

PRESCOTT BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROJECT

Nest Box Plans & Instructions [June 2026]

Standard Front Opening Box

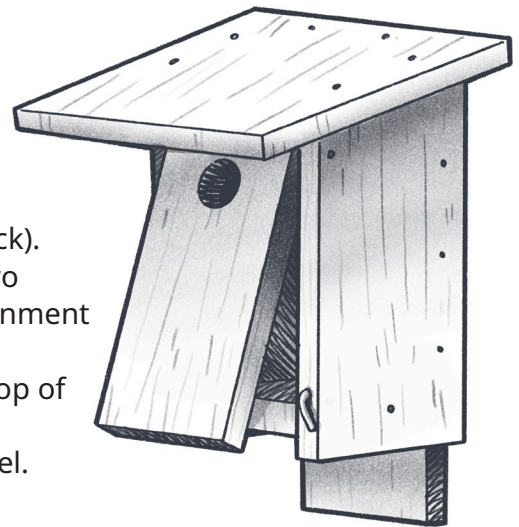


Materials:

- * 3/4" thick Cedar, Redwood, or exterior-grade plywood
- * 17ct. 1 1/2" exterior use deck screws plus mounting screws
- * 1ct. 1/2" square bend screw
- * 1/8" drill bit for pilot holes (best with built-in countersink)
- * Clear silicone caulk

Cut and Prepare Wood:

1. Cut wood to the exact specifications shown on the diagram (back).
2. Pre-drill pilot holes as shown in diagram. For sides, stack the two together and drill through both at the same time to ensure alignment for the front opening.
3. Put 10-degree bevel on the front and back of the roof and the top of the back.
4. Make the kerf cuts on underside of roof and inside of front panel.



Assembly Instructions:

1. **Attach sides:** Lay back panel on work surface and attach sides to the back panel using three screws on each side. Make sure the top of the sides are flush with the top of the back and align top bevel with slope of the sides.
2. **Attach bottom:** Place bottom piece between sides 1/2" up from the bottom using one screw on each side and back.
3. **Attach front:** Place the front piece between the sides and slide it down 1/4" from the top of the side pieces. This gap provides ventilation in the box. Install a screw on each side and avoid overtightening. Test action of the door to make sure it is fluid and not too tight/too loose.
4. **Attach roof:** Let roof overhang 1/8" over the back so a bead of caulk can be applied to seal this seam. Make sure the kerf cuts are on the underside of the roof. These cuts keep water from entering the box. Install two screws on the sides and back to hold roof secure.
5. **Install door latch:** Lay box on its back. Drill pilot hole 1 1/4" up from the bottom of the right side in the front center (see diagram) and install the square bend screw. Avoid overtightening.
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 two-hole pipe straps that can be purchased at any hardware store.

For wooden post mounting: Drill a 3/8" hole in back of box at a 45-degree angle, about four inches from top. Hang the box on a screw and secure by placing a screw through the bottom of the front back piece. Be sure to drill a pilot hole so the box is easier to remove and to avoid splitting the wood.

Notes: 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 and gives a rich finish.

DO NOT finish the interior!

[June 2025]

NEST BOX DIAGRAM

Standard Front Opening Box

