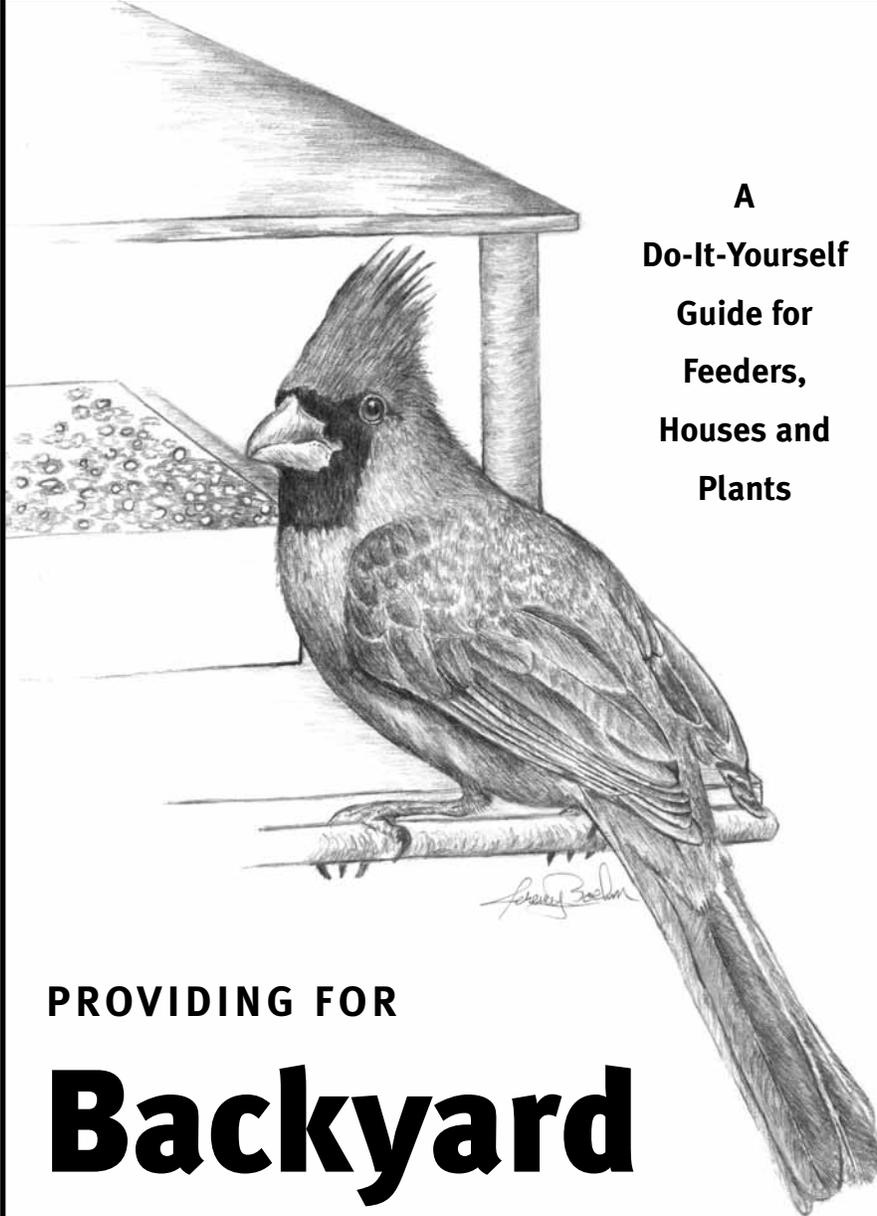


TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



A  
Do-It-Yourself  
Guide for  
Feeders,  
Houses and  
Plants

PROVIDING FOR

# Backyard Wildlife



#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Walter Brown is a member of the Capital Area Master Naturalists. With his wife Jane, Walter has created a beautiful wildlife haven in downtown Belton, Texas. Less than two blocks from the heart of the city, it is not unusual to visit their backyard and see feeders busy with birds, plants swarmed by butterflies and caterpillars finding a welcome on the numerous host plants. Walter and Jane have also been involved in numerous habitat restoration projects in and around Belton.

Wanting to share his efforts, Walter has created this booklet to help others understand the joy of landscaping for wildlife in Texas.

For more information on the Master Naturalist program, please visit <http://masternaturalist.tamu.edu/>

# Providing for Backyard Wildlife

## A Do-It-Yourself Guide for Feeders, Houses and Plants

BY WALTER BROWN

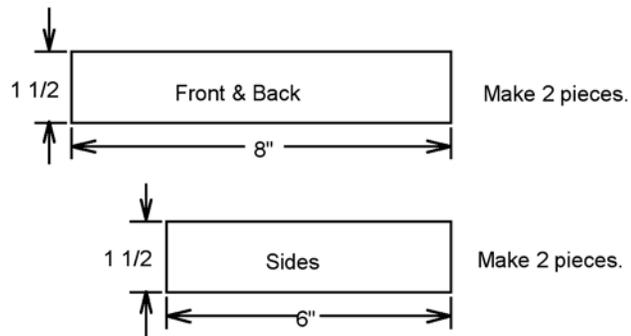
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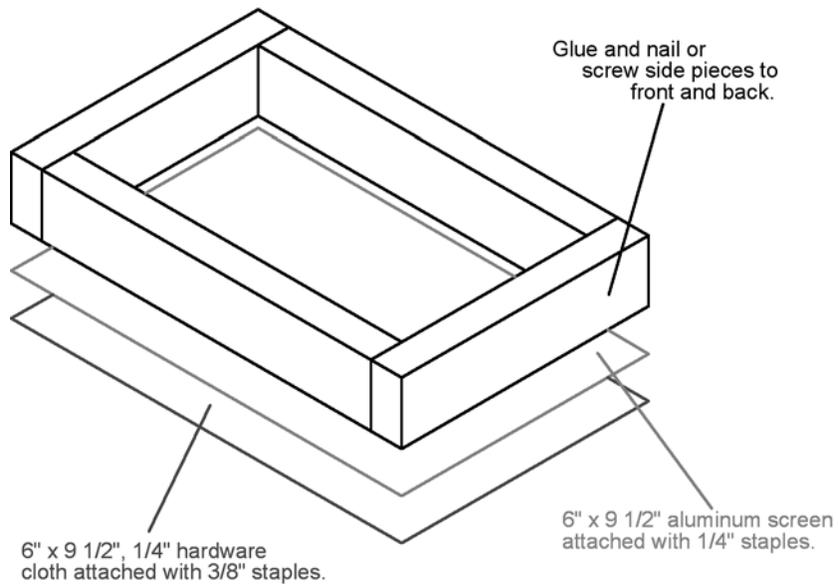


In addition to items listed in this pamphlet, one other requirement is necessary to guarantee wildlife visits to your yard: **WATER!** It doesn't have to be a fountain or pond; a pan with water for animals to drink is all that is necessary. Give them food, water and habitat, and enjoy watching wildlife in your backyard.

## PLATFORM BIRD FEEDER

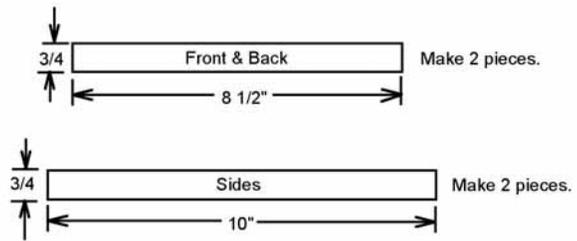


### ASSEMBLY DETAILS

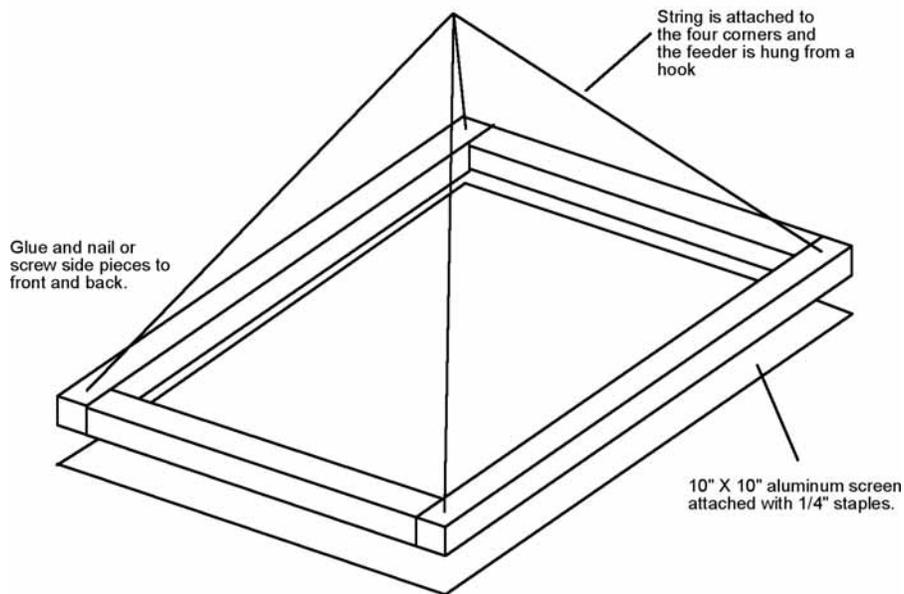


Feeder is attached to fence or other suitable surface using 90 degree brackets. Brackets may be installed vertically to attach to fence posts or poles, horizontally for attachment to fences.

## PLATFORM BUTTERFLY FEEDER

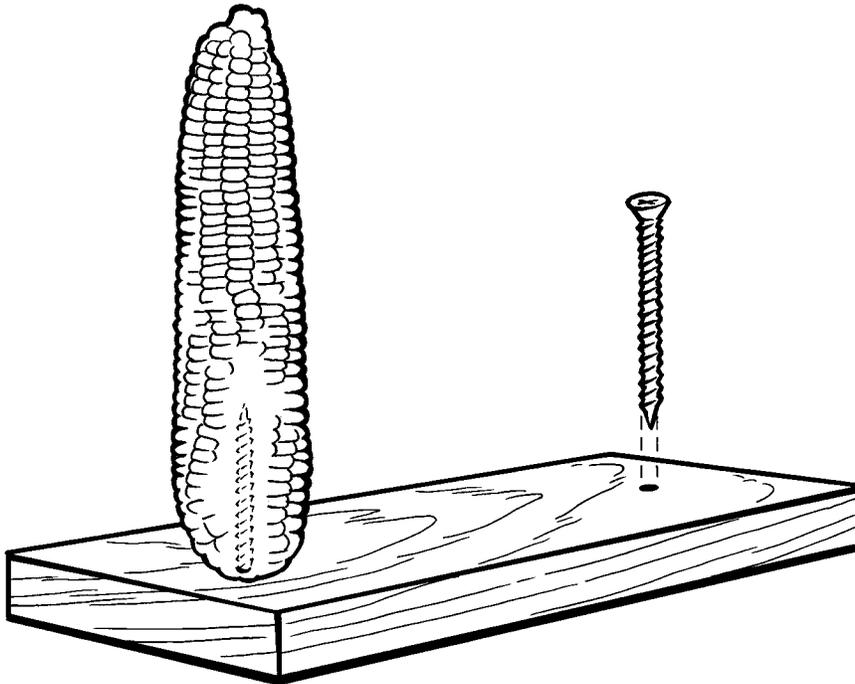


### ASSEMBLY DETAILS



Place thin slices of orange or banana in the feeder to attract the butterflies. Particularly interesting to butterflies is very ripe banana.

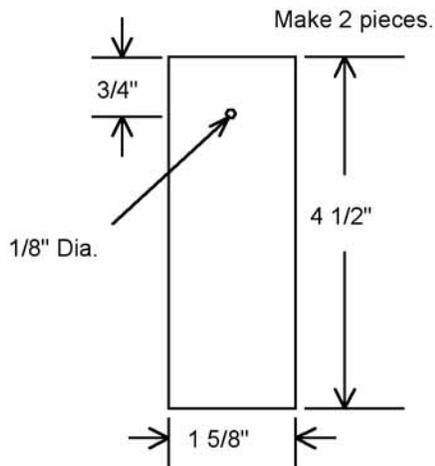
## SIMPLE SQUIRREL AND DOVE FEEDER



This simple corn cob squirrel and dove feeder is made of scrap wood and can hold multiple cobs of corn and be mounted at any point.

Use of a squirrel feeder will reduce problems with squirrels raiding bird feeders.

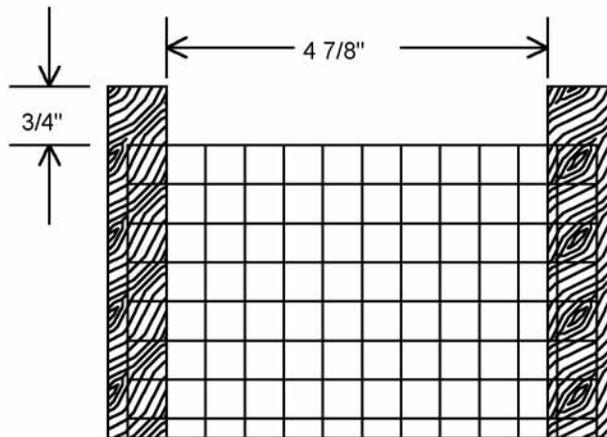
## SUET FEEDER



A 6 1/8" x 9" piece of 1/2" hardware cloth is required. The dimensions correspond to a piece that is 12 squares wide by 18 squares long.

Assembly is shown below. 3/8" staples are used to attach the hardware cloth.

A wire is looped through the holes in the side to act as a hanger for the feeder.



## SOLITARY BEES

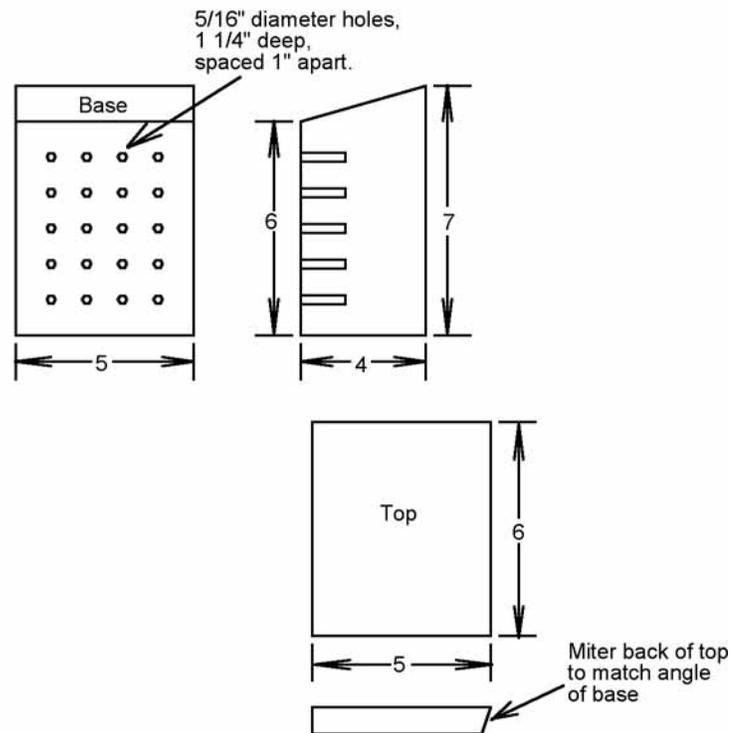
When we think of bees, we usually think of colonies of honey bees. But did you know that over 90% of bees are solitary? Common solitary bees include mason, carpenter, digger, sweat and plasterer bees. While these bees live alone, they almost always nest close to one another. The pollinator box gives these bees a ready made home to inhabit instead of nesting in your lawn furniture or urethane roofing material.

The female bee puts a mixture of pollen and nectar in the hole and lays an egg on top of the “food” and closes the hole. The egg hatches and the tiny grub consumes the food and pupates. The entire process takes only a week or two.

Because they don’t have large nests and many offspring, solitary bees tend to be less defensive than social bees. Although the female is capable of stinging, she only does so when threatened. Solitary bees are considered beneficial because they pollinate crops and native plants.

Through experimentation, we have found that the pollinator boxes located in open areas seem to be more populated than those that are obscured or protected by shrubs and other plants. Since few bees will read this, make several pollinator boxes and see what works best for your bees.

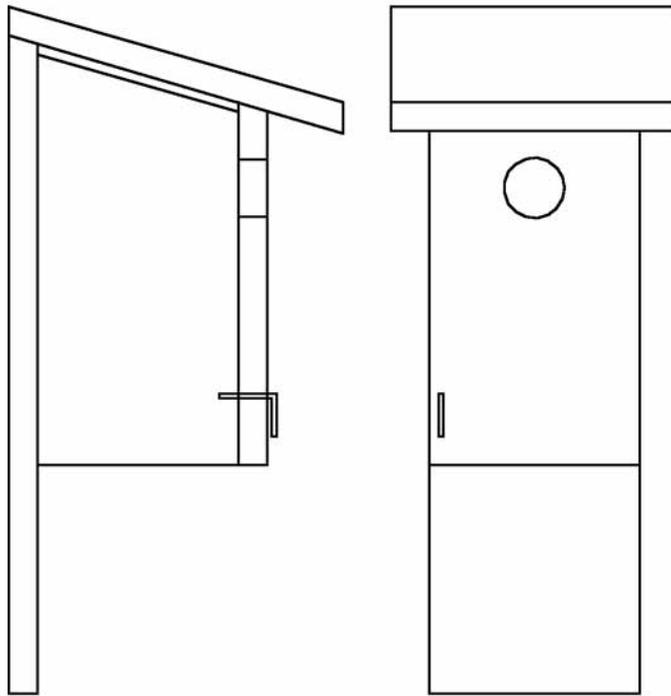
## POLLINATOR BOX FOR SOLITARY BEES



### NOTES

1. Base is made from 1 1/2" glued up stock.
2. Top (optional) is glued and centered on box with miter cut aligned with back of box. Top is then nailed into position.
3. Dimensions may be varied to suit taste and materials available. Critical is the HOLE DIAMETER, HOLE DEPTH, and DISTANCE BETWEEN HOLES.

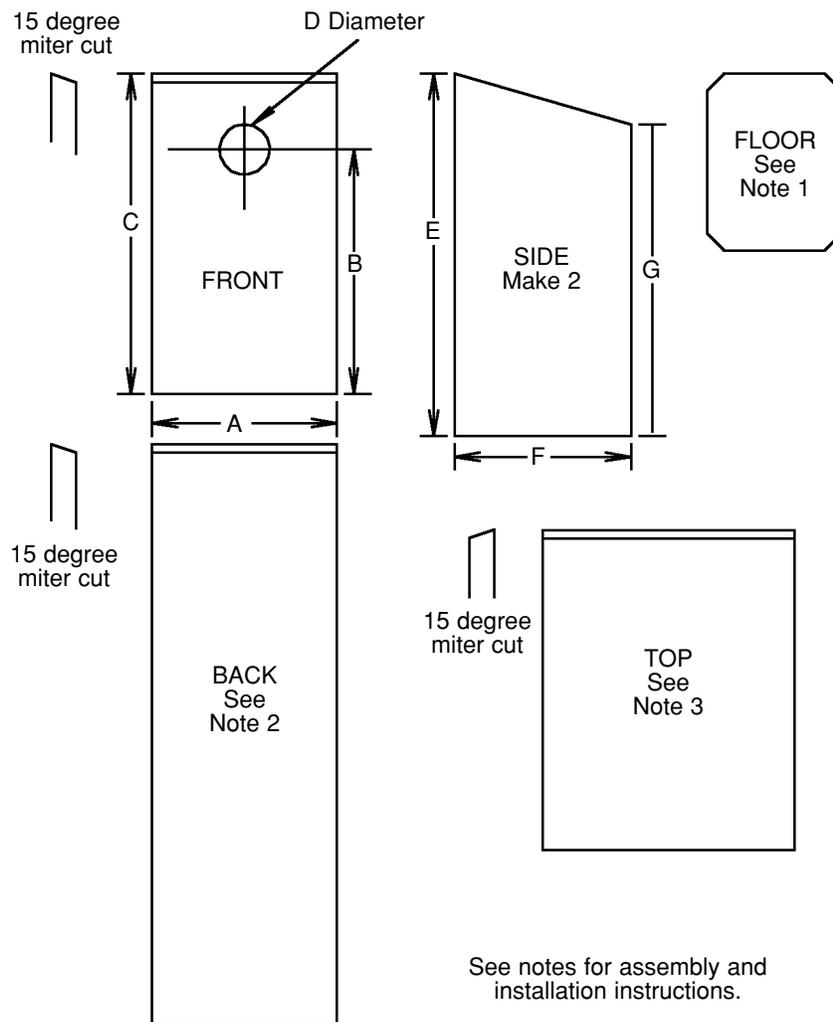
## GENERAL USE NESTING BOX



Side View

Front View

### GENERAL USE NESTING BOX



**NOTES:**

1. The FLOOR is cut snugly to fit the inside dimensions of the nest box. Four corners are cut off 1/2" to allow for drainage.
2. The length of the BACK is long enough to extend 10" below the nest box.
3. The ROOF extends 1" over the sides and 2" over the front of the box.

**ASSEMBLY:**

1. Fasten the FRONT to the LEFT SIDE. Ensure that the bottom edge of both pieces align before fastening. (The front will be 1/4" higher than the side as shown in the drawing).
2. Attach the BACK to the SIDE, making sure the back is 1/4" higher than the side.
3. Fit the FLOOR in the box so that it is 1/4" up from the bottom of the front and side pieces. Secure on 3 sides.
4. Position the remaining SIDE and secure with a 1 1/2" brad in the front and back. The brads are pivot points for opening the side for inspection, so they should be near the top and in a straight line from front to back.
5. With the RIGHT SIDE closed, drill a hole through the front and into the right side. Fit a nail or piece of wire into the hole as a catch (see drawing).

**INSTALLATION:**

1. Using conduit clamps and screws, attach a suitable length of 1 1/2" steel conduit to the BACK of the box. Two attachment points (top and bottom) are usually sufficient.

Place the conduit in the ground, making sure the distance from the ground to the entrance hole conforms to the dimension chart.

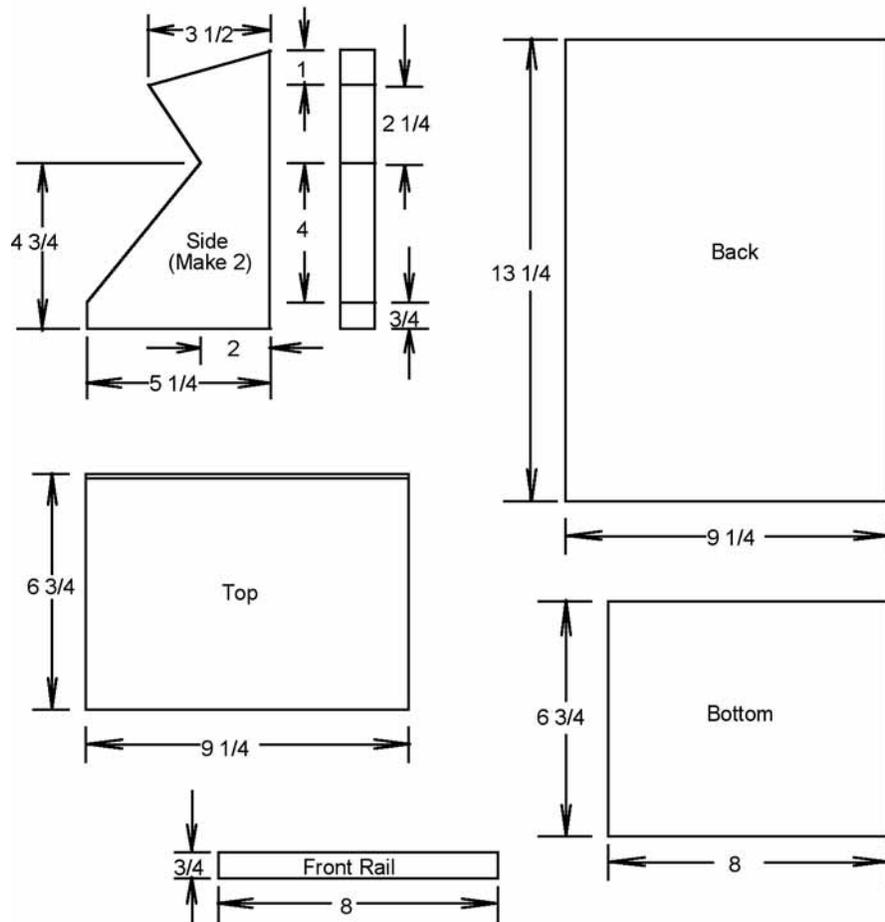
## Providing for Backyard Wildlife

BIRD SPECIES	ENTRANCE										PLACEMENT
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	ABOVE GROUND			
Eastern Bluebird	5 1/2"	7 1/4"	9 1/2"	1 1/2"	10 3/4"	5 1/4"	9 1/4"	5 - 10'			Woody, brushy borders of open fields
Carolina Chickadee	5 1/2"	7"	9"	1 1/8"	9 3/4"	4"	8 3/4"	6 - 15'			Edges of urban and suburban yards; brushy borders of fields
American Kestrel	9 1/2"	10 1/2"	13 1/2"	3"	15 1/4"	8"	13 1/4"	15 - 30'			Woody borders of open areas; lightly wooded forests
House Finch	7 1/2"	4"	6"	2"	7 1/4"	6"	5 3/4"	8 - 12'			Edges of urban and suburban yards
Screech Owl*	9 1/2"	10 1/2"	13 1/2"	3"	15 1/4"	8"	13 1/4"	15 - 30'			Lightly wooded forests; woody borders of open areas; wooded urban and suburban yards
Tufted Titmouse	5 1/2"	7"	9"	1 1/4"	9 3/4"	4"	8 3/4"	6 - 15'			Edges of urban and suburban yards; brushy borders of fields
Red-bellied Woodpecker*	7 1/2"	11"	13"	2 1/2"	14 1/4"	6"	12 3/4"	15 - 20'			Wooded areas
Bewick's Wren	5 1/2"	5"	7"	1"	7 3/4"	4"	6 3/4"	6 - 10'			Edges of urban and suburban yards; brushy borders of fields
Carolina Wren	5 1/2"	5"	7"	1 1/8"	7 3/4"	4"	6 3/4"	6 - 10'			Brushy areas near wooded lots
House Wren	5 1/2"	5"	7"	1"	7 3/4"	4"	6 3/4"	6 - 10'			Edges of urban and suburban yards; brushy borders of fields

\* Add wood shavings or sawdust to a depth of 2-3 inches.

## NESTING PLATFORM DETAILS

### EASTERN PHOEBE, AMERICAN ROBIN, BARN SWALLOW



Rail stock is  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick.  
All remaining stock is  $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick.

## **NESTING PLATFORM INFORMATION**

Extending the floor three to four feet will make a good platform for nesting Barn Swallows.

Barn Swallows – you either love their graceful flight or despise their mud nests attached just below the eaves on your home. These nests can be a problem and one way of dealing with them is to install a nesting platform, like that described on page 12, but extended to several feet per platform, on a building where you will not mind their nests. These graceful birds can be of great service to agricultural and residential areas alike, since they eat many of the flying insects that are “pests” in these areas.

## Common Butterflies and their Favorite Plants

BUTTERFLY	LARVAL PLANT	NECTAR PLANT
Black Swallowtail	Dutchmen's breeches, dill, parsley	Fruit tree blossoms, lantana, asters
Bordered Patch	Sunflower, ragweed	Sunflower, ragweeds, straggler daisy
Buckeye	Purple gerardia, frog-fruit, ruellia	Purple gerardia, frog-fruit, ruellia
Cloudless Giant Sulpher	Senna species, partridge pea	Lantana, turk's cap, cardinal flower
Dogface	Leadplant, clover species	Verbena, salvias
Giant Swallowtail	Lime-prickly-ash, hop tree	Lantana, milkweed, honeysuckle
Great Southern White	Pepper grass, mustard family species	Various tastes
Great Purple Hairstreak	Mistletoe, eastern cottonwood, mesquite, sycamore	Poverty weed, Mexican plum
Gulf Fritillary	Passion-flower species, passion vine	Butterfly bush, lantana, asters
Goatweed Butterfly	Silver croton, one-seed croton, woolly croton	Tree sap, fruit juice, decaying wood
Hackberry Butterfly	Hackberry species	Dung, tree sap, rotting fruit
Julia	Passion-flower, passion vine	Lantana
Long-tailed Skipper	Legumes, mustards	Legumes, mustards



<b>BUTTERFLY</b>	<b>LARVAL PLANT</b>	<b>NECTAR PLANT</b>
Monarch	Milkweed species, milkweed vine	Lantana, frostweed, sunflowers
Painted Lady	Thistles, milfoil, mugwort	Thistles, mugwort, asters
Pipevine Swallowtail	Dutchman's pipe	Lantana, phlox, cardinal flower, thistles
Queen	Milkweed species	Milkweed species, frog-fruit
Question Mark	Nettles, hackberries, cedar elm	Mud, tree sap, milkweed, asters
Red Admiral	Nettles, pellitory	Milkweeds, asters
Snout Butterfly	Hackberry species	Dogwood, dogbane species, goldenrod
Tiger Swallowtail	Green ash, Mexican plum, eastern cottonwood	Butterfly weed, salvias, abelia, milkweeds
Variiegated Fritillary	Stiff-stem flax	Flax species
Zebra	Passion-flower, passion vine	Mist-flower, lantana, boneset, golden-eye

## Hummingbird Plants for Texas

### COMMON NAME

Flame Acanthus  
 Red Yucca  
 Cross Vine  
 Trumpet Vine  
 Desert Willow  
 Coral Honeysuckle  
 Buckeye  
 Red Buckeye  
 Purple Horsemint  
 Wild Bergamot  
 Tropical Sage  
 Autumn Sage  
 Big Red Sage  
 Cedar Sage  
 Mountain Sage  
 False Indigo  
 Anacacho Orchid Tree  
 Bird of Paradise  
 Eastern Coral Bean  
 Scarlet Runner Bean  
 Carolina Jessamine  
 Pink Root  
 Heart-leaf Hibiscus  
 Turk's Cap  
 Globe Mallow  
 Scarlet Muskflower  
 Texas Clematis  
 Wild Columbine  
 Mexican Buckeye  
 Cenizo  
 Lantana

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Anisacanthus wrightii*  
*Hesperaloe parviflora*  
*Bignonia capreolata*  
*Campsis radicans*  
*Chilopsis linearis*  
*Lonicera sempervirens*  
*Aesculus glabra v. arguta*  
*Aesculus pavia*  
*Monarda citriodora*  
*Monarda fistulosa*  
*Salvia coccinia*  
*Salvia greggii*  
*Salvia penstemonoides*  
*Salvia roemeriana*  
*Salvia regla*  
*Amorpha fruticosa*  
*Bauhinia congesta*  
*Caesalpinia gilliesii*  
*Erythrina herbacea*  
*Phaseolus coccineus*  
*Gelsemium sempervirens*  
*Spigelia marilandica*  
*Hibiscus cardiophyllus*  
*Malvaviscus arboreus*  
*Sphaeralcea angustifolia*  
*Nyctaginia capitata*  
*Cleamatis texensis*  
*Aquilegia canadensis*  
*Ungnadia speciosa*  
*Leucophyllum frutescens*  
*Lantana horrida*







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