

**American Kestrel,
Screech-Owl,
Northern Saw-whet Owl,
Boreal Owl, Bufflehead**



SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Use raw pine or cedar. Do not paint or treat with a wood preservative.

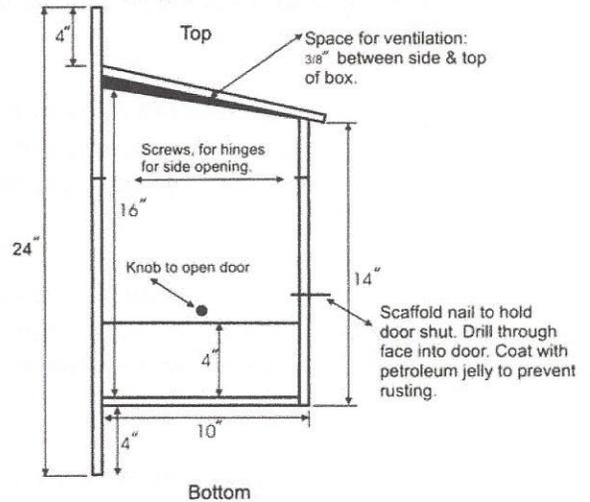
An outside perch is not necessary and may attract other species to the box.

Use 1-5/8" galvanized deck screws for the box.

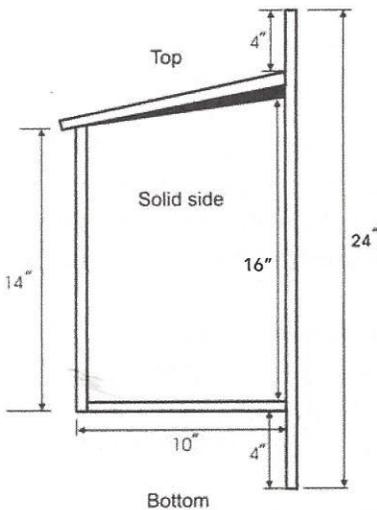
You can place a perch inside (using cutout from entrance) about three inches below entrance hole.

Place 2" of coarse wood shavings (not sawdust) in bottom of box, each year before nesting season.

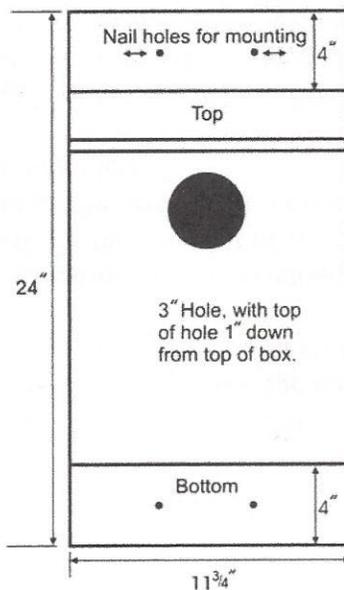
SIDE VIEW WITH DOOR



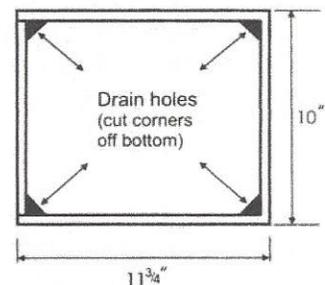
SIDE VIEW OTHER SIDE OF BOX



FRONT VIEW OF BOX



BOTTOM OF BOX



Bottom is inset into sides of box.

Help cavity-nesting raptors in Iowa!

	<i>Eastern screech owl</i>	<i>American kestrel</i>
Natural history	Eastern screech owls are small owls, about 8" tall. Just like the larger great horned owl, both have feather tufts on the top of their head. Screech owls can be grey, reddish, and some biologists think there is a tan or brownish color phase. They live in hardwood forests and older sections of town. While screech owls eat many rodents, they have been known to eat small birds, bats, frogs, crayfish, and insects. When nesting, the female does the work of incubating and caring for the hatchlings, except for brief trips out at dawn and dusk. The male hunts for the female and brood. The young are fed by their parents for 8-10 weeks. Nocturnal, but often hunt at dawn or dusk.	The American kestrel is our smallest falcon. Kestrels can be spotted perched on power lines and fences, bobbing their tail. You might also spot them "hover hunting;" flapping and adjusting their tails to stay in one place. They eat rodents, insects, small birds, and invertebrates hunting the grassy woodland edges, open spaces, and right-of-ways. The male kestrel is more brightly colored with a slate-blue head and wings and rusty-red back and tail. The female has the same reddish color on her wings, back, and tail. Mostly a daytime hunter.
Nesting habitat	Forest, town, open woodland	Grassland, town, open woodlands
Attach nest box to	Live tree or pole with a predator guard (if on a tree, make sure tree is at least as wide as the box)	Building, tree, or post with a predator guard
Known nesting period	Mid-March to mid-June	Mid-April to mid-July
Nest box placement	Height: 10-30 ft off ground Minimum spacing: 100 ft Facing: Any direction, but try for NE to SW	Height: 10-30 ft off ground Minimum spacing: 0.5 mile Facing: NE to SW
Additional notes	Add 2-3" of wood shavings (not sawdust) to the bottom of the box. It is helpful to have a branch nearby for the young to fly to when they leave the nest.	Mount box on lone trees in fields, on trees along edges of woodlots, and on farm buildings. Add 2-3" of wood shavings (not sawdust) to the bottom of the box.
Good to know	Create a series of horizontal saw grooves just under the entrance hole on the inside and outside of the box.	Kestrels are a species in decline in the upper Midwest.

Use the nest box plans on the reverse side! You'll want to use untreated pine or cedar for the box. Lay out the pieces on a 1' x 12' 8' long.



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