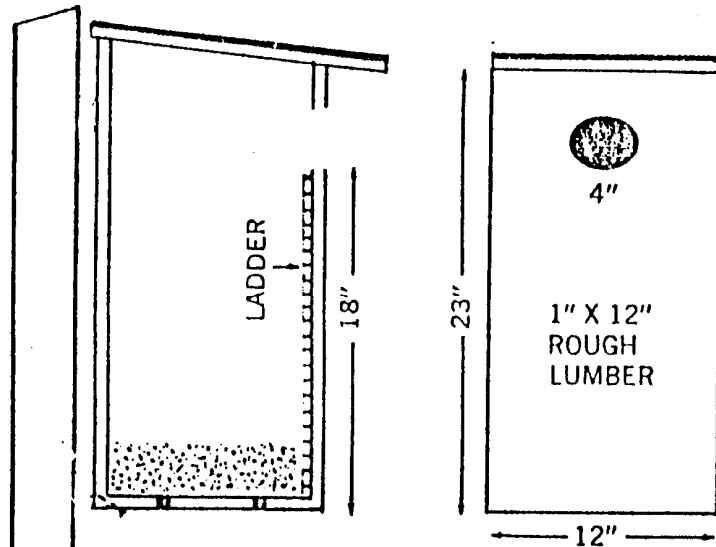


## STANDARD WOOD DUCK NESTING BOX

This nesting box is cheap to build, easy to maintain and if properly safe-guarded, inaccessible to such predators as raccoons, snakes, and squirrels.



SIDE

FRONT

### Materials:

Lumber:	10 linear feet of 1"x12" rough lumber (preferably cedar)
Nails:	25 - 8 or 10 penny, zinc coated
Hinge:	2 - 3" strap hinge
Hook:	1 - 3" hook & eye
Hardware cloth:	12" strip cut at least 3" wide (all sharp ends should be bent under)
Post:	1 - 4"x4"x12 feet long pressure treated wood
Plus:	enough wood chips to form a 5" nest base

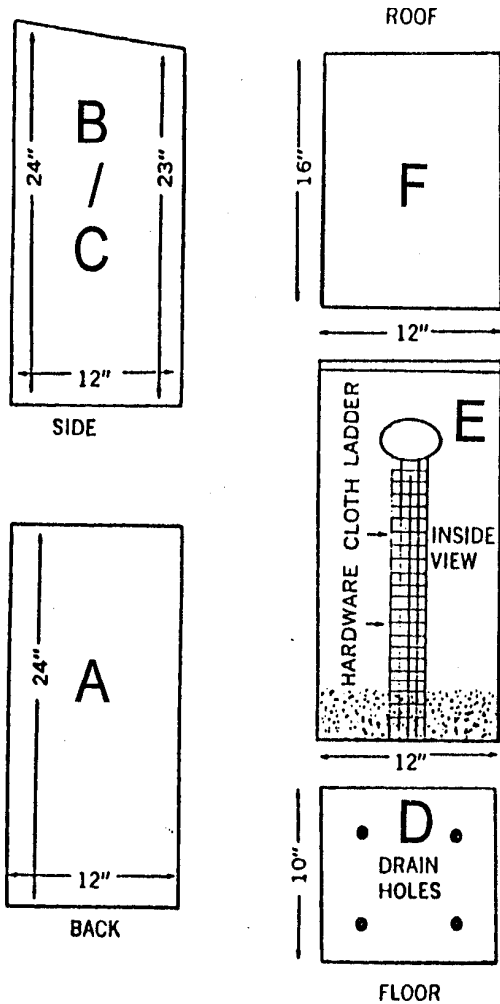
### Tips:

- Use rust-proof screws or nails that are long enough to hold securely despite rough handling and weathering.
- Bore four 1/4" drainage holes through the floor.
- Tack a strip of 1/4" mesh hardware cloth cut about 18"x3" from the bottom of the box to the hole. This is necessary in order for the ducklings to be able to climb out of the nest.
- Attach hinges to one side of box. Attach hook & eye to other side of box. Lift roof to one side for cleaning.
- Spray the inside of the box with lysol or other disinfectant prior to nesting season to discourage wasp and bees from moving in.
- Cedar or cypress wood is best for durability. Do not use pressure-treated or creosoted wood.
- Posts must have a metal cone predator shield to deter predators.
- Do not nail the box directly to a tree. Without proper safeguard against predators, this creates a deathtrap for woodpeckers.
- Wood duck boxes may also serve as a home for screech owls, prothonotary warblers, flying squirrels, tree swallows, pileated woodpeckers, crested flycatchers and other wildlife species.

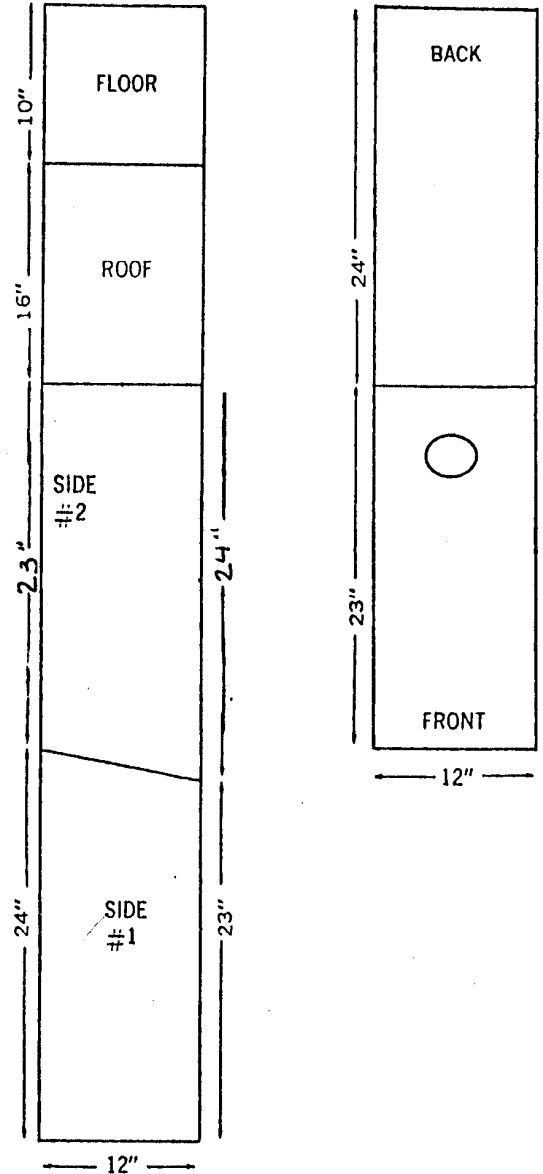
4" X 4" X 12' CEDAR POST

WATER

The box should be constructed of cedar (we use Eastern red cedar) or cypress. It should NOT be painted, stained or creosoted. The entrance hole should be 4" in diameter (we use a 4" hole saw). On the inside front of the box beneath the hole, a strip of screen or hardware cloth should be tacked to provide the ducklings a means of escaping the box.



10 LINEAR FEET OF 1' X 12" ROUGH LUMBER



**Guidelines:**

- Boxes should be cleaned prior to breeding season (March) each year.
- Wood Ducks prefer quiet inland fresh water with stable levels throughout the summer, but may tolerate slightly brackish water. Water should be in or near deciduous or mixed hardwood.
- Brood cover in the form of overhanging woody vegetation along water edge and emergent vegetation like sweet flag and smartweed increases brood survival.
- CWH does not recommend installing boxes on cleared farm ponds. These open areas provide no brood cover for ducklings who easily succumb to predators.

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

Your chances of having Wood Ducks successfully nest and hatch broods in nesting boxes you build yourself are increased if you follow these steps:

- Cedar or cypress wood is best for durability.
  - Do not use pressure treated or creosoted wood.
  - A ladder inside aids ducklings when climbing out of the box.
  - Place 5-6" of wood chips inside the box for nesting material.
  - Group boxes 2-4 per wetland acre.
  - Boxes should be cleaned prior to breeding season (March) each year.
  - Prefer quiet inland fresh water with stable levels throughout the summer, but may tolerate slightly brackish water. Water should be in or near deciduous or mixed woodland.
  - Post should have a metal cone predator shield to deter squirrels, raccoons, snakes and other nest predators.
  - Brood cover in the form of overhanging woody vegetation along water edge and emergent vegetation like sweet flag and smartweed increases brood survival.
  - Adults favor mast foods like acorns and seeds from bald cypress, hickory, buttonbush, duck potato, burreed, mulberries, wild grape and corn.
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