

How to make a **Bird House**

Saving the birds by building a sustainable, usable, long lasting habitat that protects birds from predators and other factors.

ORIGINAL VERSION

Made by James Villemarette for ENGL 410, due April 9th, 2021 for the Spring 2021 semester. All images were generated in Blender 3D & Adobe Illustrator for this assignment. No third party assets were used in the making of these instructional guide. This version is inspired by the Miele Operating Instructions found on ManualsLib dot com. All information comes from the Audubon Society website.

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INTRO. WELCOME

Birds are critical pollinators, insect predators, and serve a wide variety of vital ecosystem functions. By building a bird house you can help improve the health of your local ecosystem.

WARNING! → This guide requires dangerous tools, such as a wood saw, that should be handled carefully. Seek help from a professional if needed.

INTRO. GATHER THE MATERIALS

You will need *at least* the following **materials**:

1 8 sq. ft. of untreated, wooden panels, preferably cedar, pine, or cypress.

2 8 Philips-head, galvanized drive screws.

3 A Predator Guard

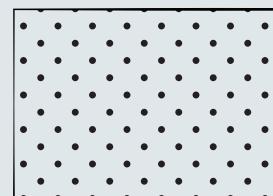
4 1x4 wooden segment, about 1 ft. long.

You will also need the following **tools**:

Wood Saw



Sand Paper or Sander



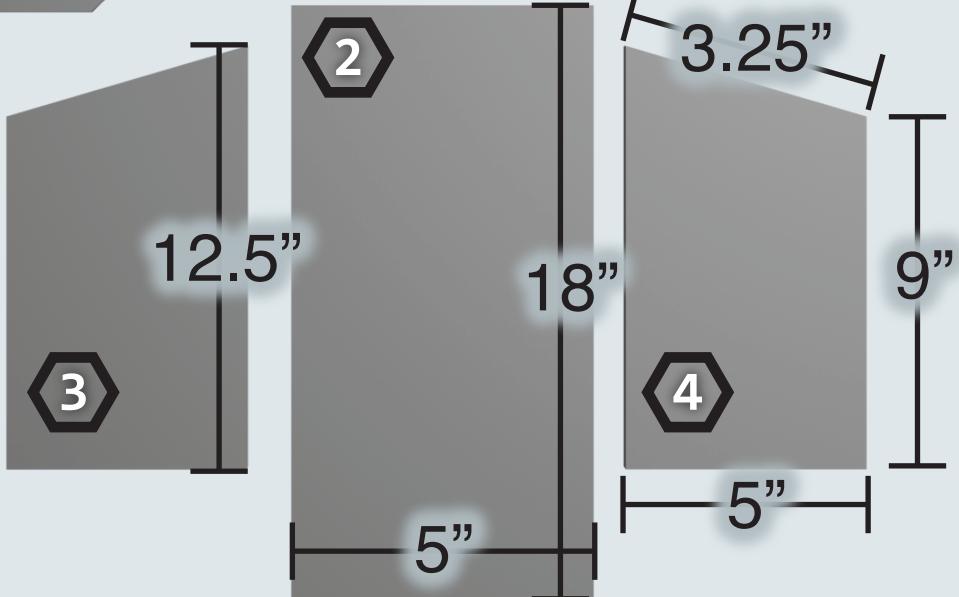
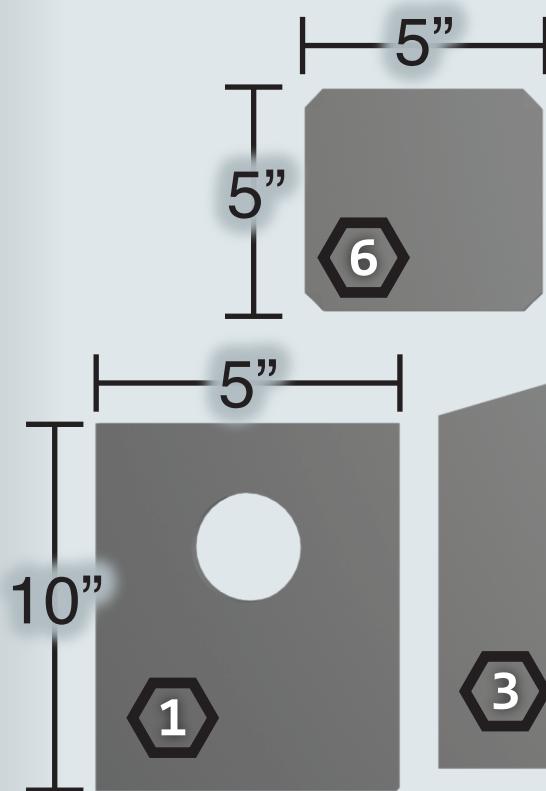
Screw Driver



i. CUT THE WOOD

Use your **1** wood saw to cut your wooden panels to the correct dimensions listed below.

Becareful to not injure yourself while sawing.



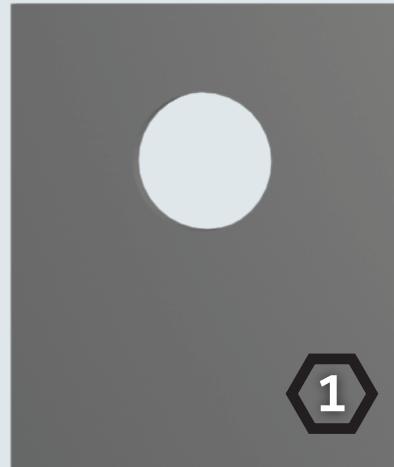
- 1** Front
- 2** Back
- 3** Left side

- 4** Right side
- 5** Roof
- 6** Bottom

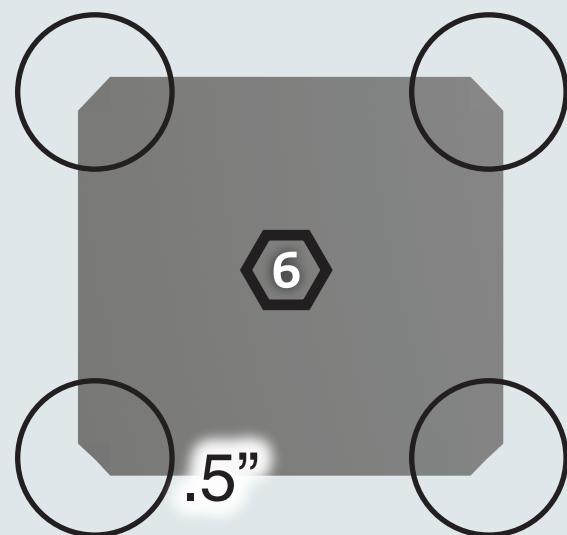
ii. SAND THE WOOD

Use the **2 sand paper or sander** to sand down all the burrs and splinters.

On the inside of the **1 front panel**, you should sand in grooves in the wood. This helps chicks climb out of the bird house.



For the **6 bottom** panel, you should use your **1 wood saw** and **2 sander** to cut .5" into the corners. This helps make drain holes to prevent any rain accumulation on the inside.



iii. DRILL SCREWS

Gather your **② galvanized drive screws**.

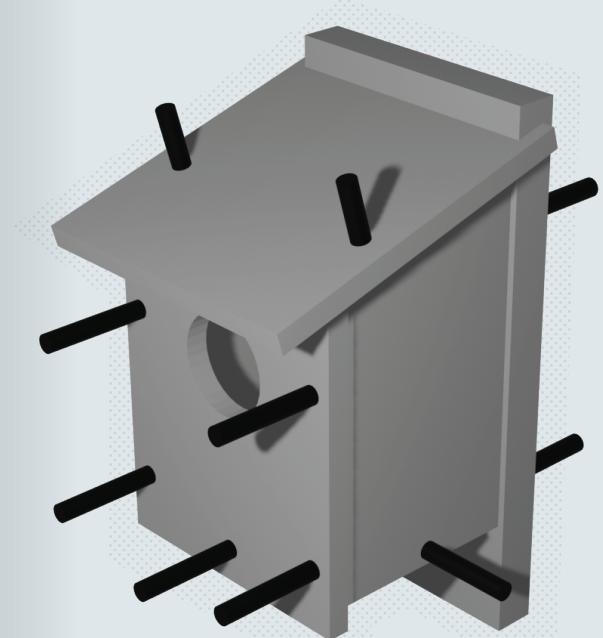
13x



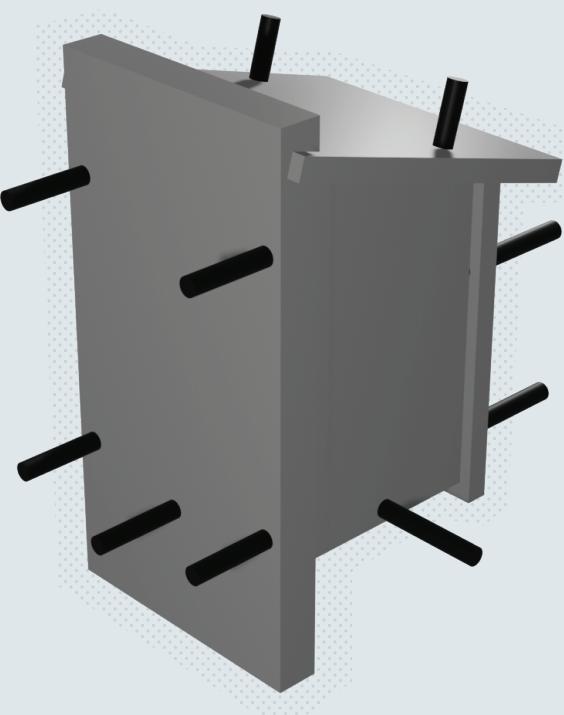
These screws are strong, and their flared tops help prevent water from entering, and wood rot from occurring.

Drill the screws in with a **③ screw driver** into the specified locations (see the black pegs):

FRONT at angle



BACK at angle

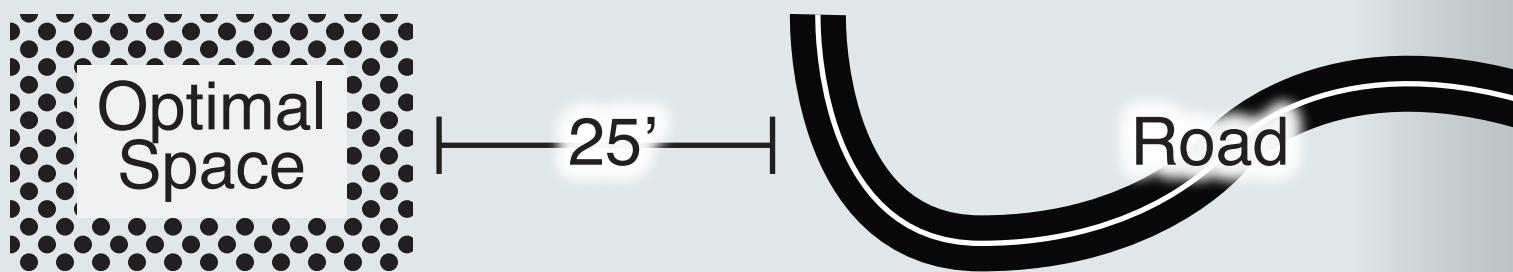


Note: These screw positions help ensure the longevity of the bird house.

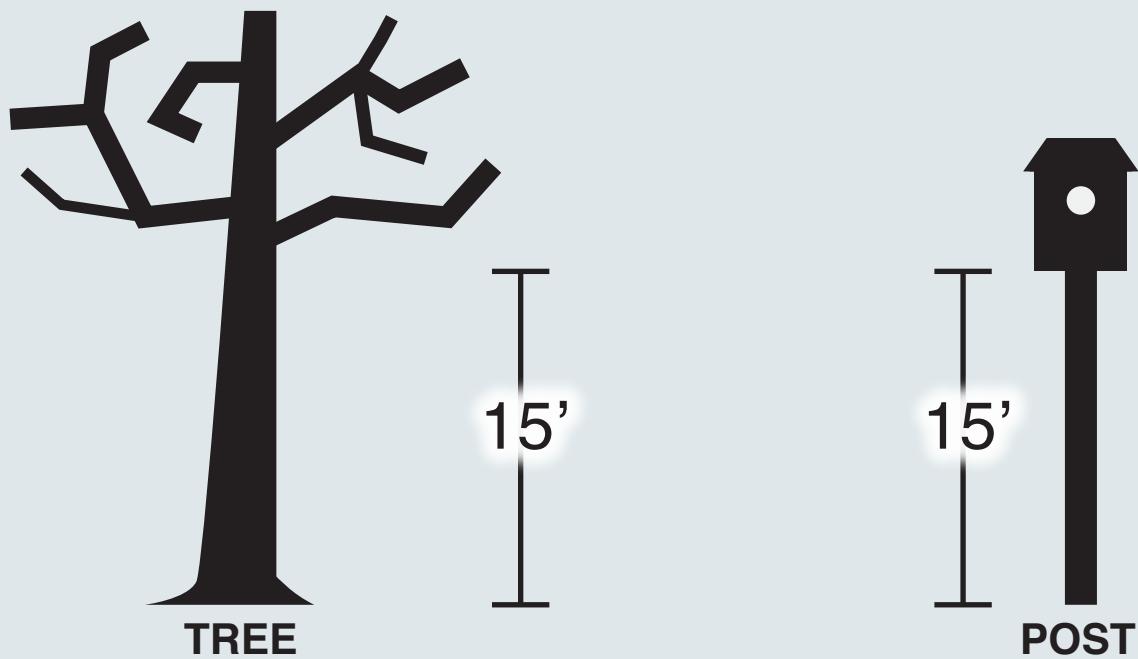
iv. FIND A MOUNTING POINT

There are many factors to consider of where you should put your newly constructed bird house.

Isolated: Keep it away from busy roads and other areas of human activity.



Height: The bird house should be at least 15 feet off the ground, preventing opportunistic predators.



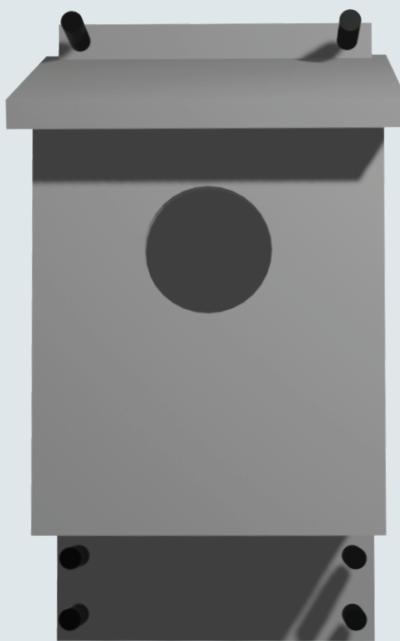
v. MOUNT THE BIRD HOUSE

Once you have decided where to put your bird house, it is then time to mount it.

6x



You will need more **② galvanized screws**. Two should be drilled in the top, and four screws should be drilled in the bottom to ensure good structural support in the bottom.



FRONT



FRONT at angle

Ensure that you are mounting the bird house on a flat enough surface.

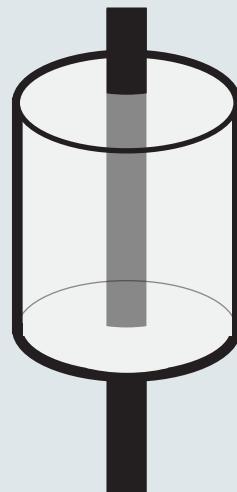
vi. SECURE THE SITE AGAINST PRED.

Birds have several natural predators. While having biological competition is beneficial to maintaining a balance (or homeostasis) in an ecosystem, birds need a place to raise their chicks in order for this ecosystem to be maintained.

You can use the following devices to keep predators out of your birdhouse:

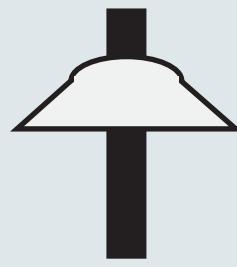
Noel Guard

A wire mesh tube that goes around entrance. It is only so effective, and should be used in combination with one of the below.



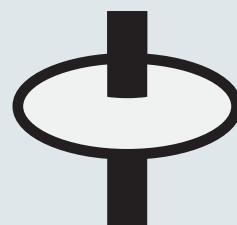
Stovepipe

24-36" long, 8" diameter, stops pred. effectively.



Collar

A shortened stovepipe, somewhat less effective.



Noel Guards are the most effective method of keeping out predators, but the most expensive. May not be necessary in urban environments.

Stovepipes are a “middle of the road” option. Less effective, less expensive, and better in suburban environments.

Collars are the cheapest and least effective options. Though, they are better than nothing, and can be fabricated with cardboard and tape.

vii. CONCLUSION

Thank you for following along with this guide. You are helping maintaining your ecosystem, and providing yourself an awesome opportunity to see some amazing birds, up close.

If you would like to, there's multiple ways that you could improve your birdhouse.

Varnish

My painting your bird house with a wood varnish, you can greatly inhibit wood rot, and extend the life of the bird house.

Video Camera

An old laptop webcam with a lengthed USB cable can easily allow you to watch your bird house visitors without disturbing the nest. And recording observations to submit to the Cornell Ornithology health can help track species

Heater

A small USB or battery powered heating pad can improve the birds' health during the frigid winter months. Depending on your climate.

Decorations

Flowers, tree branches, or some earth-tone paints can help make a bird house stand out to travelling or local birds to use.

In conclusion, we hope that you enjoy your new bird house, and any visitors that may wish to take residence in it.