

Structures for Wildlife (Roosting Structure for Bats)

S. C. Practice Job Sheet 649

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Date: _____



DEFINITION

A structure installed to replace or modify a missing or deficient wildlife habitat component

PURPOSE

Nesting structures can increase wildlife reproductive success in areas where natural nest sites are unavailable or unsuitable. Artificial nesting structures cannot replace natural nesting habitats, but they can increase the number of nesting sites available in an area.

CONDITON WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

For Bats: Boxes should be installed in open woodlots, old orchards, farmlands and areas within one-quarter mile of a lake, pond, stream, or wetland. Bat houses placed on poles, under building overhangs or

on the side of buildings are occupied more successfully than those boxes mounted on trees.

CRITERIA

Bat Box Placement

Install bat houses two to six weeks before spring or before bats are evicted from an attic, barn, etc. Bat boxes should be installed on a 4x4- or 4x6-inch pressure-treated wooden post or a metal pole with an inside diameter greater than two inches (for stability).

The bottom of the house should be 12 to 15 feet above the ground and located in ample sunlight. Bat boxes in South Carolina should receive six or more hours of direct sunlight and face east or southeast.

Construction:

OPERATIONS

Nesting structures should be monitored throughout the season to track use and nest success. Periodically remove undesirable exotic species, and clean the structure

after young have fledged. Many nests will be used again for second and late nesting attempts. Some birds tolerate limited levels of human disturbance, such as occasional (once a week or once every ten days) nest checks, but others do not. Nest checks should be completed quickly to minimize stress on parent birds and young.

For additional information provide the landowner a copy of the NRCS **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet, Number 20, Artificial Nesting Structures**

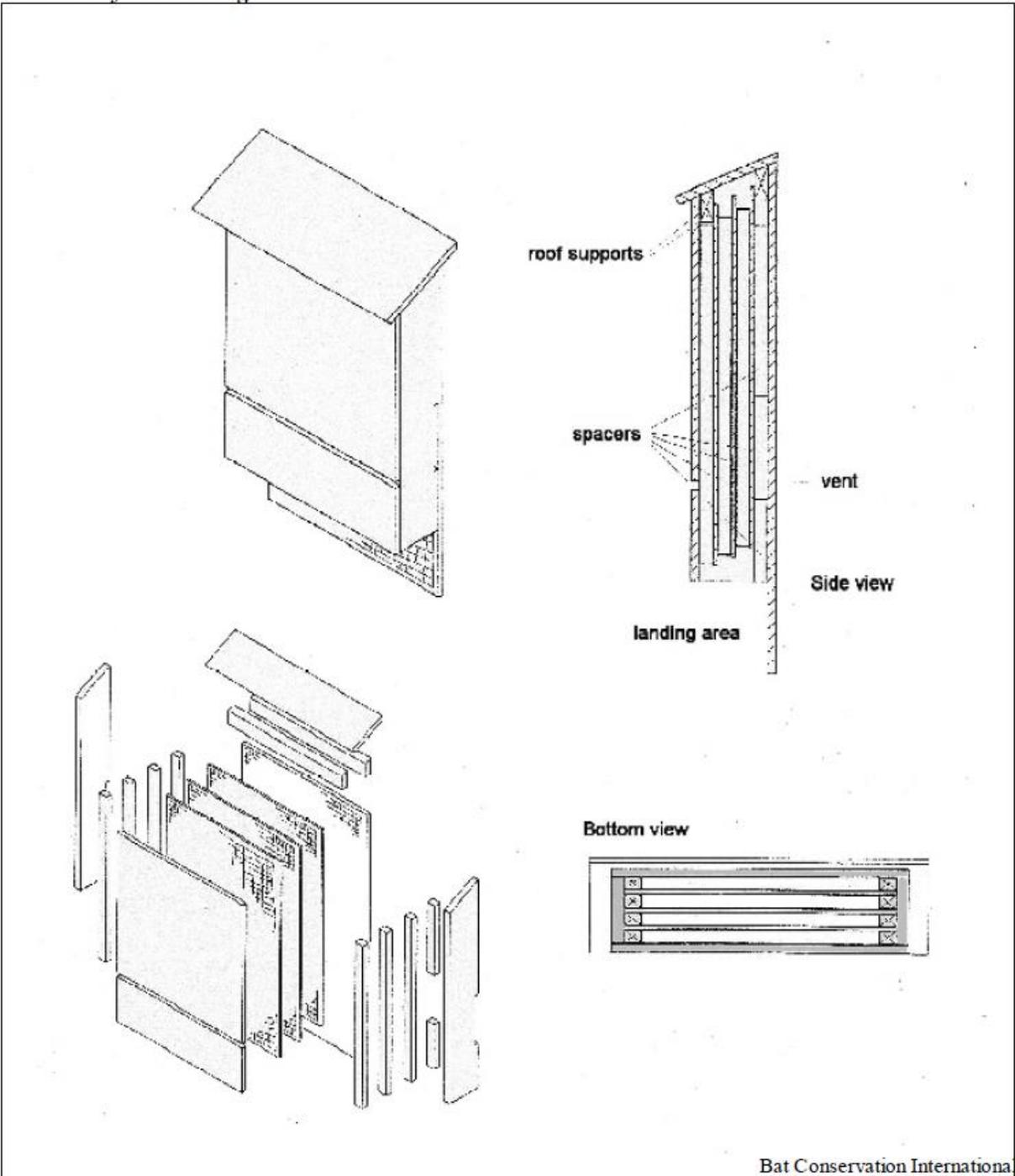
Upland Habitat Type:

- Open field
- Old Field
- Orchard
- Meadow

Acres of Habitat Improved: _____

Number of Structures Installed: _____

Bat nursery house design.



Bat Conservation International

1. Measure and mark all wood as per cutting diagrams on page 27. Cut out all parts.
2. Cut six pieces of netting 14"x21". Staple to partitions.
3. Screw back to sides, caulking first. Be sure top angles match.
4. Cut a piece of netting 16"x30" and staple to inside surface of back. Be sure netting lies flat and does not pucker.
5. Construct house as per drawings above. Place spacers on partitions, screw top front piece to sides, then screw bottom front piece to sides to create a 1/2" vent between the two pieces. Attach supports, attach roof.
6. Caulk between roof and sides, sides and front pieces, and sides and back pieces to seal the nursery house tight.

Certification:

Job Sheet

Prepared by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Installation

Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications? YES NO

Certification by: _____ Date: _____