



### DEFINITION

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

### PURPOSE

Cavity nesting structures can increase wildlife reproductive success in areas where natural nest sites are unavailable or unsuitable. Cavity 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 Eastern bluebirds: Typical areas that would be improved by the installation of bird boxes include open fields, meadows, old orchards; open rural country with scattered mature tree cover.

### CRITERIA

For Bluebirds: Place each box 4-6 feet above ground with the entrance hole facing the open areas. Placement should be in clusters with boxes placed approximately 150 feet apart.

### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

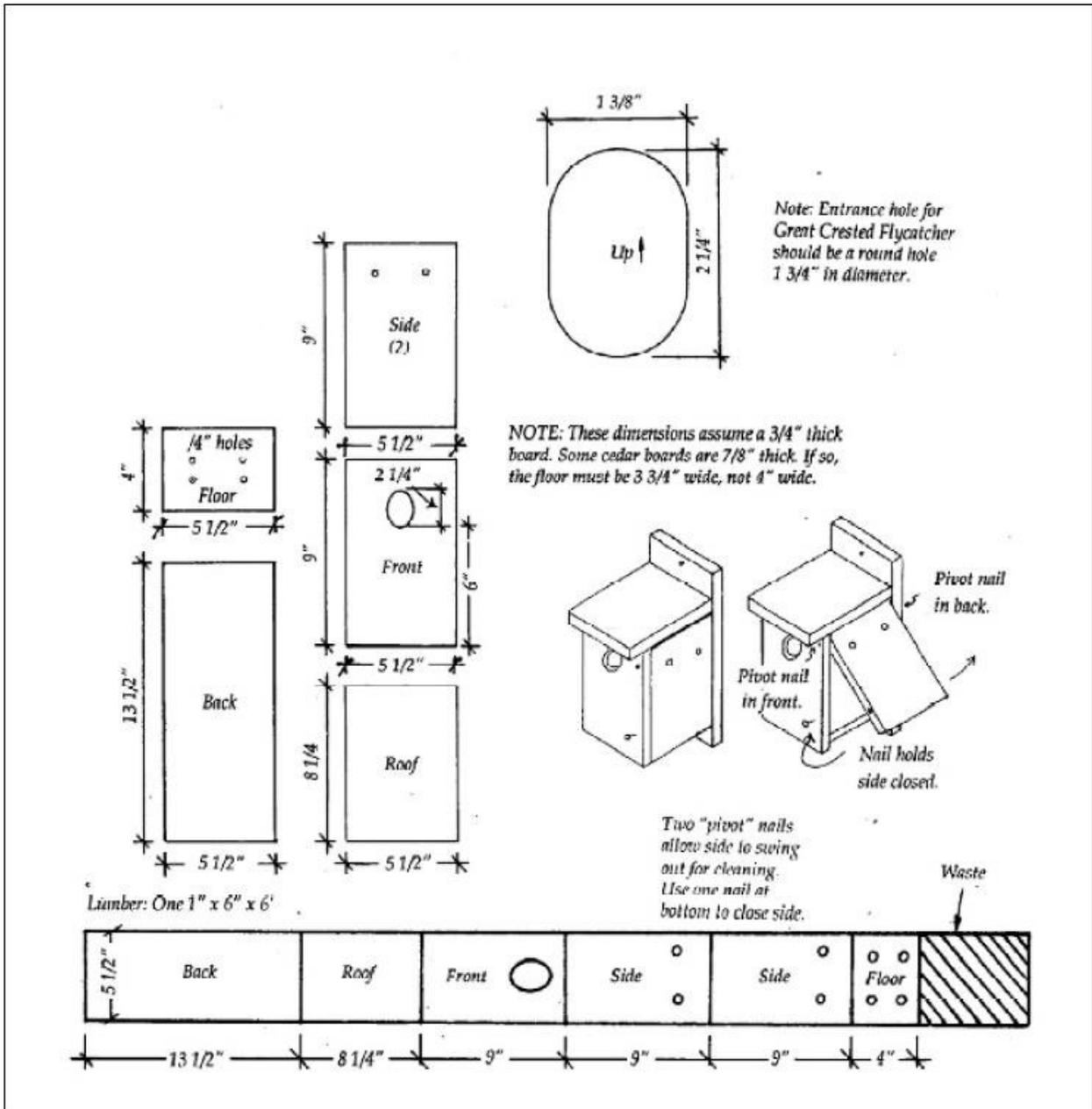
Nesting structures should be monitored throughout the nesting season to track use and nest success. Periodically remove undesirable exotic species, and clean the structure after young have fledged. Many nests will be used again for second and late nesting attempts. Some birds tolerate limited levels 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.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information provide the landowner a copy of the NRCS **Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet, Number 20, Artificial Nesting Structures**- WV Field Office Technical Guide – Section IV – Technical Notes – Biology.



## BLUEBIRD BOX DESIGN





**Structures or Wildlife - WV Job Sheet – Bluebird Boxes**

**Code 649**

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Client:		Farm #:	
Fields:		Tract #:	
Designed by:		Location:	
Date:		Total Number of Structures:	
<b>LANDOWNER OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES/DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION:</b>			
Enhance or sustain non-domesticated wildlife - Bluebirds			
<b>UPLAND HABITAT TYPE:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open Field		<input type="checkbox"/> Orchard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Old Field		<input type="checkbox"/> Meadow	
<b>FIELD #:</b>	<b>TOTAL BOXES INSTALLED:</b>	<b>SPACING BETWEEN BOXES:</b>	<b>PLANNED INSTALLATION DATE</b>
<b>OPERATION AD MAINTENANCE:</b>			
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<b>NOTES:</b>			

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Questions regarding the planning, application or maintenance of the Structures for Wildlife (649) practice should be directed to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Information: (304) 284-7581 or (304) 284-7579

Planner Certification
<p>This plan meets the requirements of West Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard – Structures for Wildlife (649).</p> <p>Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____</p>
Certification of Practice Completion
<p>This practice has been completed according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and amount.)</p> <p>Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____</p>

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