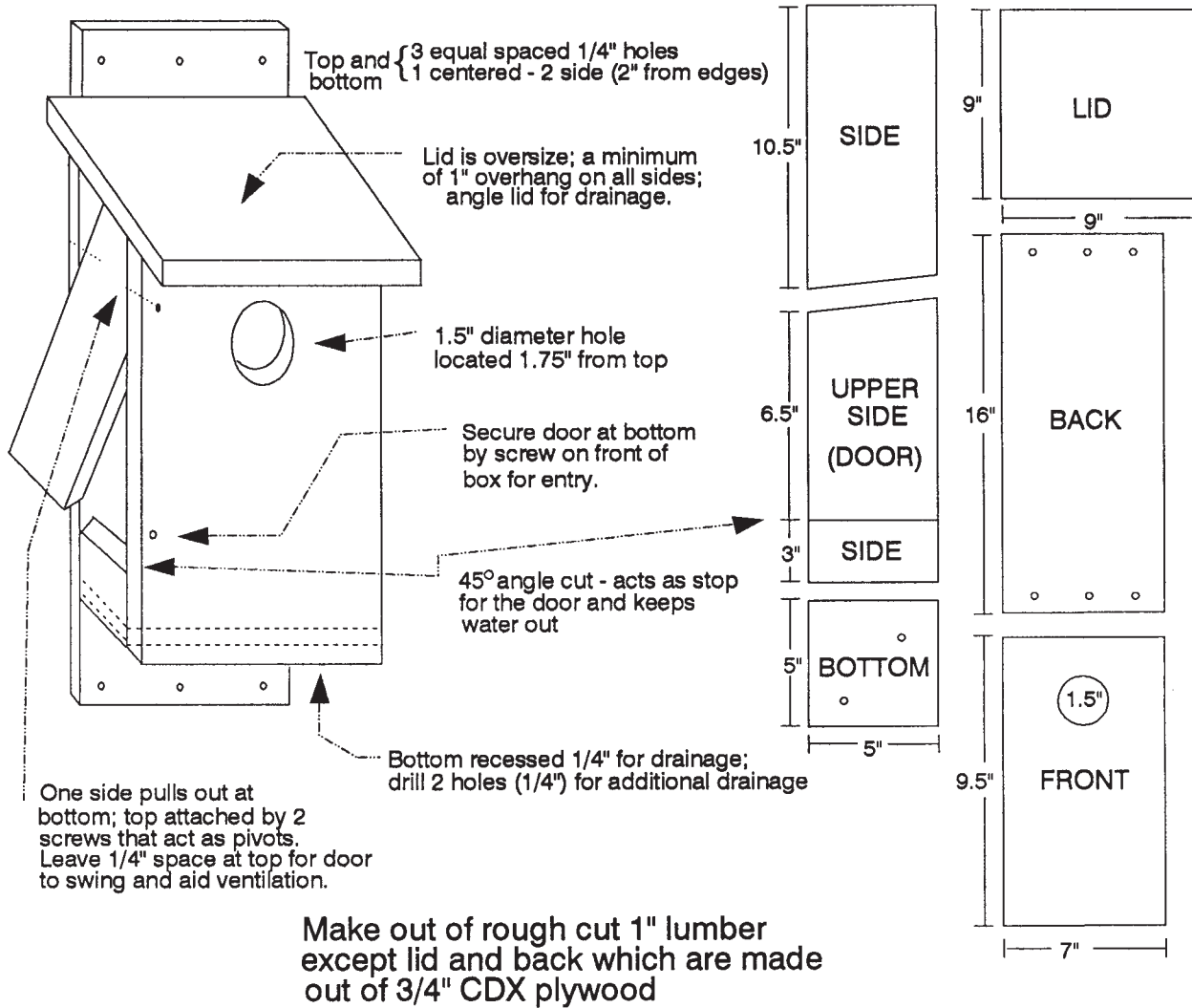


Figure I.11-3—Bluebird nesting box construction plan with dimensions and description of door mechanism. Entrance should face south to southeast, away from prevailing winds and storms. Boxes can be attached to fenceposts, small trees, or poles at preferred heights of 5 ft (1.5 m) or higher.

