

# Prescott Bluebird Recovery Project

## Nest Box Plans & Instructions

### Standard Front Opening Box

#### Materials

Use 3/4" CDX (exterior) plywood or cedar

Plywood is preferred for roof & back

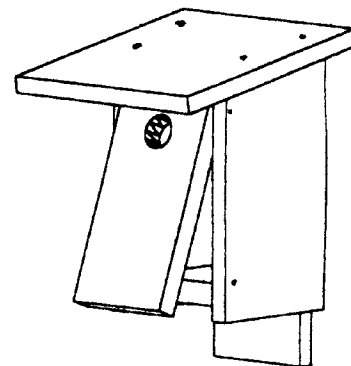
Cedar w/rough side out is best for front

13 - 1 1/2" galvanized deck screws

2 - 1 1/2" galvanized box nails for door pivots

1 - 2" galvanized nail or duplex nail for door latch (use screw for more secure latch)

use a 3/32" or 1/8" drill bit for pilot holes (for best result use bits with built in countersink)



#### Assembly

1. Attach sides: Lay back on table and attach sides to the sides of the back piece using three (3) screws on each side (one in the middle and one each 1" in from top & bottom edge. Make sure top of sides are flush with the top of the back.
2. Attach bottom: Place bottom piece between the sides, 1/4" to 1/2" up from bottom (recessed to keep water from wicking up). Secure with a screw through each side and one from the back.
3. Attach front: Place front piece between sides. Slide front down 1/4" to 3/8" from top edge of sides (for vent & clearance for door to open). Turn box on side & measure down 1 1/4" from top edge of sides. Mark a point. From this point measure into or across the side 3/8". Drill a small pilot hole for the nail & drive nail in. Turn the box on the other side and do the same—be sure to measure in 3/8" and down 1 1/4" so nails are perfectly in line. Drive second nail in. Test action of door to make sure it is fluid and that sides are not too tight.
4. Attach roof: Drill pilot holes & attach with four (4) screws—two toward the back and two toward the front. Let roof overhang 1/4" over the back so a bead of caulk can be applied to seal this seam.
5. Install door latch: Lay box on side. Decide if you want a nail latch for easy access or a screw for a more secure latch. Measure up 1" to 2" from bottom of side of your choice. Drill downward angle (45-degree) through side into the side of the door. Insert nail. If you prefer a screw, simply drill pilot hole & insert.
6. Mounting: We recommend mounting on a 1" to 2 1/2" metal pole (EMT or cyclone fence post to deter predators). Attach to post using two (2) two hole straps that can be purchased in any electrical department of hardware store.

For wooden post or tree mounting drill a 3/8" in hole in back of box at 45-degree upward angle, about 3" to 4" down from the top. Hang the box on a nail then secure by nailing through the bottom of the front of the back piece. Be sure to drill a pilot hole so the box is easier to remove and so as not to split cedar if used.

#### Notes

1. Remember to cut 1/8" deep kerfs in the back of the front piece for toe holds. Kerfs about 1/4" apart.
2. Be sure to cut 1/8" deep kerf on the bottom of the roof (1" up from front) to keep water from wicking up.
3. Center of 1 1/2" entry hole is 7 3/4" up from the floor.
4. The roof & sides have a 10-degree slope.
5. Outside finish: We prefer to keep our boxes natural, but if you want to finish it we recommend using boiled linseed oil cut with a small amount of mineral spirits. This protects the wood & gives a rich finish. Do not finish the interior! If you prefer paint, use a light color because it will stay cooler in the summer.

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## Front Opening Nest Box

