

COLORADO BLUEBIRD PROJECT



BOX CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN

General Information:

A good bluebird box should be well ventilated, watertight, have drainage holes, be easy to monitor and easy to clean. In Castle Rock, the boxes are placed on individual t-posts or along fence lines located on public property, such as a school, park, trail or open space area.



How You Can Help:

The Colorado Bluebird Project in Castle Rock can continuously expand, as many potential areas with bluebird habitat do not have nest boxes. Staff time and budget is limited to build more boxes, but donated boxes are gladly accepted. Scouts or volunteers can build and donate bluebird boxes, or pre-fabricated boxes may be purchased from the Audubon Society of Greater Denver.

Materials & Tools:

- Wood, ¾" or more thick
- Redwood or cedar works best (pine is acceptable if weatherproofed)
- Do not use pressure-treated wood
- Light, neutral colors of paint, stain or clear sealer may be applied on outside of box only, but is not necessary
- Nails or wood screws, not staples, should be used to hold box together
- Zinc-plated spring-loaded locking gate hook and eye or screw hook with eye hardware
- Drill and drill bit

Access:

- Side swing for easier monitoring or cleaning
- Top-opening boxes are allowed but front-opening are not ideal for Castle Rock locations

Dimensions:

- Use 1 9/16" entry hole size due to presence of Mountain Bluebirds
- Do not add a perch
- Floor should be located 8" below the entry hole
- Roof should be slanted down with at least 2" overhang
- Box interior should be at least 5"x5" (or 5 ½" x 5 ½")

Ventilation/Drainage:

- Cut 3/8" off each corner of bottom board for drainage
- Bottom board should be recessed so it is completely covered by the sides and front of box
- Add a vent to the pivoting side board by leaving a ¼" space below the top edge of the side panel

Side-opening box

Other Details:

- Inside of front board should be deeply scored or kerf cut (see photo at right) below hole to help fledglings up to the entry hole
- Sand the inside cavity opening for a smooth entrance
- Wooden guards can be placed around the entry hole but are not needed
- Place pivot nails (or screws) exactly opposite each other for proper opening of side board



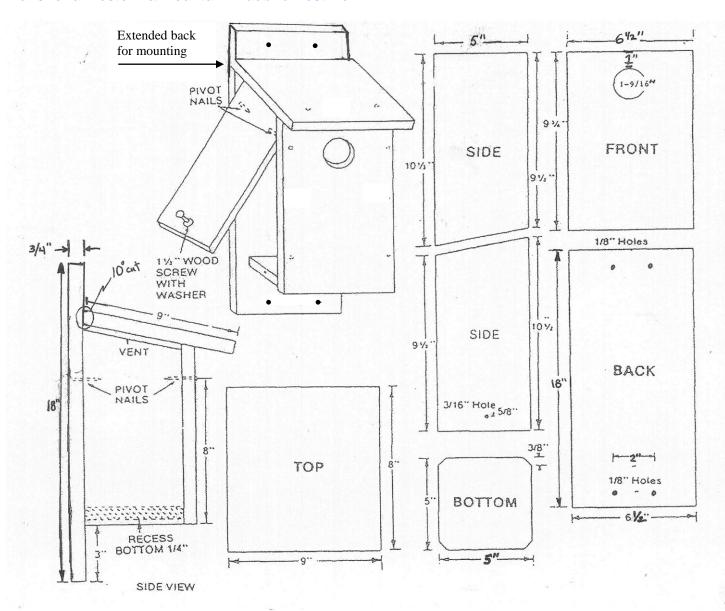
Mounting:

- Back board should be 18" in length for mounting
- Extend the back board beyond the main box body below and above the box for mounting
- Drill two holes approximately 2-3" apart near top and bottom of back board for mounting
- Heavy (14 gauge) galvanized wire is used to secure boxes to t-posts

Specific Materials for One Box:

- 16-20 wood screws (+2 if using screws instead of pivot nails) and 2 pivot nails
- 1 anchor nail or hook and eye locking hardware
- Approximately 36" of wood either 6 ½" or 7" wide
- Approximately 27" of wood at least 5" wide

Plans for a Western & Mountain Bluebird Nest Box:



Additional Information: http://www.nabluebirdsociety.org/nestboxspecs.htm

For more information...

If you interested in learning more about the Colorado Bluebird Project and how you can help locally, please contact Barbara Spagnuolo, Natural Resource Specialist, at 720-733-2294 or bspagnuolo@crgov.com. Also visit www.CRgov.com/bluebird.