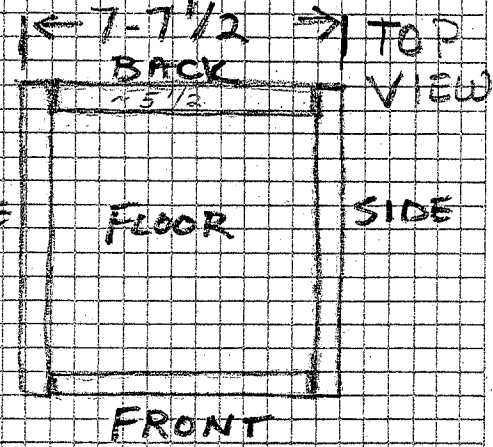
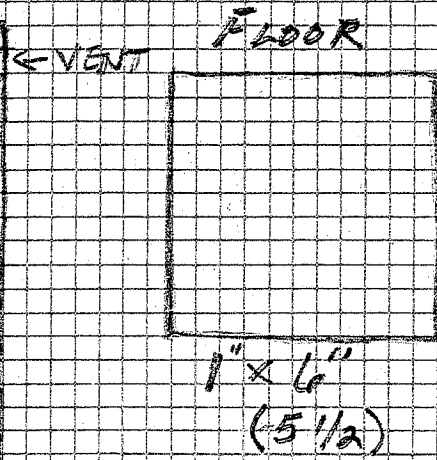
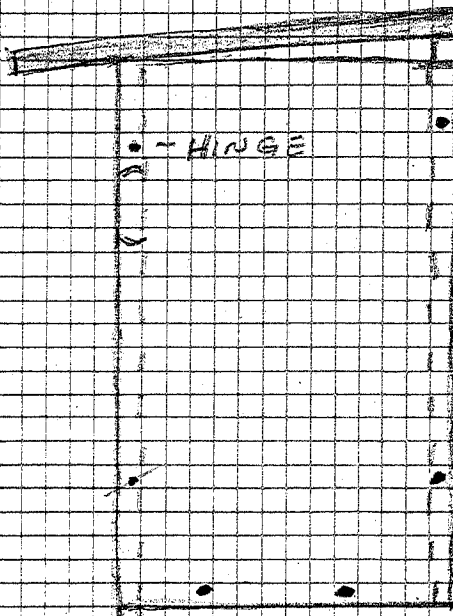
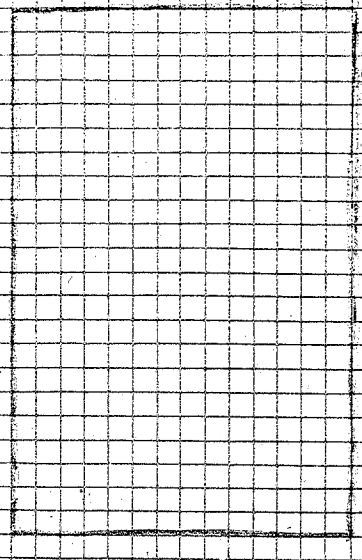
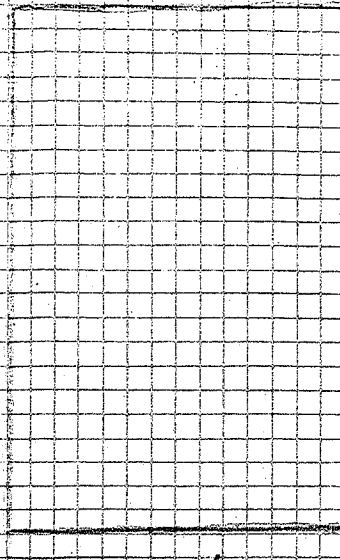
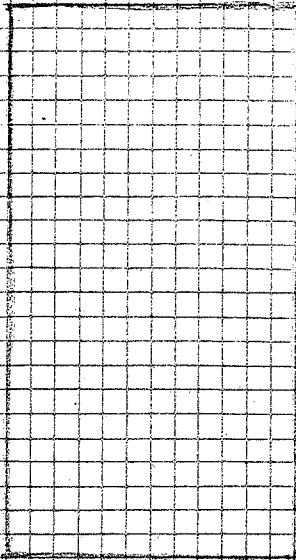
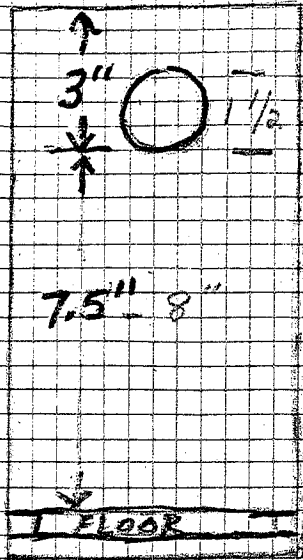


FRONT  
1" x 6"

BACK  
1" x 6"

SIDE  
1" x 8"

SIDE  
1" x 8"

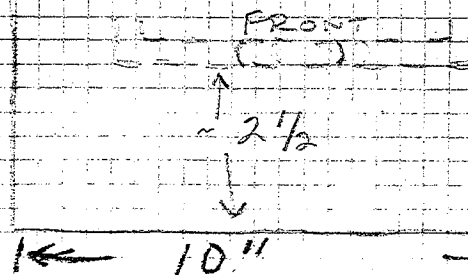


ROOF 1" x 12 (11 1/2)

11 1/2"

ROOF OVERHANG  
~ 2 1/2" = 3"  
IN FRONT

~ 1 1/2" ON SIDES



## PROVIDING AFFORDABLE, ASSISTED HOUSING

Unfortunately many "birdhouses" are not safe or functional for birds.

These are guidelines for "functional" nest boxes – meaning they're actually intended to be used by birds.

### SAFETY FIRST:

There are several details to be aware of that make a "nest box" a SUITABLE "birdhouse".

- One of the most common errors is placing a perch under the entrance hole. Birds that use cavities don't need a perch. However, a perch can assist predators, who will grab chicks out of their nest.
- The size of the entrance hole should be 1½ inches in diameter for most small birds, (1 9/16" is recommended for Western Bluebirds) too small for European Starlings.
- The inside of the box should be scored below the hole, so chicks have a rough surface to hold onto. Do not use wire as birds' toes can get trapped and they hang up side down.
- 7 inches of depth from the bottom of the entrance hole to the floor insures that the nesting material will be deep enough to keep eggs and chicks dry - above the wood surface that may get wet. The birds will be low enough in the box to be safe.
- The floor needs drainage holes and needs to be a *minimum* of 4" x 4". We prefer 5"x 5"- large enough to accommodate a variety of species (such as Ash-throated Flycatcher).
- The wood should be a minimum of ½ inch thick for insulation. Please do not use plastic nest boxes – they provide no insulation or protection from heat or cold.
- Ventilation holes or a gap near the top of the box allows heat to escape on hot days.
- A roof that extends about an inch beyond the sides and 2 inches beyond the front (entrance hole) helps to keep out rain and too much sun.
- The design should be easy to clean out, and cleaned out annually.
- Nest boxes should be placed at least 5 feet above the ground, in a tree or on a pole. You can add height above a fence by securing a pole to the fence or fence post. Boxes should not be placed where predators (cats, raccoons, opossums) can get at them. NEVER set a nest box on a horizontal branch or fence railing. A predator can walk up and reach in, or pounce on a busy, distracted bird. Do not place a box near a bird feeding area – predator birds (even W. Scrub Jays) may also take interest in the contents of the box.
- It's important for fledglings to have a safe place to fly to, such as a tree or bush, so they don't end up on the ground.
- We suggest placing boxes where there is at least some sun protection rather than in the middle of a field in direct sun. Natural cavities are typically in trees and even the walls of a dead tree provide more insulation than a fully exposed next box.

WHO do we hope to attract? We try not to discriminate as long as they're indigenous species. Tree Swallows are just as important as Bluebirds...if there's competition – put up another box! Listed are the species most likely to use small nest boxes in our county...they all eat insects!

\* Western Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Titmouse, Ash-throated Flycatcher, White-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Nuttall's, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers. Some species (especially woodpeckers) may only roost (sleep) but not nest.

\* Slightly larger boxes may attract Western Screech-Owl or Northern Saw-whet Owl, and Acorn Woodpeckers. Larger boxes will likely only be used for roosting and will likely attract European Starlings, so they should be accessible and easy to monitor.

I've (Cheryl) verified 13 avian species in the boxes I've placed

ANY TIME is the BEST TIME to put up a nest box.

Nest boxes are available through Morro Coast Audubon Society (805) 772-1991. MCAS nest boxes are made of re-cycled lumber and assembled by volunteers. 100% of the nest box sales revenue goes to the MCAS general fund.

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR NEST BOXES

SPECIES	Interior floor size of box	Interior Height of box	Entrance Hole Diameter	Mount Box this high (feet)
Chickadees	4 x 4	10-12	1 ½	5 - 15
Titmouse	4 x 4	12	1 ½	5 - 12
White-breasted Nuthatch	4 x 4	12	1 ½	5 - 12
Western Bluebird	5 x 5	12	1 9/16	5 - 15
Tree Swallow	5 x 5	10-12	1 ½	5 - 12
Violet-green Swallow	5 x 5	10-12	1 ½	5 - 12
Downy Woodpecker	5 x 5	12	1 ½	5 - 20
Nuttall's Woodpecker	5 x 5	12	1 ½ - 2	5 - 15
Ash-throated Flycatcher	6 x 6	12	1 ½ - 2	6 - 20
Hairy Woodpecker	6 x 6	14	1 ½	8 - 20

BIRDS WHO MAY USE A CAVITY FOR NESTING OR ROOSTING (sleeping)  
Local – SLO County / Western Region, from Stokes Field Guide to Birds

Wood Duck (uncommon)  
Common Merganser (uncommon)

American Kestrel

Barn Owl  
Western Screech Owl  
Northern Saw-Whet Owl (uncommon)

Acorn Woodpecker (roost)  
Downy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Nuttall's Woodpecker (roost)

Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Purple Martin (uncommon)  
Tree Swallow  
Violet-green Swallow  
Mountain Chickadee (mountain areas)  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Oak Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Pygmy Nuthatch

Western Bluebird  
Mountain Bluebird (mountain areas)

Bewick's Wren  
House Wren

European Starling  
House Finch (occasional)  
House Sparrow

## NEST BOX – MEDIUM SIZE

## HELP REPLACE LOST HABITAT

This nest box will accommodate many species of birds, depending on where it's located: Tree Swallow, Violet-green Swallow, Bluebird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Titmouse, Chickadee, Bewick's Wrens, House Wrens, Downy, Hairy, and Nuttall's Woodpeckers. Some may nest, others may use it to roost (sleep), for protection from cold, rain, and predators. So placing it **anytime of year** is good for our feathered friends!

The number of cavity-nesting birds is limited by the number of natural and woodpecker-excavated tree holes available. Placing nest boxes on your property provides habitat for more birds to nest & roost AND gives you the joy of easily viewing them...good for the birds, good for you!

Place box on a tree trunk or pole at least 5 feet off the ground. It may be mounted to a pole, then secure the pole to a fence or fence post, elevating the box to a safe height. **DO NOT** place the nest box on a horizontal branch or fence / patio rail, making it easily accessible to predators.

Clean out old nests between nesting seasons by loosening the screw in the front, open the door, and pull out the old nest.

This nest box was built by Morro Coast Audubon Society volunteers. Its sale benefits the MCAS General Fund. Used/recycled wood may be used to conserve.