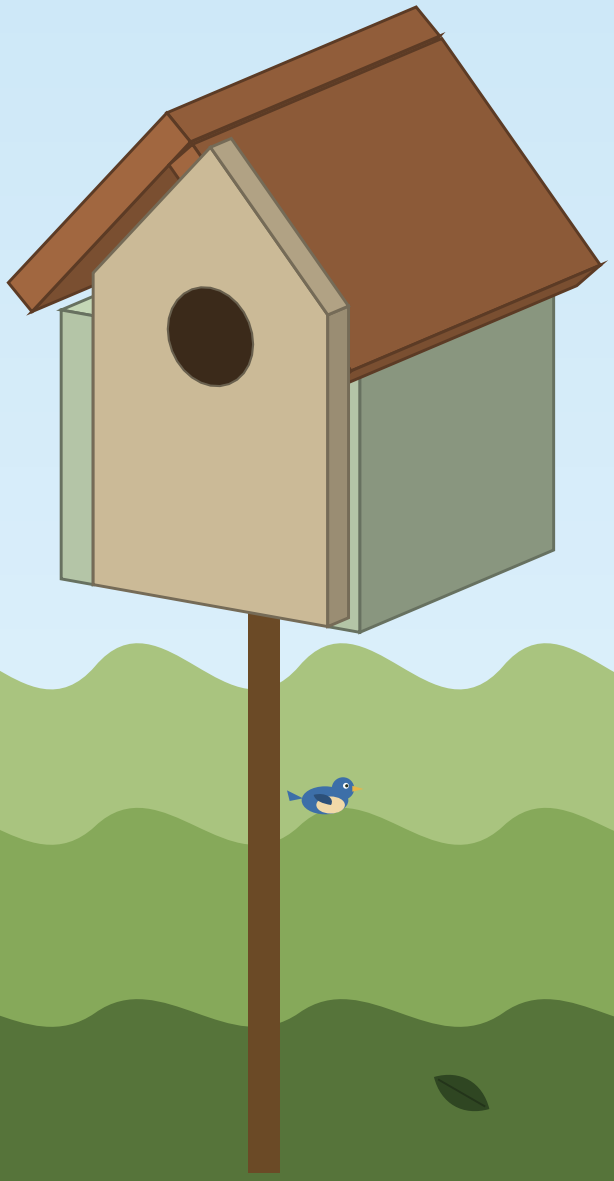
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BIRDHOUSE PLANS

FULL-SIZE TEMPLATES



8 projects you can trace, cut and build from a single 1x6 board, with the right hole for the birds in your yard.

- Actual-size templates with the hole marked
- Hole sizes for 8 North American birds
- Cut list for one 1x6 board, in inches
- 3D drawing + step by step

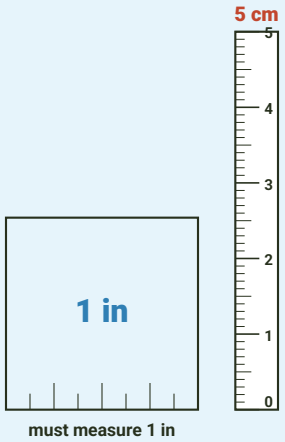
HOW TO USE THE TEMPLATES

The template pages are drawn at real size. If the printer shrinks them, the house will not fit together and the hole will be the wrong size.

PRINT SETTINGS

- **Scale: 100% / Actual size**
  In the print dialog choose Actual size or Custom 100%.
- **Paper: US Letter, portrait**
  8.5 x 11 in. Do not use A4 for the templates.
- **Fit to page / Shrink to fit**
  Turn it OFF. This option shrinks every page by 3% to 6%.
- **Print from a computer if you can**
  Some phone apps rescale PDFs without asking.
- **Test first**
  Print one template page and measure before printing them all.

CHECK THE SCALE



Every template page has this square and bar. Hold a ruler on them: the square must be exactly 1 inch on each side and the bar exactly 5 cm. If not, fix the print scale and print again.

1 — Print and check
Actual size, then measure the 1-in square and the 5-cm bar.

2 — Cut out the paper
Cut on the solid black line. Tape split sheets on the red join line.

3 — Trace on the board
Line up the grain arrow with the board. Mark the hole center with a nail.

4 — Cut, drill, build
Follow the cut list and steps on the project page.

THE 8 PROJECTS

#	PROJECT	FOR	HOLE	PAGE	TEMPLATE
01	Classic Bluebird Box	For Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow	1-1/2"	5	6
02	House Wren House	For House Wren	1"	7	8
03	Chickadee Box	For Black-capped and Carolina Chickadee	1-1/8"	9	10
04	A-Frame Birdhouse	For House Wren	1-1/8"	11	12
05	One-Board Tall Box	For White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker	1-1/4"	13	14
06	Simple Platform Feeder	Open feeder for seed-eating birds	open	16	17
07	Decorative Chalet	For House Finch	2"	18	19
08	Robin Nesting Shelf	For American Robin	open	20	21

TOOLS AND WOOD

Each project comes out of ONE 1x6 board, 6 ft long. Real sizes are smaller than the name: plan with the real ones.

A 1x6 IS REALLY 3/4" x 5-1/2"

- **3/4" walls keep the nest warm and dry (NestWatch).**
- **All templates are 5-1/2" wide or less.**
- **Leave 1/8" for each saw cut.**
- **Buy straight boards with few knots.**



USE THIS WOOD

- **Pine 1x6 (common board)**
  cheap, easy to cut, lasts years outdoors
- **Cedar 1x6**
  resists rot and bugs; costs more
- **Untreated wood only**
  rough side in, so birds can climb

NEVER USE

- **Pressure-treated wood**
  has chemicals; marked "treated" or "ground contact"
- **Stained or preserved wood**
  no creosote, no wood preservative
- **Plywood or particleboard**
  glue layers swell and peel in the rain

HARDWARE

- Galvanized deck screws 1-5/8" (about 20)
- or galvanized nails 6d / 1-1/2"
- Exterior wood glue (waterproof)
- 2 galvanized nails 2" (pivot of the door)
- Screw eye or hanger (some projects)
- Sandpaper 80 and 120

TOOLS

- Tape measure + pencil + speed square
- Handsaw, circular saw or miter saw
- Drill + 1/8" bit to pre-drill
- Spade or Forstner bit / hole saw: 1" to 2"
- Jigsaw (robin shelf curve)
- Safety glasses + clamps

SAFETY AND GOOD HABITS

- **Glasses on, every cut**
  and hearing protection with power saws.
- **Clamp small pieces**
  never hold a short piece by hand near a blade or a spinning bit.
- **Drill the hole before you build**
  the piece lies flat on a scrap board, so the bit exits clean.
- **Pre-drill every screw**
  a 1/8" pilot hole keeps 3/4" boards from splitting at the ends.

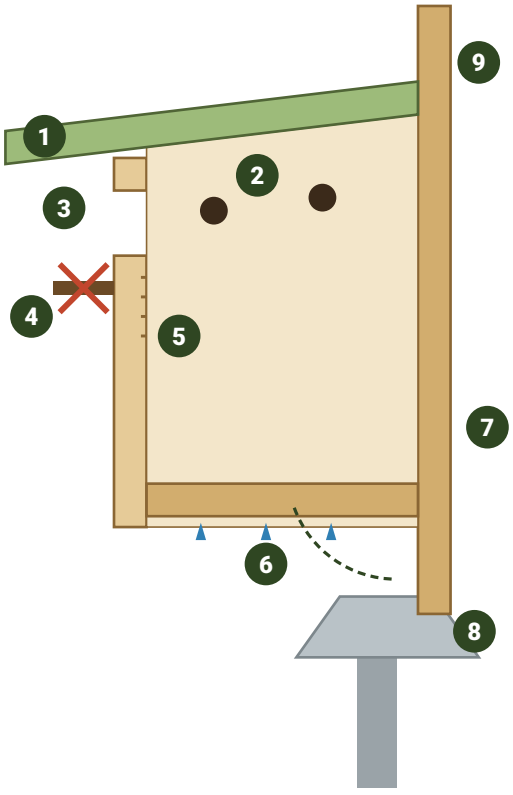
RULES OF A GOOD BIRDHOUSE

The hole size picks the bird. Too big lets in starlings and house sparrows; too small and the bird you want cannot get in.

BIRD	HOLE	FLOOR TO HOLE	FLOOR (IN)	BOX HEIGHT	OUR PROJECT
Eastern Bluebird	1-1/2"	6" to 8"	4x4 to 5x5	4 to 6 ft	01
Tree Swallow	1-1/2"	5" to 6"	5x5	5 to 15 ft	01
House Wren	1" to 1-1/4"	4" to 6"	4x4	5 to 10 ft	02 · 04
Chickadee (Black-capped, Carolina)	1-1/8"	6" to 8"	4x4	5 to 15 ft	03
White-breasted Nuthatch	1-1/4"	6" to 8"	4x4	5 to 15 ft	05
Downy Woodpecker	1-1/4"	6" to 8"	4x4	5 to 20 ft	05
House Finch	2"	4" to 6"	5x5 to 6x6	5 to 10 ft	07
American Robin	open	no hole	6x8	6 to 15 ft	08
Any seed-eating bird	feeder	-	-	about 5 ft	06

Sources: Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch (nestwatch.org), Mass Audubon Birdhouse and Nesting Chart, EPA Greenacres / Wild Ones birdhouse table. Sources differ a little (Mass Audubon lists 1-3/8" for nuthatch and downy woodpecker and 1-1/2" for house finch; NestWatch gives 5 to 25 ft for robin shelves). Floor to hole is measured from the inside floor to the center of the hole.

WHAT EVERY BOX IN THIS GUIDE HAS



1. **Roof that overhangs the front**
   2" to 3" over the hole keeps rain out and makes it harder for a raccoon to reach in.
2. **Ventilation**
   a 1/4" gap under the roof plus 5/8" holes high on the sides let hot air out.
3. **The right hole, nothing bigger**
   use the table: the hole decides who moves in.
4. **NO perch**
   birds do not need it; a perch helps predators and sparrows (NestWatch).
5. **Grooves inside, below the hole**
   shallow saw cuts work as a ladder so chicks can climb out.
6. **Floor 1/4" up + drainage**
   recessed floor with cut corners or 3/8" holes so water drains.
7. **A door to clean it**
   a side that swings, a roof on a hinge or a floor that drops.
8. **Predator guard**
   mount on a metal pole with a baffle, not on a fence (NestWatch).
9. **3/4" untreated wood + galvanized screws**
   thick walls insulate; screws hold better than nails.

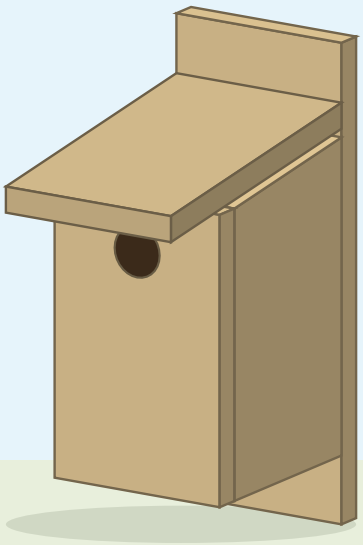
PROJECT 01 OF 8

CLASSIC BLUEBIRD BOX

For Eastern Bluebird and Tree Swallow · 1-1/2" hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
1-1/2"	4" x 5-1/2"	4 to 6 ft	about 2 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**1-1/2"**
Floor to hole center	**6"**
Inside floor	**4" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**7-3/4"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**5-1/2" x 9-1/2" x 14"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 16 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 2 galvanized nails 2" (pivot)
- 1-1/2" spade or Forstner bit
- 5/8" bit (vents)

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Back (mounting board)**	1	**14"**	5-1/2"	extends above and below the box for screws
B	**Side**	2	**9-1/2"**	5-1/2"	template p. 6 · cut the slope on the line
C	**Front**	1	**8-1/2"**	5-1/2"	same template, up to the FRONT line
D	**Roof**	1	**8-7/8"**	5-1/2"	overhangs the front 2-1/2"
E	**Floor**	1	**4"**	5-1/2"	snip 3/8" off each corner (drainage)

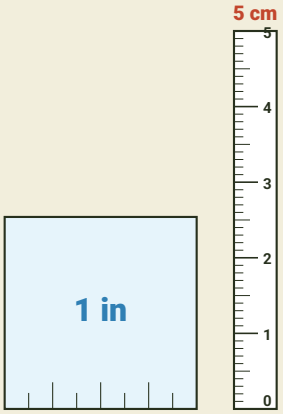
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts from the cut list. Trace the template on both sides and saw the sloped top.
2. Trace the front from the same template up to the FRONT line. Drill the 1-1/2" hole and saw 4 shallow grooves inside, below it.
3. Drill the two 5/8" vents high on each side. Snip 3/8" off the floor corners.
4. Screw one side to the back, then the floor 1/4" up from the bottom, then the front.
5. Door side: cut 1/4" off the top, then hang it with 2 nails through front and back at the pivot marks. Latch screw at the bottom.
6. Screw the roof on. It butts the back and overhangs the front 2-1/2".

GOOD TO KNOW

Put it on a metal pole with a baffle, 4 to 6 ft up, facing an open field. Tree swallows use the same box: if they move in, add a second box 15-20 ft away for the bluebirds (NestWatch).

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

SIDE x2: the whole outline.

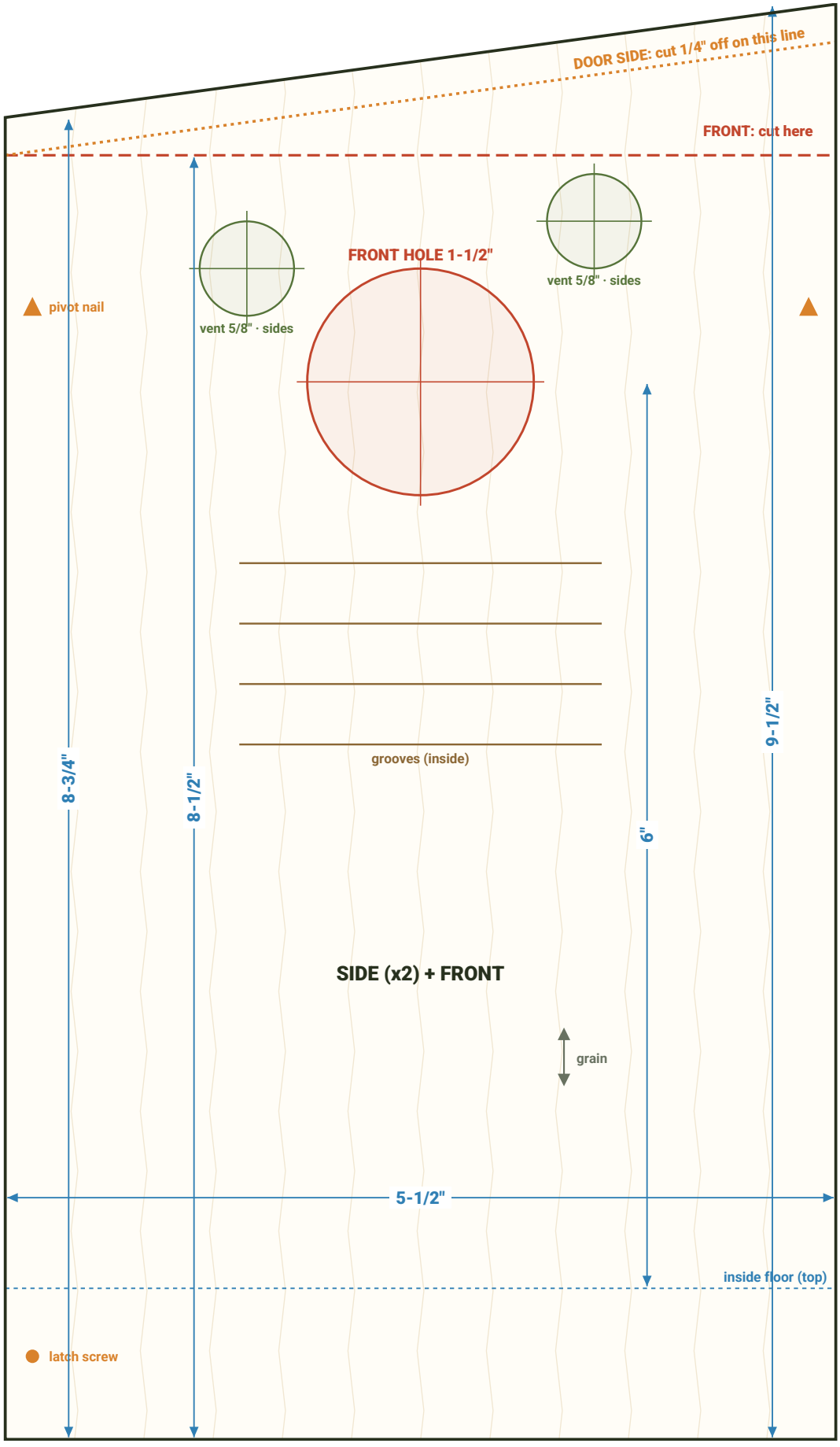
FRONT x1: same outline, up to the red FRONT line; drill the red hole.

DOOR SIDE: one of the two sides, cut on the orange line.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- FRONT: stop here; FRONT holes are red
- DOOR SIDE only: cut 1/4" off the top here
- hole on the SIDES only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- pivot nails / latch screw
- top of the inside floor (reference)

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE
1-1/2"



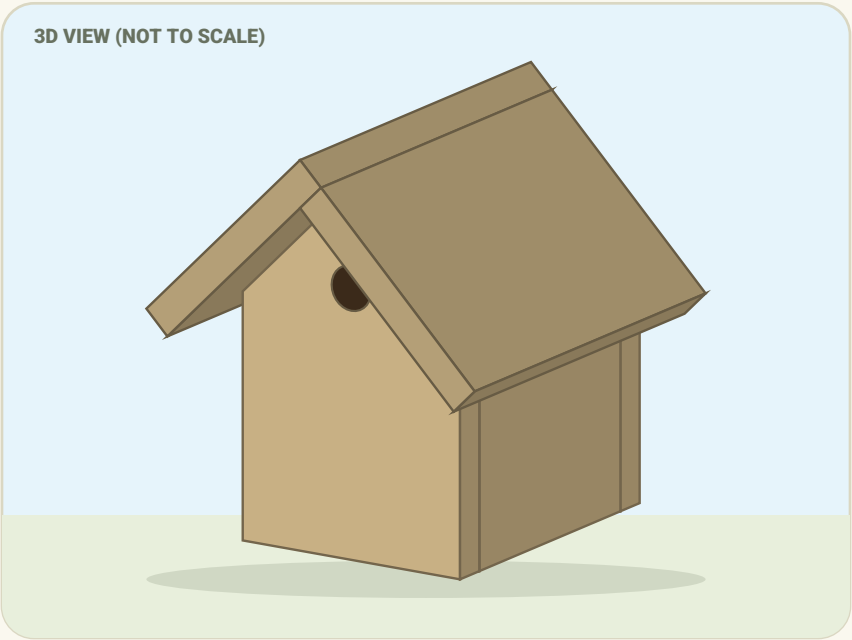
PROJECT 02 OF 8

HOUSE WREN HOUSE

For House Wren · 1" hole (house sparrows cannot get in)

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
1"	4" x 5-1/2"	5 to 10 ft	about 1.5 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**1"**
Floor to hole center	**5"**
Inside floor	**4" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**7-1/4"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**7-1/8" x 9" x 9-1/8"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 14 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 1" spade bit, 5/8" bit
- 1 screw eye (to hang)
- exterior glue

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Front (gable)**	1	**8-1/4"**	5-1/2"	template p. 8 · drill the hole
B	**Back (gable)**	1	**8-1/4"**	5-1/2"	same template, no hole, 5/8" vent
C	**Side**	2	**5-1/2"**	5-1/2"	square piece, grain across
D	**Floor**	1	**4"**	5-1/2"	snip 3/8" off each corner (drainage)
E	**Roof A (overlaps)**	1	**9"**	5-1/2"	glue the ridge where A covers B
F	**Roof B**	1	**9"**	5-1/2"	front overhang 2"

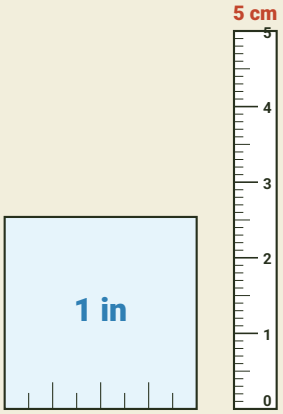
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the gable template twice and saw the two roof slopes on each piece.
2. Front: drill the 1" hole and saw 3 grooves inside. Back: drill only the 5/8" vent near the peak.
3. Screw the two square sides between front and back, flush at the bottom.
4. Snip the floor corners and slide it in 1/4" up. One screw through each side at mid-depth = pivot; one latch screw through the front.
5. Put roof B on one slope, then roof A over it so it covers the ridge. Glue the ridge and screw into the gables.
6. Pre-drill and twist a screw eye into the ridge. Hang it 5 to 10 ft up.

GOOD TO KNOW

To clean in the fall, take out the latch screw: the floor swings down on its two pivot screws. Wrens often stuff extra boxes with twigs, so you can hang two or three.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

FRONT x1: drill the red 1" hole + grooves.

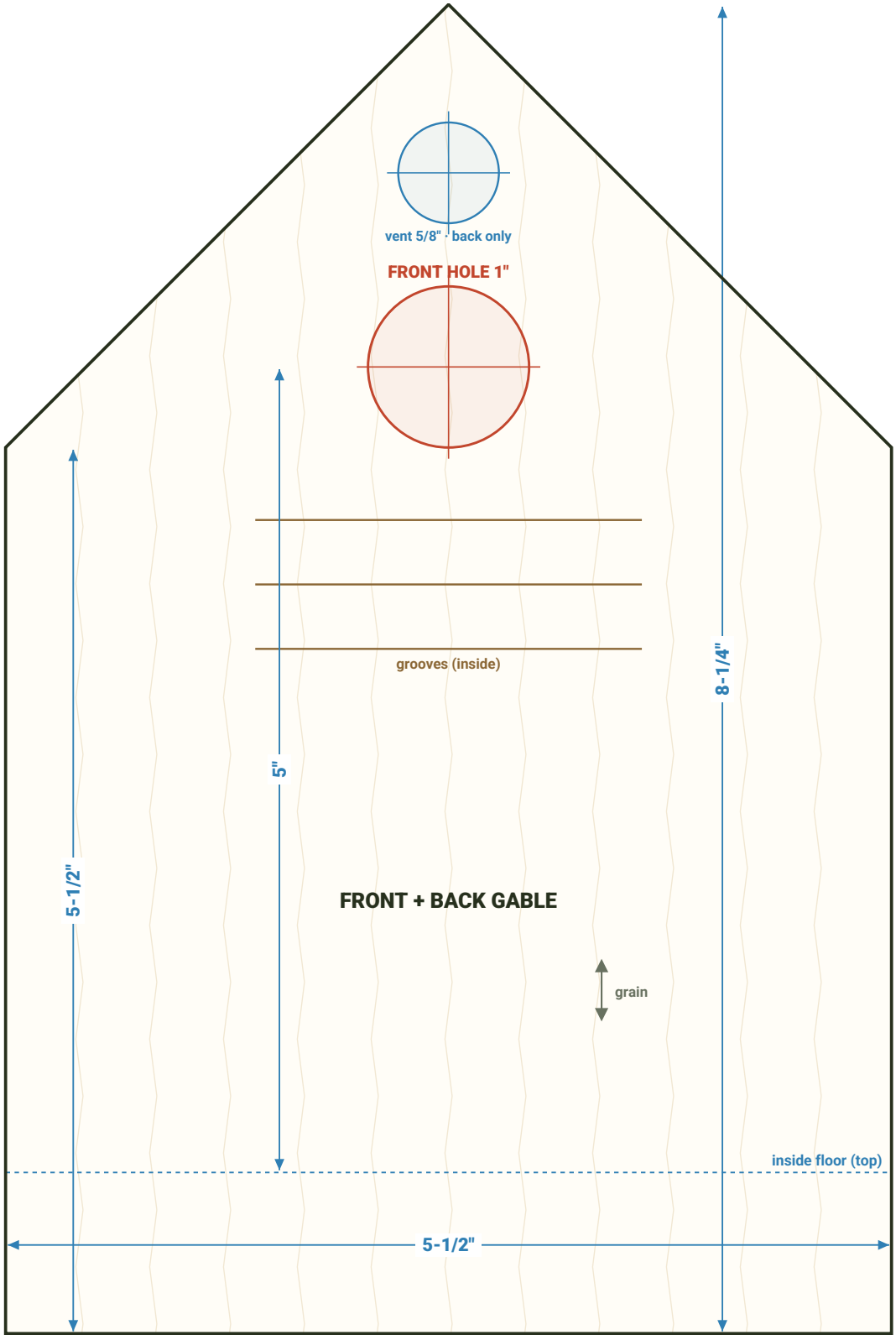
BACK x1: same outline, NO entrance; drill only the blue 5/8" vent.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- red hole = FRONT piece only
- hole on the BACK only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- top of the inside floor (reference)

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE

1"



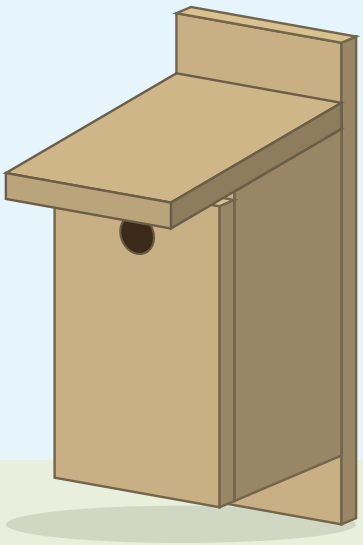
PROJECT 03 OF 8

CHICKADEE BOX

For Black-capped and Carolina Chickadee · 1-1/8" hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
1-1/8"	4" x 5-1/2"	5 to 15 ft	about 2 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**1-1/8"**
Floor to hole center	**6-1/2"**
Inside floor	**4" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**8"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**5-1/2" x 9-1/2" x 14"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 16 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 1 galvanized hinge 2" + hook and eye
- 1-1/8" spade or Forstner bit
- clean wood shavings

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Back (mounting board)**	1	**14"**	5-1/2"	extends above and below the box for screws
B	**Side**	2	**9-1/2"**	5-1/2"	template p. 10 · cut the slope on the line
C	**Front**	1	**8-3/4"**	5-1/2"	same template, up to the FRONT line
D	**Roof**	1	**8-7/8"**	5-1/2"	overhangs the front 2-1/2"
E	**Floor**	1	**4"**	5-1/2"	snip 3/8" off each corner (drainage)

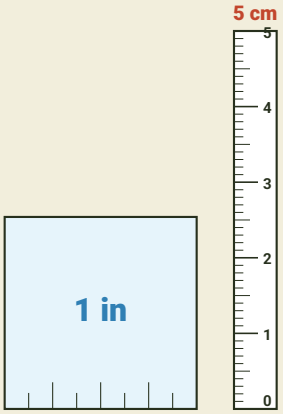
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the template on both sides and saw the sloped top.
2. Trace the front up to the FRONT line. Drill the 1-1/8" hole and saw 4 grooves inside, below it.
3. Drill the 5/8" vents on the sides. Snip 3/8" off the floor corners.
4. Screw both sides to the back, the floor 1/4" up, then the front.
5. Roof: hinge it to the back board, and add a hook and eye at the front so a raccoon cannot lift it.
6. Put 1" to 3" of clean wood shavings inside (not sawdust): chickadees like to dig.

GOOD TO KNOW

This box opens from the top: lift the roof to check or clean. Mount it 5 to 15 ft up on a tree or post at a woods edge, hole away from the wind.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

SIDE x2: the whole outline.

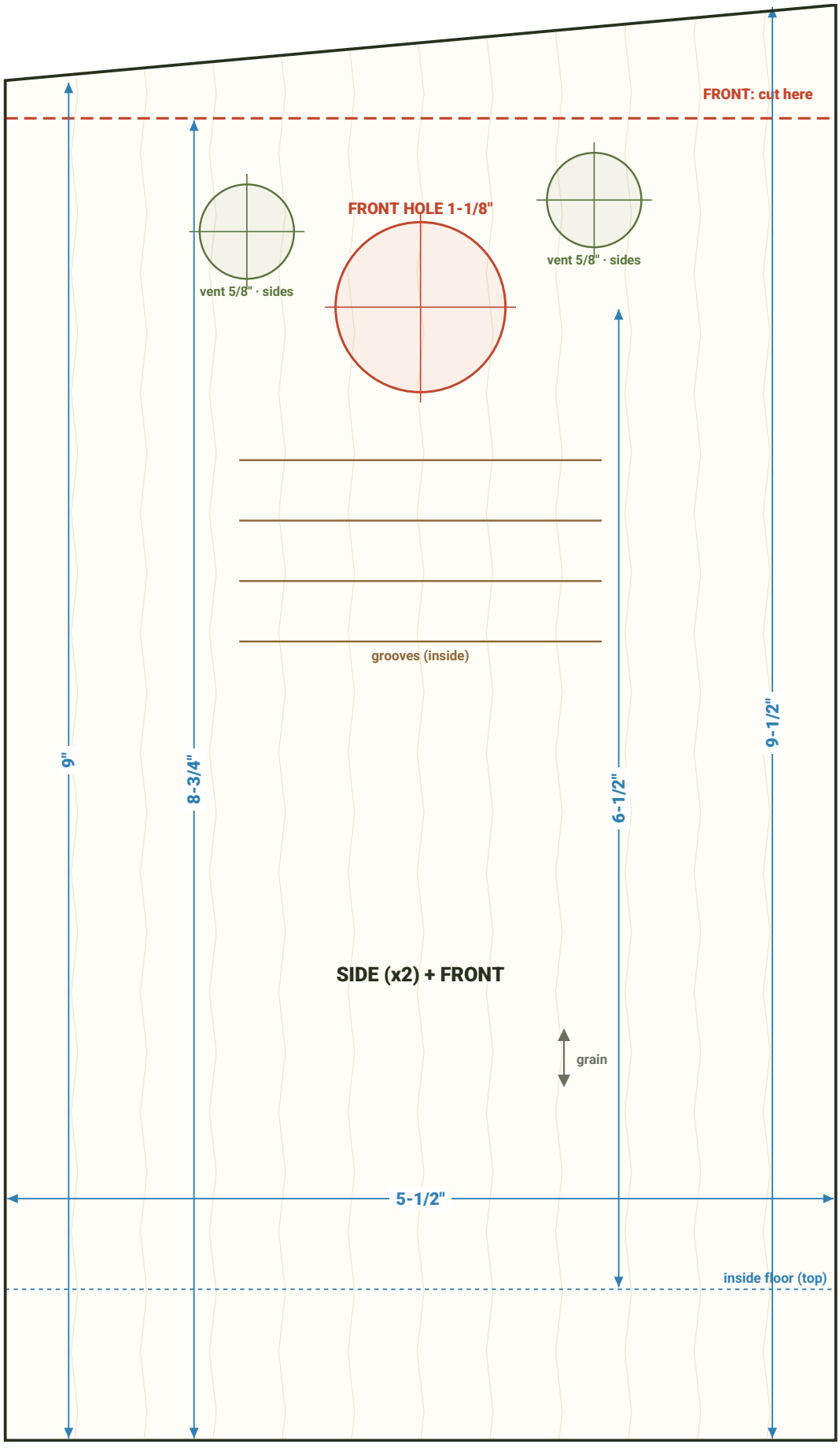
FRONT x1: same outline, up to the red FRONT line; drill the red 1-1/8" hole.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- FRONT: stop here; FRONT holes are red
- hole on the SIDES only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- top of the inside floor (reference)

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE

1-1/8"



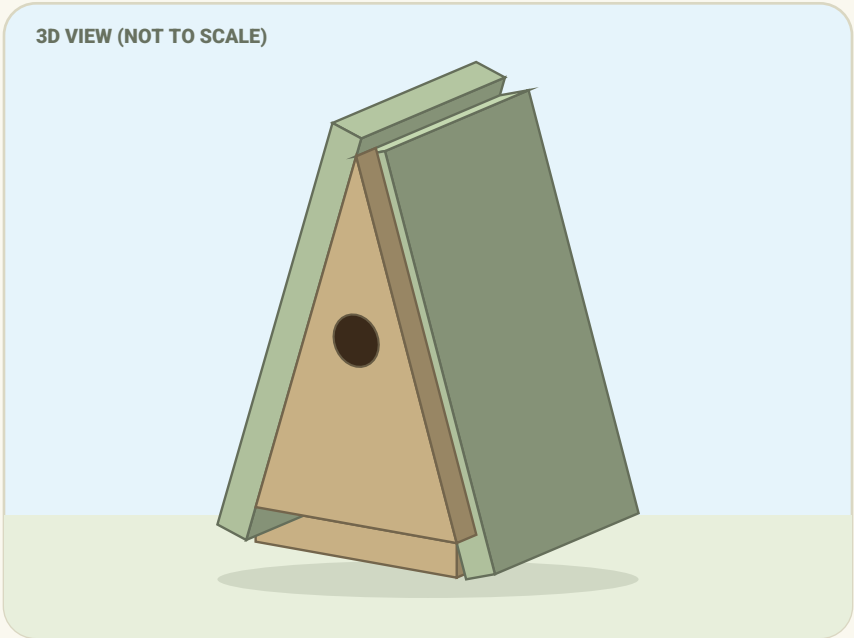
PROJECT 04 OF 8

A-FRAME BIRDHOUSE

For House Wren · 1-1/8" hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
1-1/8"	5" x 4"	5 to 10 ft	about 1.5 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**1-1/8"**
Floor to hole center	**4"**
Inside floor	**5" x 4"**
Inside height (front)	**8"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**6-5/8" x 5-1/2" x 9-5/8"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 12 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 1-1/8" spade bit, 3/8" bit
- 1 screw eye
- exterior glue

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Front (gable)**	1	**8"**	5-1/2"	template p. 12 · drill the hole
B	**Back (gable)**	1	**8"**	5-1/2"	same template, no hole · 2 screws only
C	**Roof panel A (long)**	1	**9-5/8"**	5-1/2"	square ends; covers the top of B
D	**Roof panel B**	1	**9-1/4"**	5-1/2"	square ends
E	**Floor**	1	**5"**	5-1/2"	drill four 3/8" drain holes

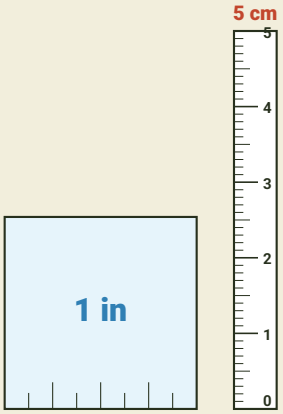
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the triangle template twice and saw the two long sides of each triangle.
2. Front triangle: drill the 1-1/8" hole and saw 3 grooves inside, below it.
3. Drill four 3/8" drain holes in the floor.
4. Screw the front triangle onto the floor, flush with the front edge. Fix the back triangle with only 2 screws: it comes off for cleaning.
5. Screw roof panel B onto the slopes, then panel A so it covers the top of B at the ridge.
6. Twist a screw eye into the ridge and hang it 5 to 10 ft up.

GOOD TO KNOW

The small gap under the ridge is the vent: do not fill it. The roof panels are also the walls, so there is no extra overhang to cut.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

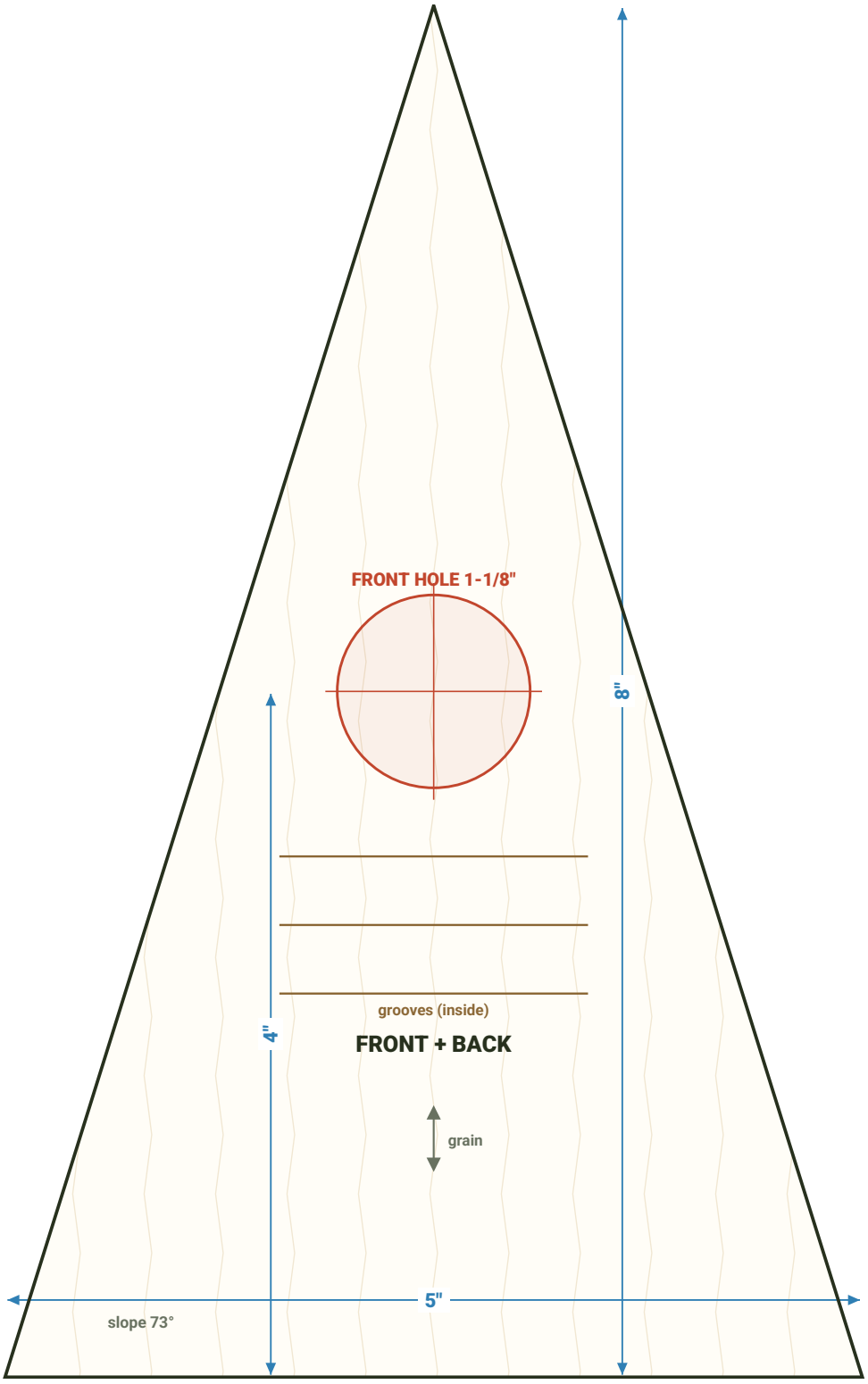
FRONT x1: drill the red 1-1/8" hole + grooves.

BACK x1: same triangle, no hole.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- red hole = FRONT piece only
- grooves, inside face only (front)

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE
1-1/8"



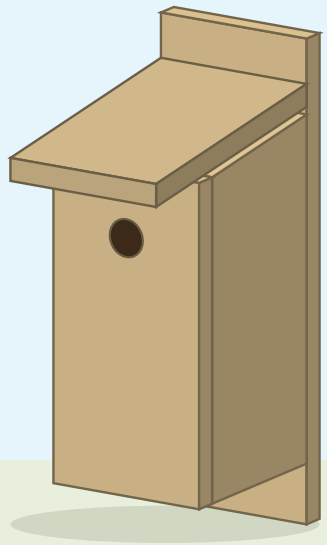
PROJECT 05 OF 8

ONE-BOARD TALL BOX

For White-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker · 1-1/4" hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
1-1/4"	4" x 5-1/2"	5 to 20 ft	about 2 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**1-1/4"**
Floor to hole center	**7-1/2"**
Inside floor	**4" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**10"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**5-1/2" x 9-1/2" x 16"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft (almost all of it)
- about 16 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 2 galvanized nails 2" (pivot)
- 1-1/4" spade or Forstner bit
- wood chips to fill

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Back (mounting board)**	1	**16"**	5-1/2"	extends above and below the box for screws
B	**Side**	2	**11-3/4"**	5-1/2"	template p. 14 · cut the slope on the line
C	**Front**	1	**10-3/4"**	5-1/2"	same template, up to the FRONT line
D	**Roof**	1	**8-7/8"**	5-1/2"	overhangs the front 2-1/2"
E	**Floor**	1	**4"**	5-1/2"	snip 3/8" off each corner (drainage)

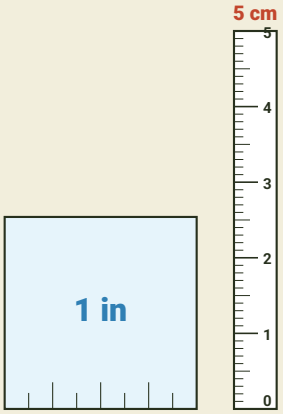
STEP BY STEP

1. Print both template sheets, overlap them on the red join line and tape. Trace the side twice and saw the slope.
2. Trace the front up to the FRONT line. Drill the 1-1/4" hole and saw grooves inside, below it.
3. Drill the 5/8" vents. Snip the floor corners.
4. Screw the fixed side to the back, the floor 1/4" up, then the front.
5. Door side: cut 1/4" off the top, pivot nails at the marks, latch screw at the bottom.
6. Screw on the roof. Fill the box with wood chips: woodpeckers and nuthatches dig out their own space.

GOOD TO KNOW

Measure twice: this box uses almost the whole 6-ft board. Mount it on a tree trunk or post at the edge of the woods, 5 to 20 ft up (Mass Audubon: add chips).

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

Tape SHEET 1 and SHEET 2 on the red join line first.

SIDE x2: the whole outline.

FRONT x1: up to the red FRONT line; drill the 1-1/4" hole.

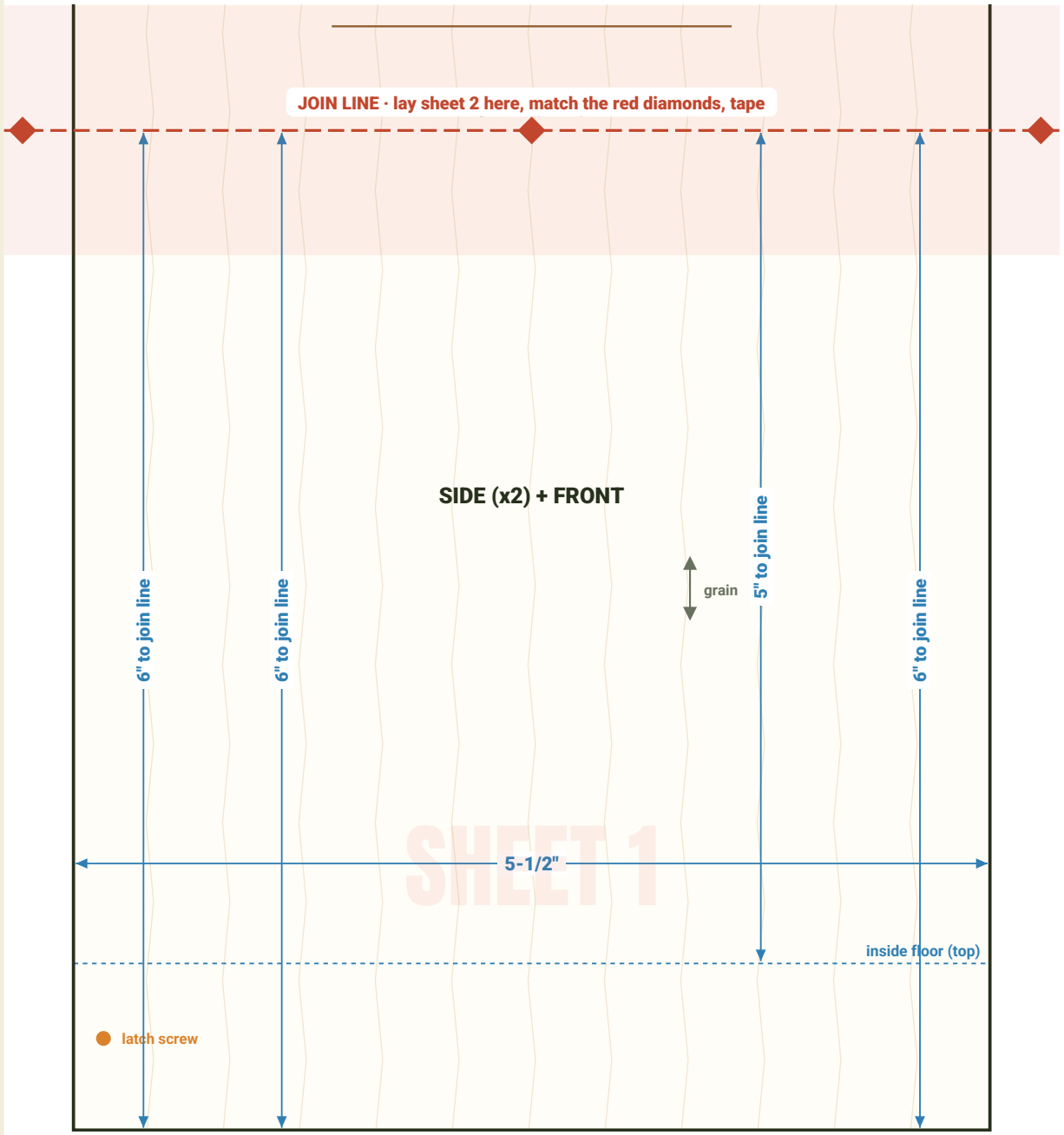
DOOR SIDE: cut on the orange line.

LEGEND

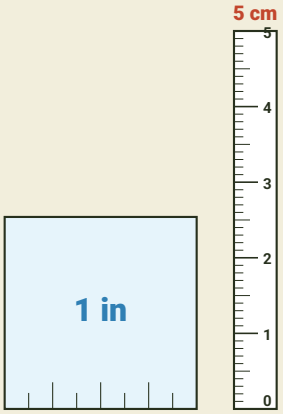
- cut line (outline of the piece)
- FRONT: stop here; FRONT holes are red
- DOOR SIDE only: cut 1/4" off the top here
- hole on the SIDES only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- pivot nails / latch screw
- top of the inside floor (reference)
- join line: overlap sheets here and tape

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE

1-1/4"



CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

Tape SHEET 1 and SHEET 2 on the red join line first.

SIDE x2: the whole outline.

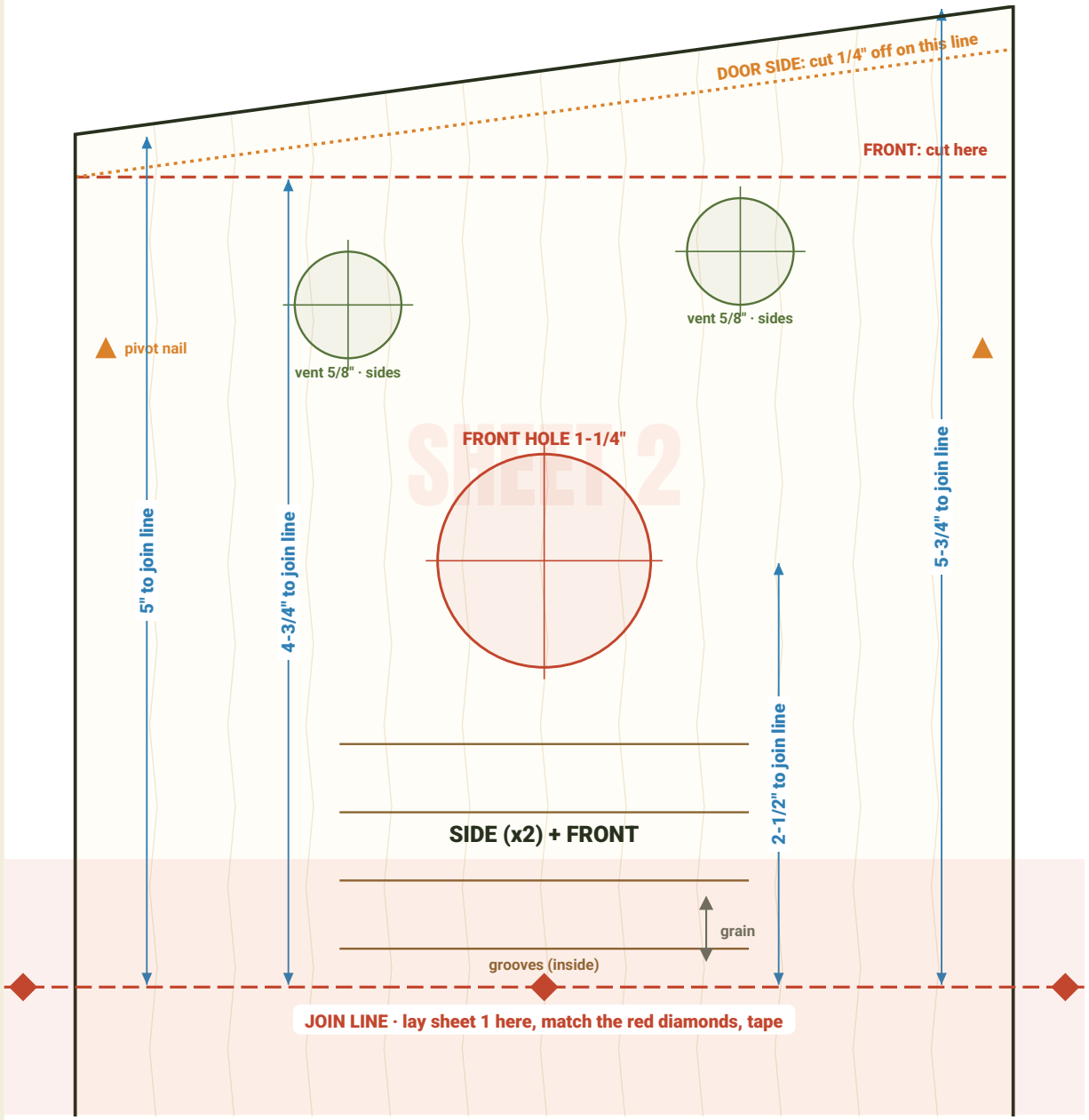
FRONT x1: up to the red FRONT line; drill the 1-1/4" hole.

DOOR SIDE: cut on the orange line.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- FRONT: stop here; FRONT holes are red
- DOOR SIDE only: cut 1/4" off the top here
- hole on the SIDES only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- pivot nails / latch screw
- top of the inside floor (reference)
- join line: overlap sheets here and tape

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE
1-1/4"



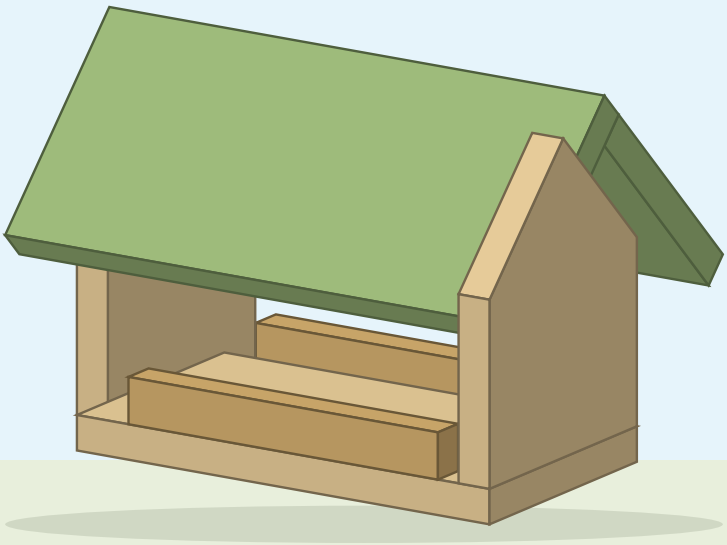
PROJECT 06 OF 8

SIMPLE PLATFORM FEEDER

Open feeder for seed-eating birds · no hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
open	8-1/2" x 5-1/2"	hang about 5 ft	about 1.5 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**open**
Inside floor	**8-1/2" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**4"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**12" x 7-3/8" x 8-1/4"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 12 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- small galvanized nails for the rails
- 2 screw eyes + chain
- 3/8" bit (drain)

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Tray (floor)**	1	**10"**	5-1/2"	drill six 3/8" drain holes
B	**Gable end**	2	**6-3/4"**	5-1/2"	template p. 17 · cut both from it
C	**Roof A (overlaps)**	1	**12"**	5-1/2"	1" overhang at each end
D	**Roof B**	1	**12"**	5-1/2"	1" overhang at each end
E	**Seed rail**	2	**7-1/2"**	1"	rip both from one 7-1/2" piece

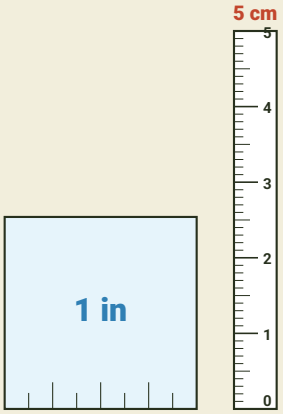
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the gable-end template twice and saw the roof slopes.
2. Drill six 3/8" drain holes in the tray and sand all edges.
3. Rip the 7-1/2" rail piece into two 1" strips. Glue and nail them along the long edges, 1/2" from each gable end so rain drains out.
4. Screw the two gable ends onto the ends of the tray from below.
5. Screw roof B onto the gables, then roof A over the ridge. 1" overhang at each end.
6. Twist 2 screw eyes into the ridge, add a chain and hang it about 5 ft up.

GOOD TO KNOW

Clean the tray every week or two and throw out wet seed. Hang feeders closer than 3 ft or farther than 30 ft from windows so birds do not hit the glass.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

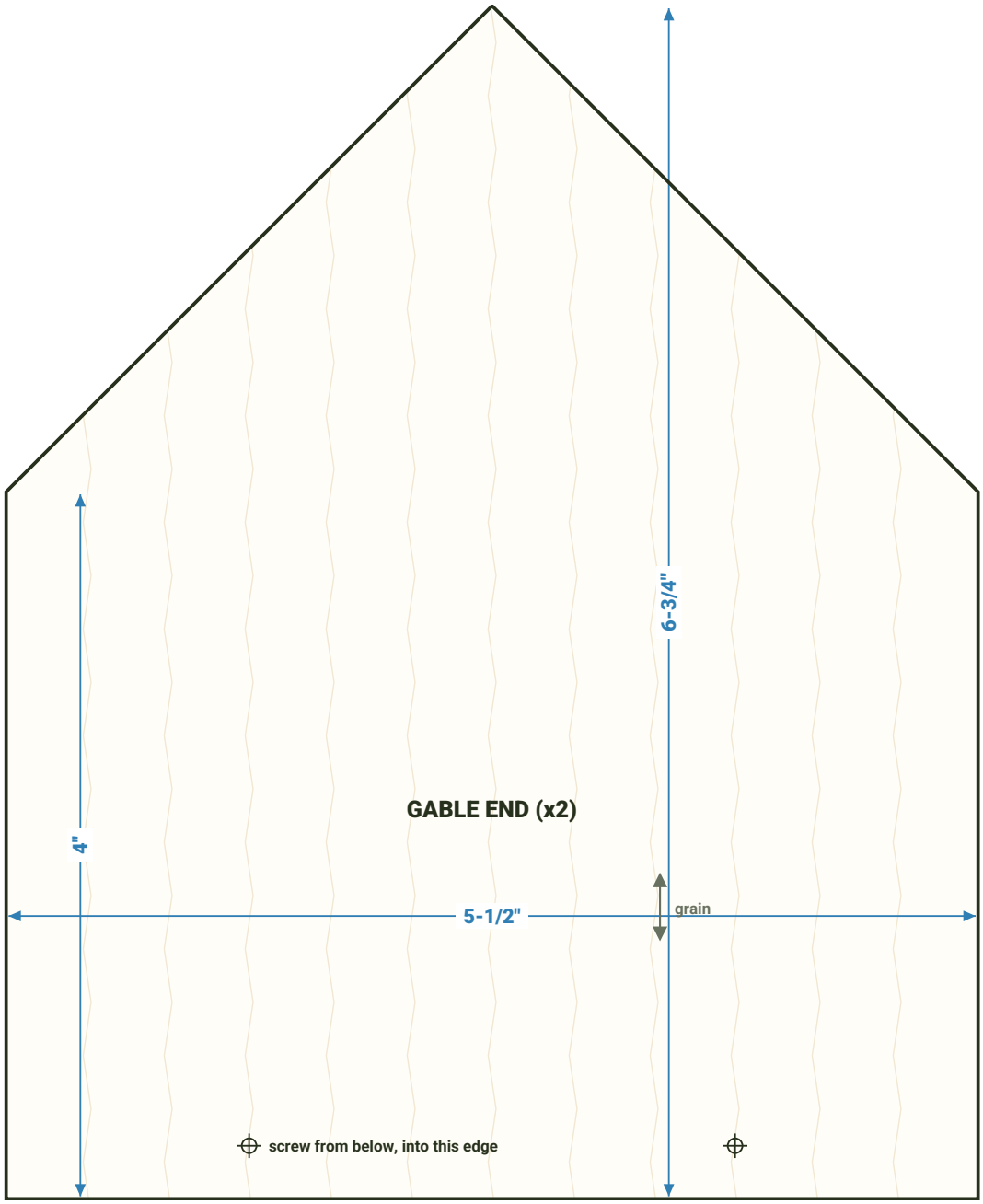
THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

GABLE END x2: cut both from this template.

The crosses mark the screws that come up through the tray.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- screw position



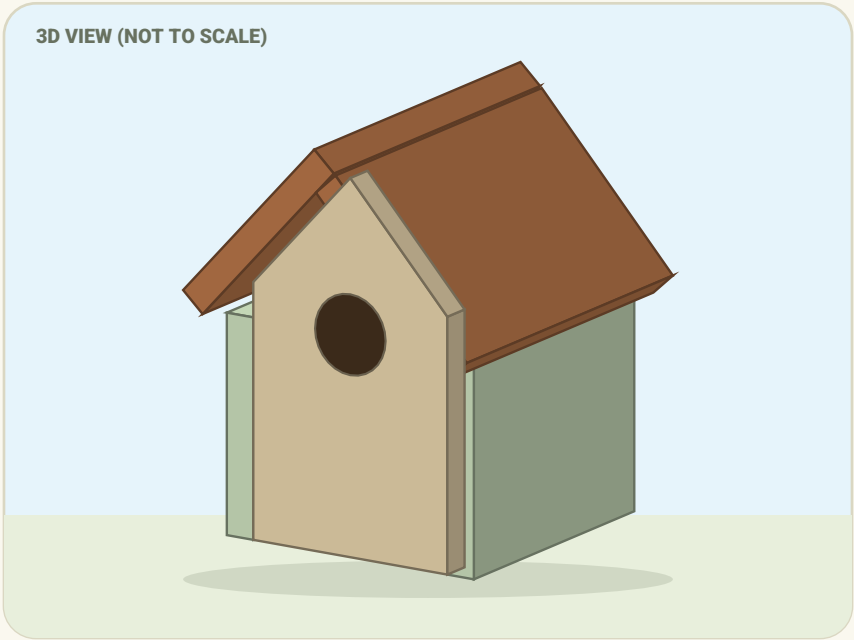
PROJECT 07 OF 8

DECORATIVE CHALET

For House Finch · 2" hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
2"	5-1/2" x 5-1/2"	5 to 10 ft	about 2.5 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

Entrance hole	**2"**
Floor to hole center	**4-1/2"**
Inside floor	**5-1/2" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**7-1/2"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**8-1/2" x 9" x 10-1/4"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 18 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- 2" hole saw or Forstner bit
- exterior latex paint, light colors
- exterior glue

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Front (gable)**	1	**9-3/8"**	5-1/2"	template p. 19 · drill the hole
B	**Back (gable)**	1	**9-3/8"**	5-1/2"	same template, no hole, no windows
C	**Side**	2	**7"**	5-1/2"	covers the gable edges
D	**Floor**	1	**5-1/2"**	5-1/2"	snip 3/8" off each corner (drainage)
E	**Roof A (overlaps)**	1	**9"**	5-1/2"	glue the ridge where A covers B
F	**Roof B**	1	**9"**	5-1/2"	front overhang 1-1/2"

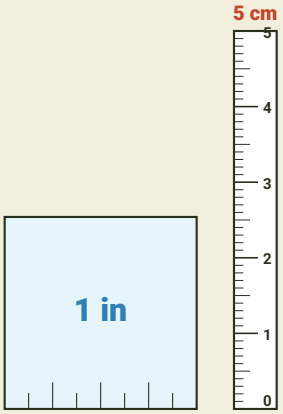
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the chalet template twice and saw the steep roof slopes.
2. Front: drill the 2" hole and saw 3 grooves inside, below it.
3. Screw the sides onto the gables: the sides cover the gable edges. The gap under the roof is the vent.
4. Snip the floor corners and slide it in 1/4" up. Pivot screw on each side, latch screw through the front.
5. Screw roof B on, then roof A over the ridge. Front overhang 1-1/2".
6. Paint the outside only, light colors; trace the windows from the template. Let it air out.

GOOD TO KNOW

House finches also nest in hanging plants and porch lights, so this house looks good under a porch roof. Never paint inside.

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

FRONT x1: drill the red 2" hole; dotted windows are a paint guide.

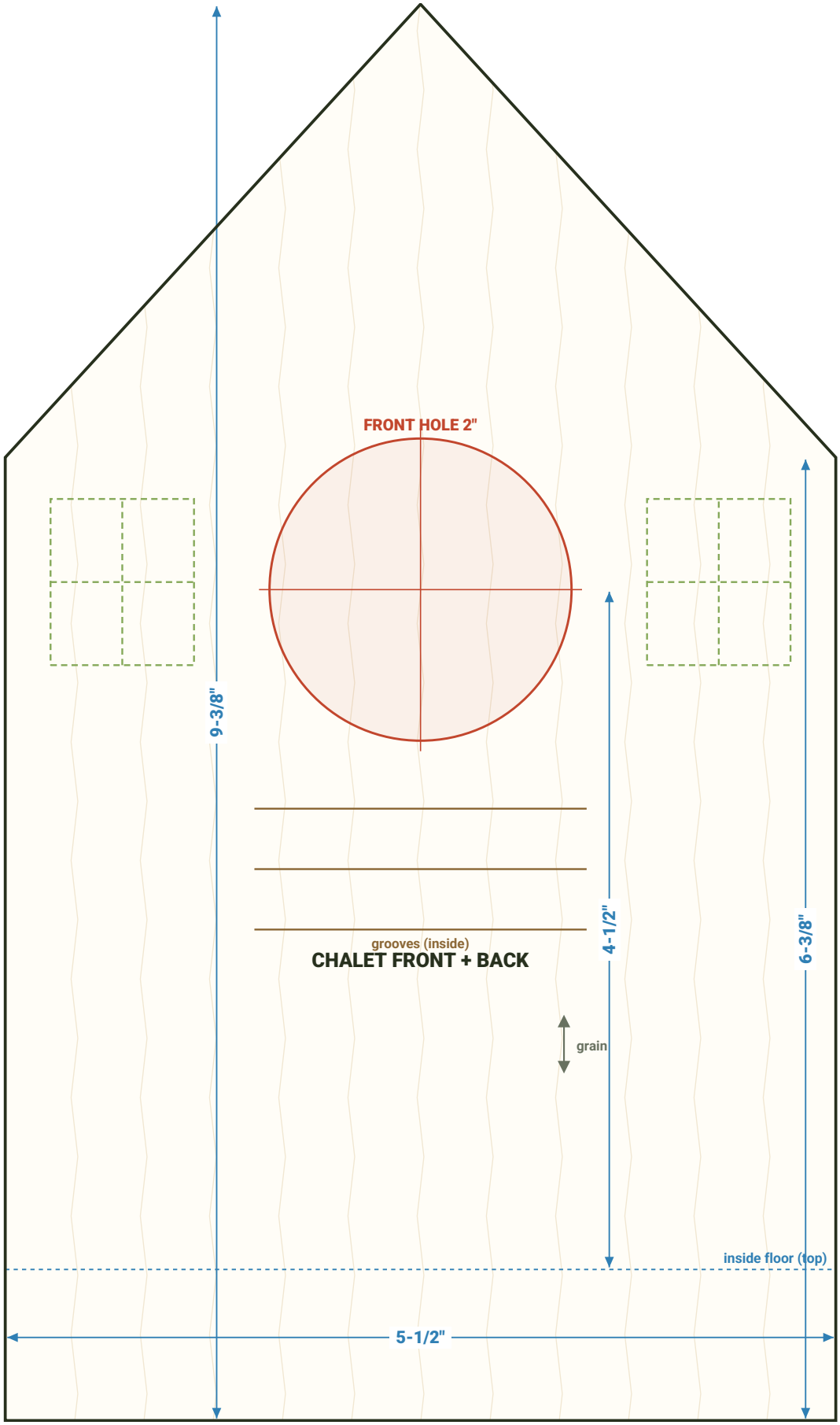
BACK x1: same outline, no hole, no windows.

LEGEND

- cut line (outline of the piece)
- red hole = FRONT piece only
- grooves, inside face only (front)
- top of the inside floor (reference)
- paint guide, outside only

DRILL BIT FOR THE HOLE

2"



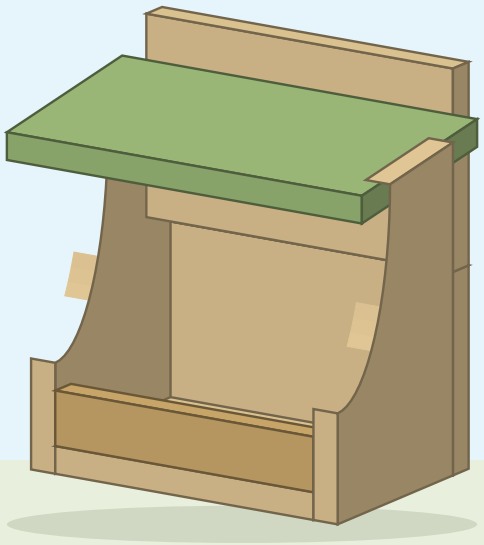
PROJECT 08 OF 8

ROBIN NESTING SHELF

For American Robin · open front, no hole

HOLE	FLOOR (INSIDE)	MOUNT AT	TIME	WOOD
open	8" x 5-1/2"	6 to 15 ft	about 2 h	one 1x6 x 6 ft

3D VIEW (NOT TO SCALE)



KEY MEASUREMENTS

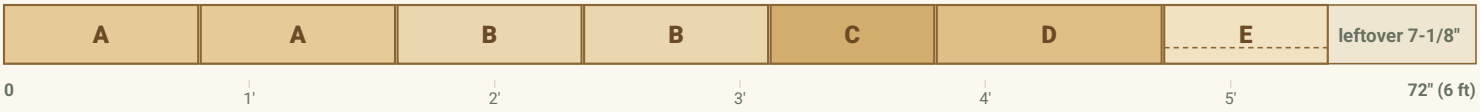
Entrance hole	**open**
Inside floor	**8" x 5-1/2"**
Inside height (front)	**8-1/4"**
Overall (W x D x H)	**11" x 6-1/4" x 11"**

YOU NEED

- 1x6 pine or cedar, 6 ft
- about 20 galvanized screws 1-5/8"
- jigsaw for the curve
- 3/8" bit (drain)
- 2 long screws for the wall

CUT LIST · ONE 1x6 BOARD

real board 3/4" x 5-1/2" x 72" · 1/8" saw cut between parts



	PART	QTY	LENGTH	WIDTH	NOTE
A	**Back board**	2	**9-1/2"**	5-1/2"	two boards stacked = 11" tall back
B	**Side**	2	**9"**	5-1/2"	template p. 21 · flip it for the 2nd side
C	**Floor**	1	**8"**	5-1/2"	drill three 3/8" drain holes
D	**Roof**	1	**11"**	5-1/2"	sits on the sides, butts the back
E	**Front lip**	1	**8"**	1-1/2"	rip 1-1/2" wide from an 8" piece

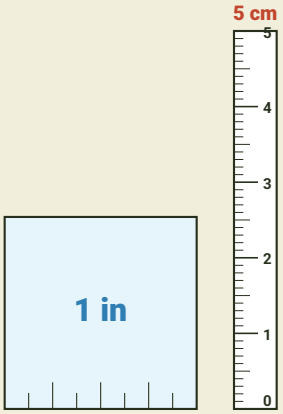
STEP BY STEP

1. Cut the parts. Trace the side template, then flip it for the other side. Saw the slope and jigsaw the curved front.
2. Rip a 1-1/2" strip from the 8" lip piece.
3. Screw the floor between the two sides, flush at the bottom.
4. Drill three 3/8" drain holes in the floor; screw the lip on its front edge.
5. Screw the two back boards across the back of the sides and the floor.
6. Screw the roof onto the sloped tops. Mount it on a wall or shed under an overhang, 6 to 15 ft up.

GOOD TO KNOW

Robins and phoebes do not use boxes with a hole: they want an open ledge. Put it on the side of a building, under the eave, facing open space (Mass Audubon, NestWatch).

CHECK BEFORE YOU CUT



must measure 1 in

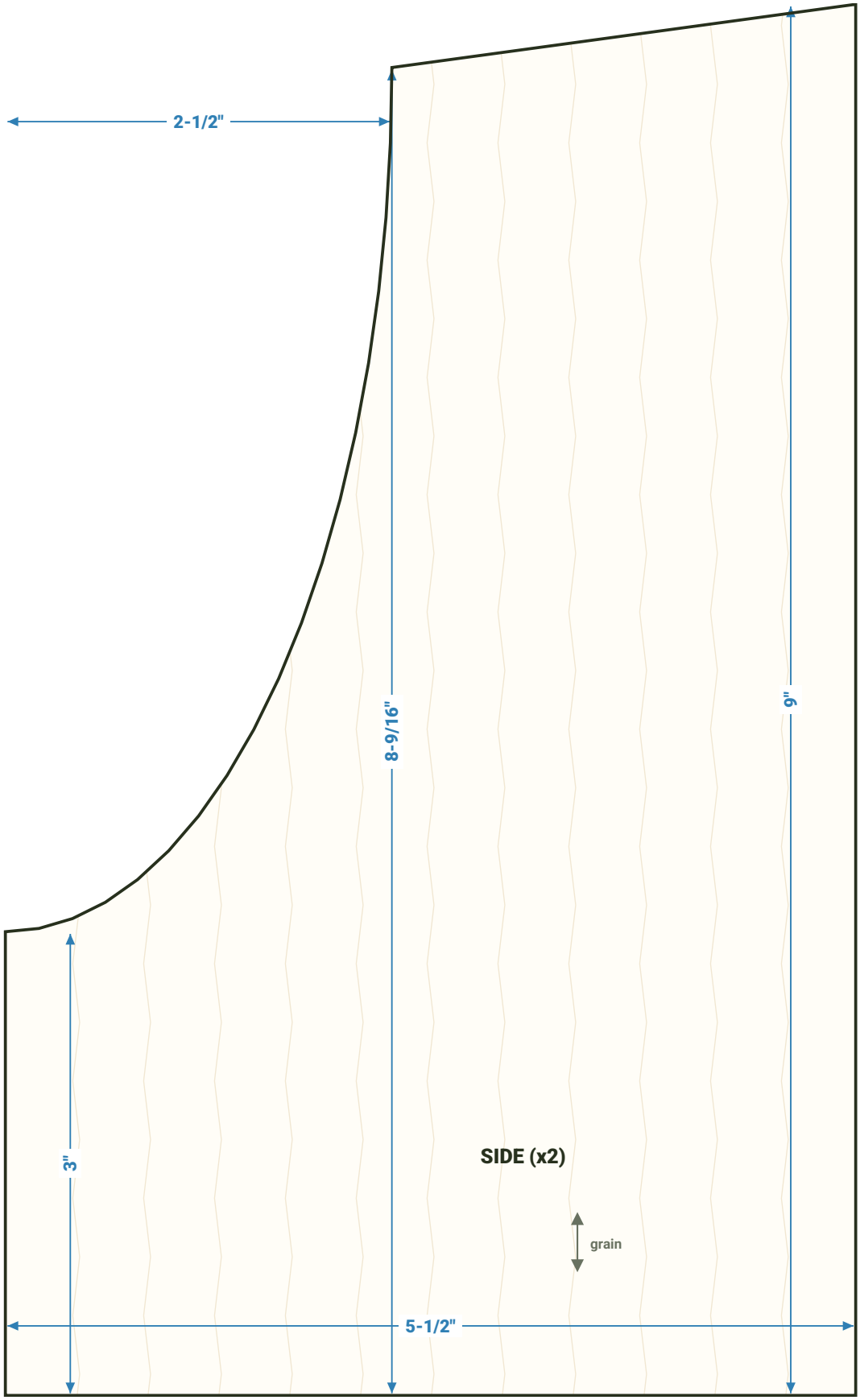
Measure the square and the bar with a ruler. Wrong size? Print again at Actual size, without Fit to page.

THIS TEMPLATE MAKES

SIDE x2: trace, then flip the template for the second side so the curves face each other.

LEGEND

— cut line (outline of the piece)



SAFE PAINT AND FINISH

Bare cedar or pine is fine. If you paint, paint only the outside, in light colors, and let the house air out before it goes up.

GOOD COLORS: LIGHT AND NATURAL

White · Cream · Light gray · Sage green · Tan · Black · Dark red

DO

- **Paint the outside only**
  walls, roof and edges; leave the inside bare wood.
- **Light colors**
  they reflect the sun and keep the box cooler in summer.
- **Water-based exterior paint**
  latex or acrylic; 2 thin coats.
- **Let it air out**
  wait several days after the last coat before you hang it.

DON'T

- **No paint or stain inside**
  chicks touch and peck the walls.
- **No paint in the hole**
  keep the edge of the hole bare wood.
- **No dark colors**
  black or dark boxes get hot in the sun.
- **No wood preservative**
  no creosote, no treated lumber, no oil-based sealers inside.

FINISH IN 5 STEPS

1. Sand the edges and the outside with 120 grit; keep the inside rough.
2. Tape over the hole and the door gap while you paint.
3. Paint the outside: 2 thin coats of light exterior latex.
4. Remove the tape before the paint dries; check the door still swings.
5. Let the house air out for several days before you put it up.

WHERE THE PAINT GOES



PAINT (OUTSIDE)

- Outside of the walls
- Top of the roof and its edges
- Under the overhang
- Front, around (not in) the hole

KEEP BARE WOOD

- Every inside face
- The edge of the hole
- The grooves under the hole
- Top of the floor

WHERE AND WHEN TO PUT IT UP

Put the box where its bird already lives, at the right height, and get it up before nesting starts.

THE BIRDHOUSE YEAR (MOST OF THE US)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	put boxes up	put boxes up	nesting season	nesting season	nesting season	nesting season	nesting season	clean out	clean out		

put boxes up (late winter) · nesting season: watch, do not disturb · clean out old nests

BIRD	HABITAT	HEIGHT	TIP
Eastern Bluebird	open land with scattered trees	4 to 6 ft	metal pole, hole facing east
Tree Swallow	open land near water	5 to 15 ft	box 01 works; pair boxes 15-20 ft apart
House Wren	old fields, thickets, yards	5 to 10 ft	may hang from a branch
Chickadee	open woods and edges	5 to 15 ft	add wood shavings inside
Nuthatch · Downy Woodpecker	woods, edges, big trees	5 to 20 ft	fill with wood chips
House Finch	backyards and porches	5 to 10 ft	also nests in hanging plants
American Robin	backyards and porches	6 to 15 ft	on a wall, under an overhang

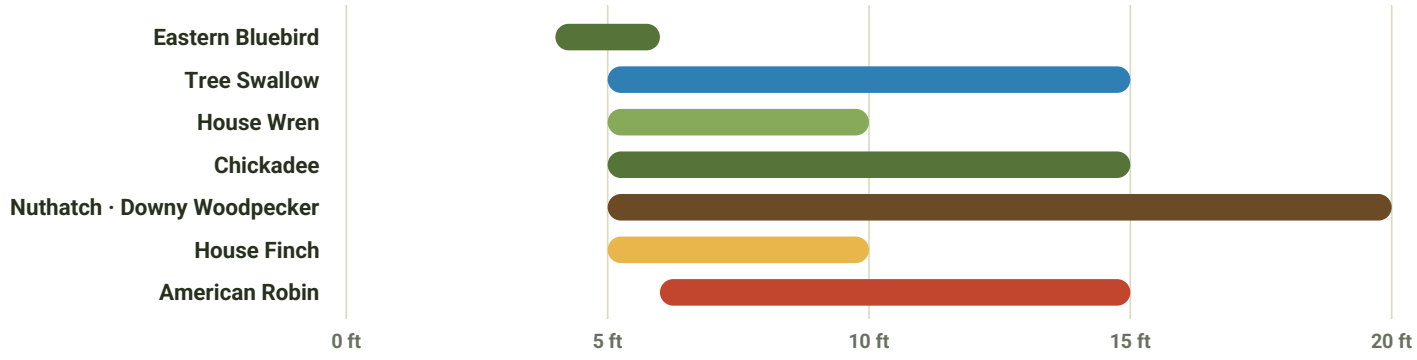
MOUNTING

- **Pole + baffle**
  a metal pole with a cone or stovepipe baffle stops cats, raccoons and snakes.
- **Face away from the wind**
  turn the hole away from the prevailing wind; bluebirds like east.
- **Give them space**
  bluebird boxes about 300 ft apart, or in pairs 15-20 ft apart (NestWatch).
- **Up by late winter**
  February-March in most of the US; earlier in the South.

SEASON CARE

- **Peek, do not disturb**
  check about once a week; skip the last days before the chicks leave.
- **Clean after each brood**
  remove the old nest so the box can be used again.
- **Fall clean-out**
  empty and brush the box in September-October; leave the door shut for winter roosting.
- **Fix what broke**
  tighten screws, replace a split roof, check the baffle.

HOW HIGH TO MOUNT IT (FEET)



CHECKLIST

BEFORE YOU HANG IT

- [ ] Template printed at 100% (square = 1 in, bar = 5 cm)
- [ ] Untreated pine or cedar, 3/4" thick
- [ ] Hole size matches the bird (table p. 4)
- [ ] No perch under the hole
- [ ] Grooves inside below the hole
- [ ] Vent gap/holes near the top
- [ ] Floor 1/4" up + drain corners or holes
- [ ] Door, hinged roof or drop floor opens for cleaning
- [ ] Galvanized screws, pre-drilled
- [ ] Paint (if any) outside only, light color, aired out

WHEN YOU PUT IT UP

- [ ] Right habitat for the bird
- [ ] Right height from the table
- [ ] Metal pole + baffle (or safe wall)
- [ ] Hole away from the prevailing wind
- [ ] Away from bird feeders and busy doors
- [ ] Up by late winter
- [ ] Weekly peek in spring, then step away
- [ ] Old nest out after each brood
- [ ] Fall clean-out done
- [ ] Notes in the log below

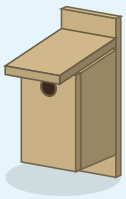
MY BIRDHOUSE LOG

BOX	PLACE	DATE UP	BIRD	EGGS	CHICKS OUT

NOW GO BUILD THE FIRST ONE

Start with the wren house or the A-frame: one board, one afternoon. When it works, build the bluebird box and put it on a pole.

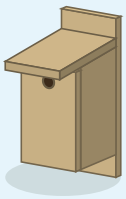
- Print the templates at 100% and check the 1-in square
- Pick the bird first, then the hole size
- Build on a weekend, hang it before spring
- Share this guide with a friend who loves birds



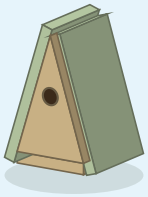
01 · Classic Bluebird Box



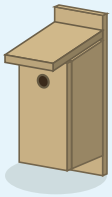
02 · House Wren House



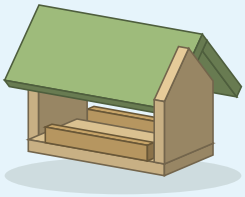
03 · Chickadee Box



04 · A-Frame Birdhouse



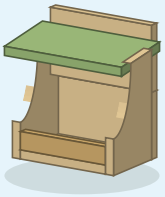
05 · One-Board Tall Box



06 · Simple Platform Feeder



07 · Decorative Chalet



08 · Robin Nesting Shelf



More free plans and guides at

vifalio.com

Measurements from public sources: Cornell Lab of Ornithology NestWatch (nestwatch.org), Mass Audubon Birdhouse and Nesting Chart, EPA Greenacres / Wild Ones birdhouse table. Drawings, plans and text by Vifalio.