

House Wren

The house wren was named a familiar backyard bird long ago for its tendency to nest around human homes or in birdhouses. Very active and inquisitive, bouncing about with its short tail held up in the air, pausing to sing a rich bubbling song, it adds a lively spark to gardens and city parks despite its lack of bright colors. Various forms of this wren are found from central Canada to southern South America.

Habitat: Open woods, thickets, towns, gardens. Breeds in many semi-open habitats, including suburbs, orchards, woodlots, open forest, streamside groves, mountain pine-oak woods, and many others. Winters mainly in dense, low growth areas, including thickets and streamside brush.

Nesting: Male defends territory by singing. Courtship involves male singing, showing the female potential nest sites. Male may have more than one mate; female may leave male to care for the young from the first brood while she moves to another male's territory and nests again. Nest site is in any cavity, including natural hollows in trees and stumps, old woodpecker holes, crevices in buildings, often in nest boxes. May nest in almost any kind of enclosed space (flowerpots, parked cars, shoes, drainpipes, etc.). Male builds incomplete “dummy” nests in several cavities; the female chooses one and finishes the nest by adding a lining. The nest has a foundation of twigs, topped with softer cups of plant fibers, grass, weeds, animal hair, feathers.

Nest Box Placement: Mount the nesting box between 5 and 10 feet from the ground. The nesting box entrance hole can face any direction. Space boxes 100 feet apart.

Helpful Tips

- Place the nest box within 100 feet of woody vegetation, but make sure there is enough space around the box so the wrens can fly freely to and from the entrance hole.
- Both sexes may destroy the eggs or nestlings of nearby cavity nesters in the process of taking over a nest site, so it is a good idea to place nest boxes intended for other species at least 100 feet away from wren boxes.

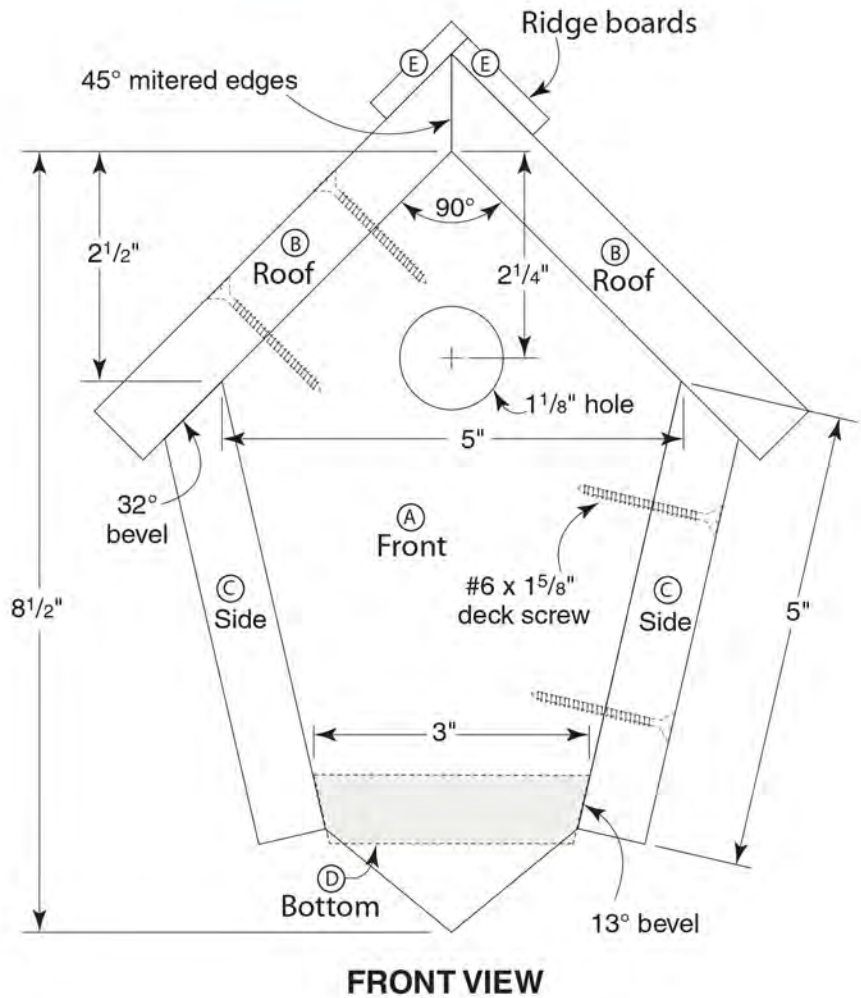
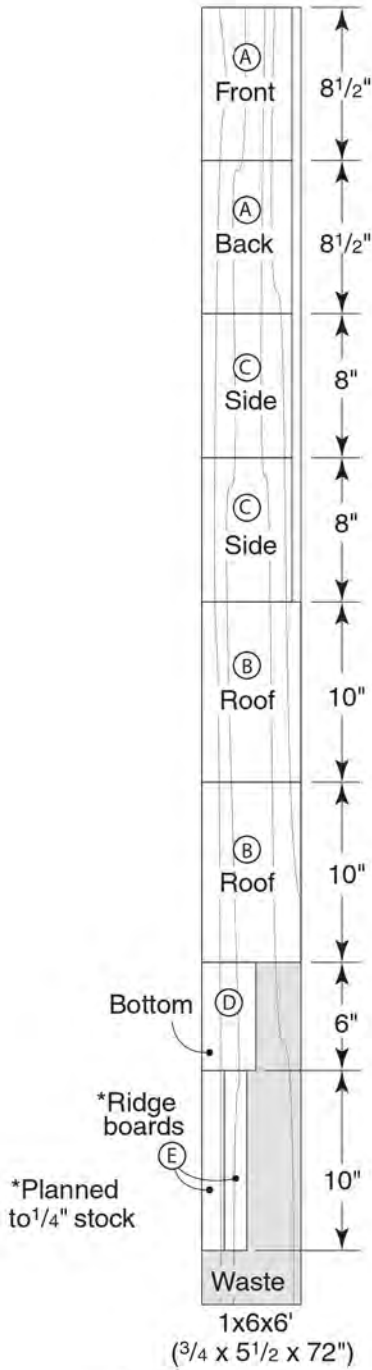
For more about North American birds and backyard birding activities:

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

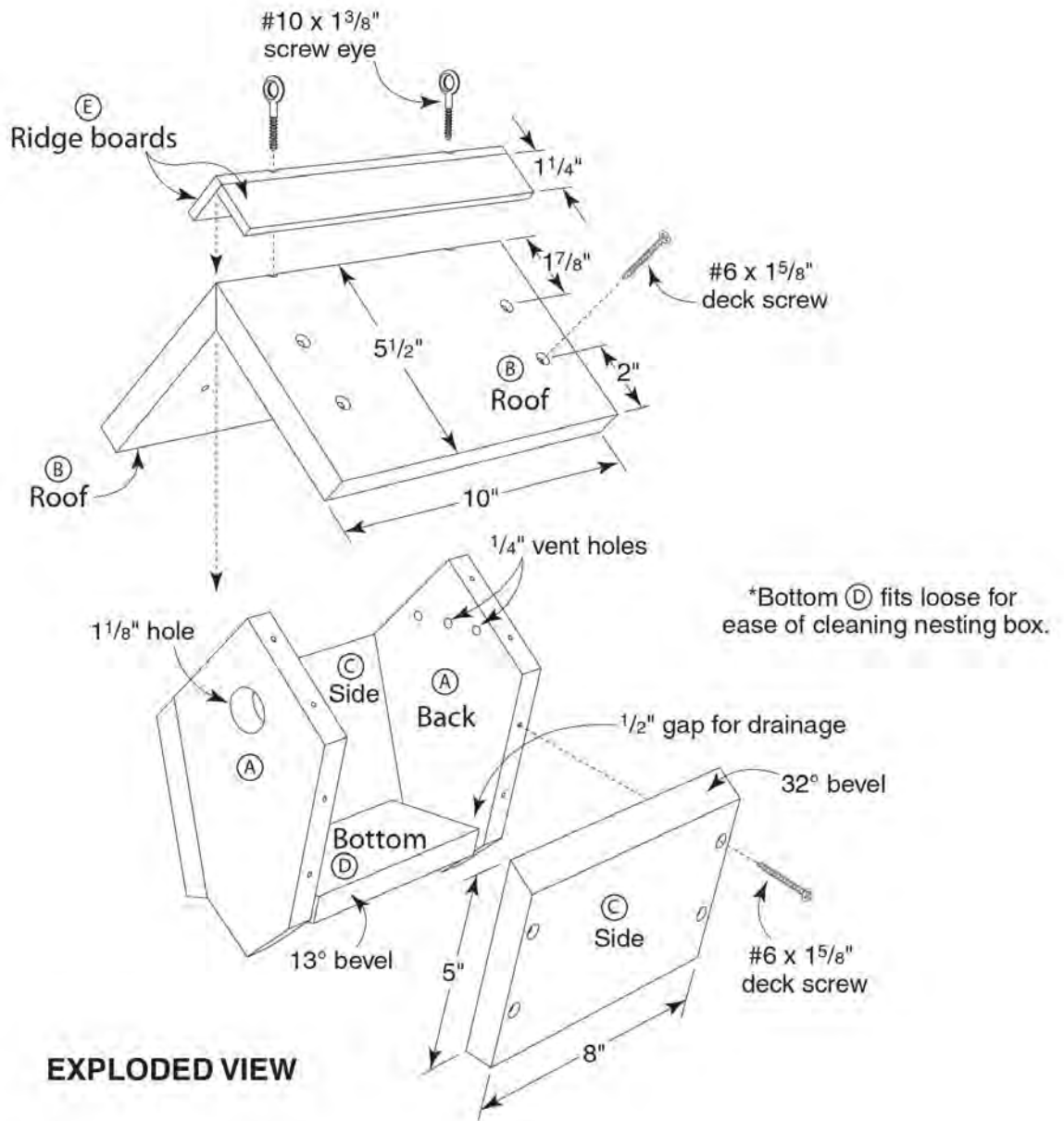


WREN NESTING BOX PLAN

Project Plan: Marlen Kemmet
 Illustrations: Roxanne LeMoine



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MATERIALS LIST FOR WREN NESTING BOX

Parts	Thickness	Width	Length	Material	Pieces
A front/back	3/4"	5"	8 1/2"	W	2
B roof sections	3/4"	5 1/2"	10"	W	2
C sides	3/4"	5"	8"	W	2
D bottom	3/4"	3"	6"	W	1
E ridge boards	1/4"	1 1/4"	10"	W	2

Choice of cedar, redwood, cypress or painted white pine.

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