

American Kestrel

The smallest falcon, the American Kestrel, is also the most familiar and widespread in North America. In open country, it is commonly seen perched on roadside wires or hovering low over a field on rapidly beating wings, waiting to pounce on a grasshopper.

Habitat: Open country, farmland, cities, wood edges. Inhabits any open or semi-open situation, from forest clearings to farmland to desert, wherever it can find adequate prey and some raised perches. It may be limited to habitats that also provide appropriate nesting sites in the breeding season. In winter, females may be found in more open habitats than males.

Nesting: During courtship displays, females fly slowly with stiff, fluttering wingbeats, the wings held just below horizontal. The male repeatedly flies high, calling, and then dives. The male brings food for the female, passes it to her in flight. The nest site is in a cavity, usually in a dead tree or snag, sometimes in a dirt bank or cliff. It also uses artificial nest boxes.

Sites are generally 10 to 30 feet above the ground but may be at any height.

Nest Box Placement: Mount the nesting box on lone trees in fields, trees along edges of woodlots, and farm buildings between 10 and 30 feet above the ground. Face the nesting box entrance hole to the south or east, spacing boxes a half-mile apart.

Helpful Tip

Mount the box on lone trees in fields, trees along edges of woodlots, and farm buildings.

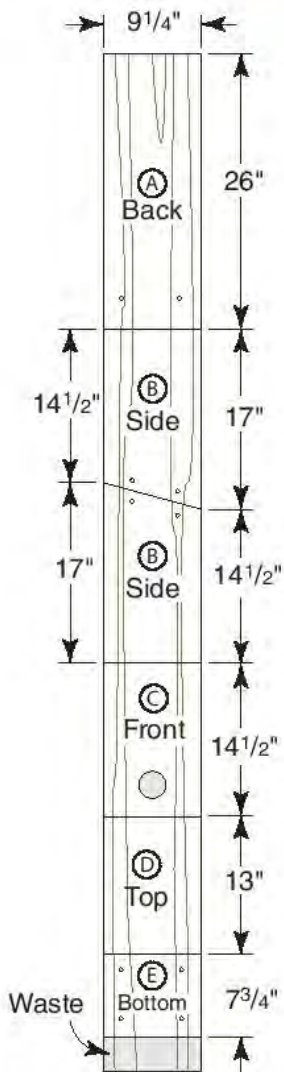
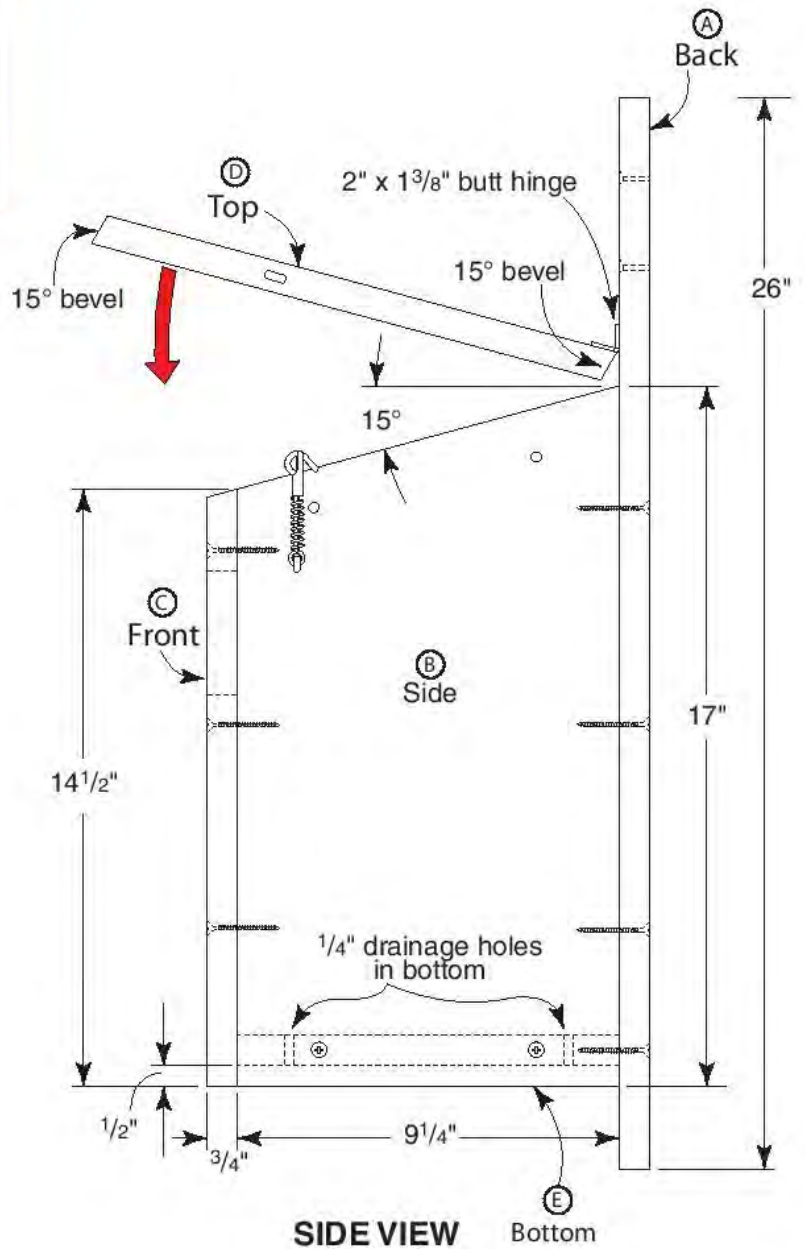
To learn more about North American birds and backyard birding activities, visit:

<https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities>



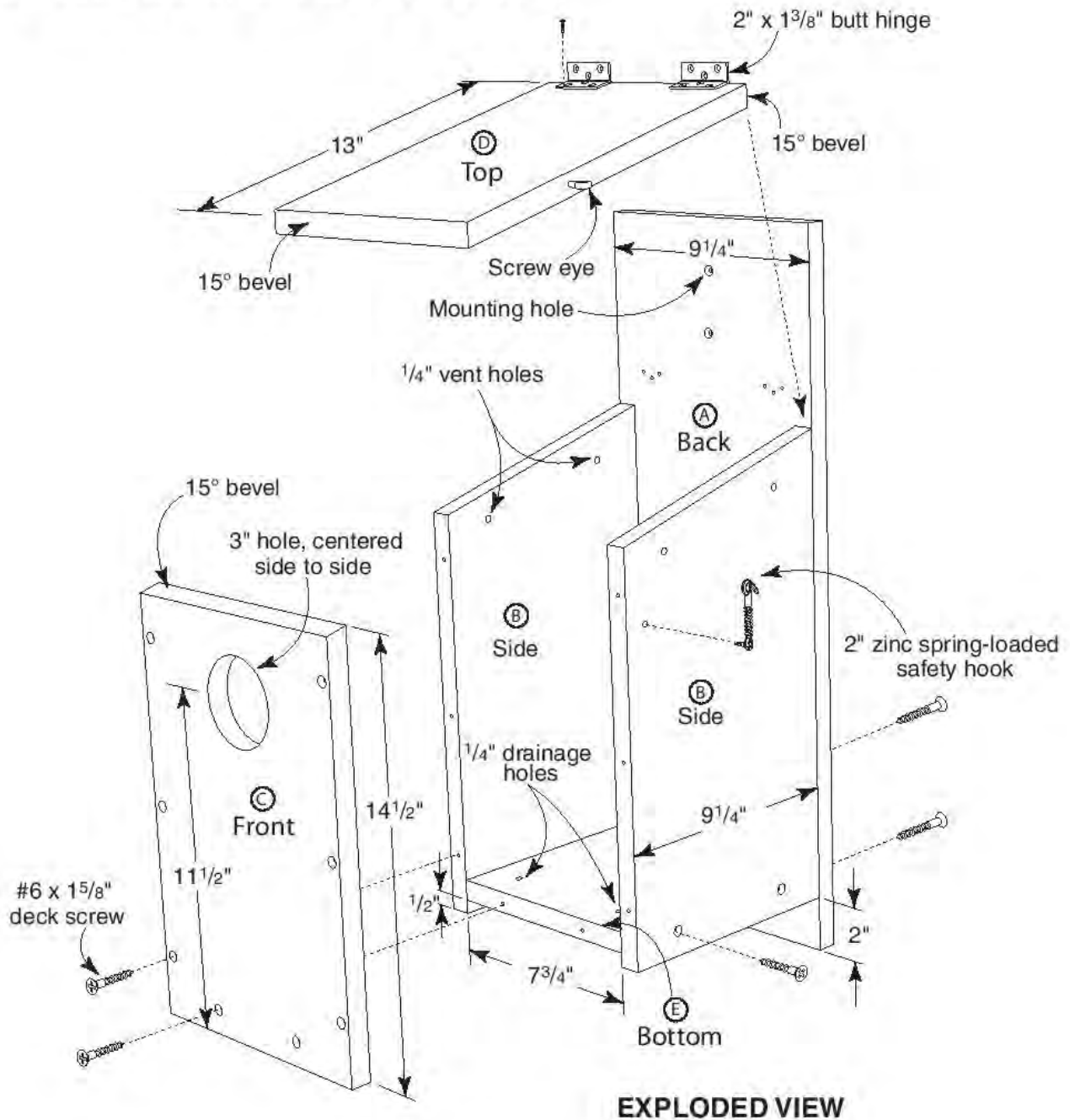
AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX PLAN

Project Plan: Marlen Kemmet
 Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine



1x10x8' ($3/4$ x $9 1/4$ x 96")
CUTTING DIAGRAM

AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX PLAN



MATERIALS LIST FOR AMERICAN KESTREL NESTING BOX						
	Parts	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Pieces
A	back	3/4"	9 1/4"	26"	C	1
B	sides	3/4"	9 1/4"	17"	C	2
C	front	3/4"	9 1/4"	14 1/2"	C	1
D	top	3/4"	9 1/4"	13"	C	1
E	bottom	3/4"	9 1/4"	7 3/4"	C	1
Choice of cedar, redwood, cypress, or painted white pine						