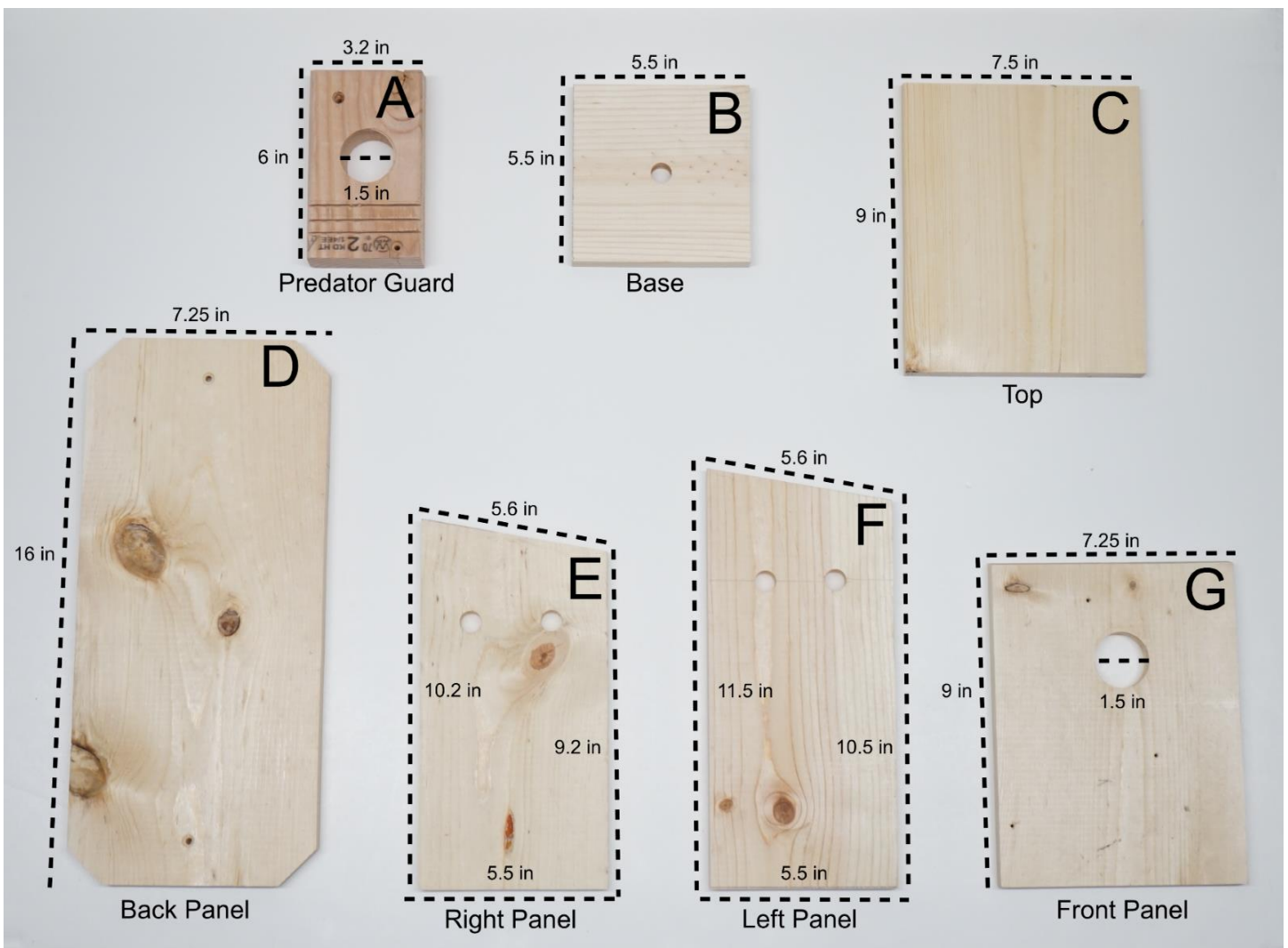




## Swaner Preserve Mountain Bluebird Box Building Instructions

### Supplies

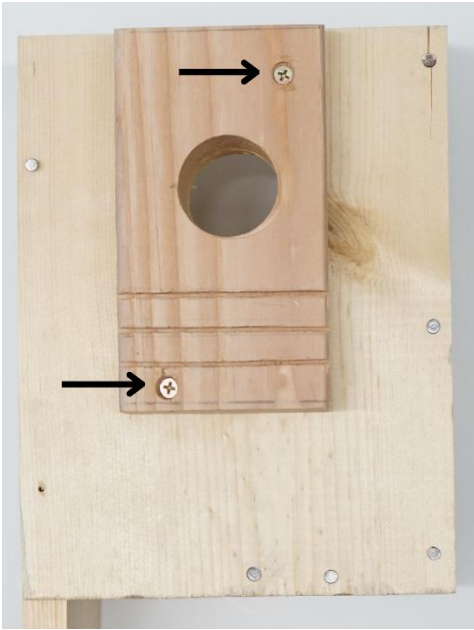
- Untreated pine or cedar wood cut to the specifications illustrated below.
  - Approx. one 8 ft. **1x8** board makes all sides of one box.
  - A 6" length of a **2x4** board will make the predator guard
  - Note: treated wood may not be effective or healthy for nesting birds, and plywood or OSB is not durable enough for extended use outdoors.
- (~22) 1.5" galvanized nails for outdoor use
- (2) 3" screws for predator guard
- Screwdriver or drill
- Hammer



- Drill a hole in the base, right and left panels for ventilation. Size doesn't matter, just avoid going above an inch in diameter.
- Predator guard, front panel top edges, and top panel's bottom edge are cut at a **10-degree angle** to accommodate the sloping roof

**Assembly**

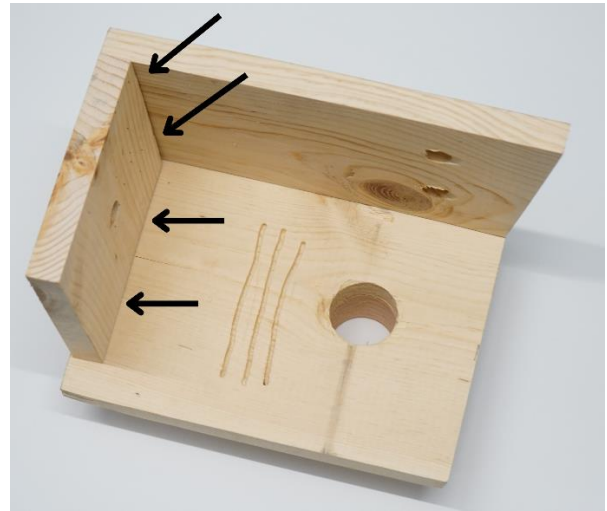
**Step 1:** Secure (A) predator guard to (G) front panel using two 3" screws, opposite of each other. Make sure to line up the 10-degree angle so there is a downward slope for the roof to shed rain and snow.



**Step 2:** Nail (E) right panel to (G) front panel using 3 nails.



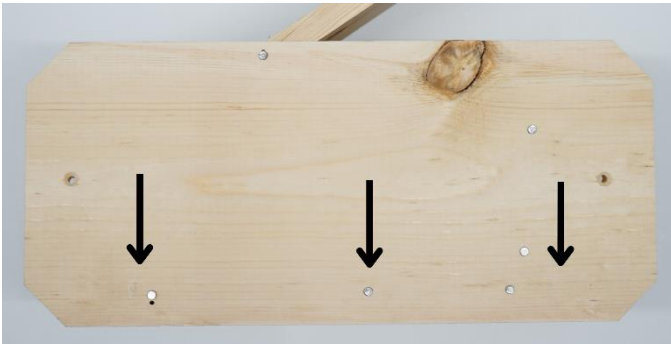
**Step 3:** Nail (B) bottom panel to the base of both the (G) front panel and the (E) right panel, using 2 nails on each side.



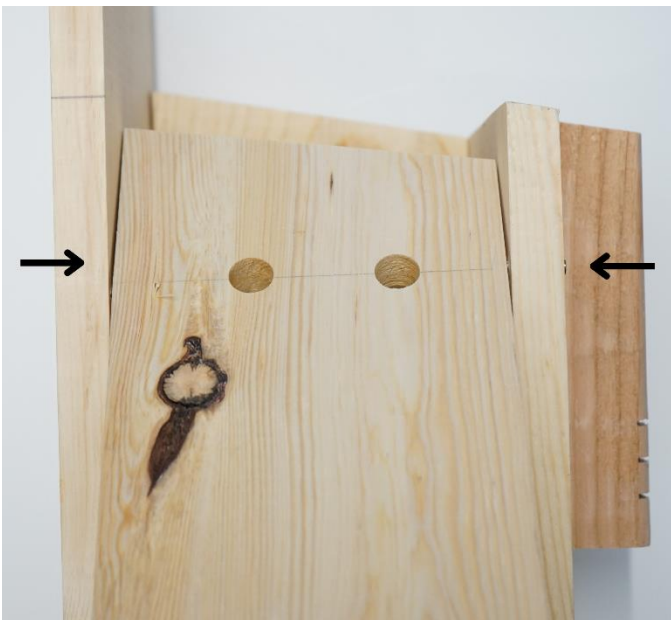
**Step 4:** Nail (F) left panel to the (G) front panel, using one nail towards the top of the house. Secure the (F) left panel a little below the top of the (G) front panel, so there is a slight gap.



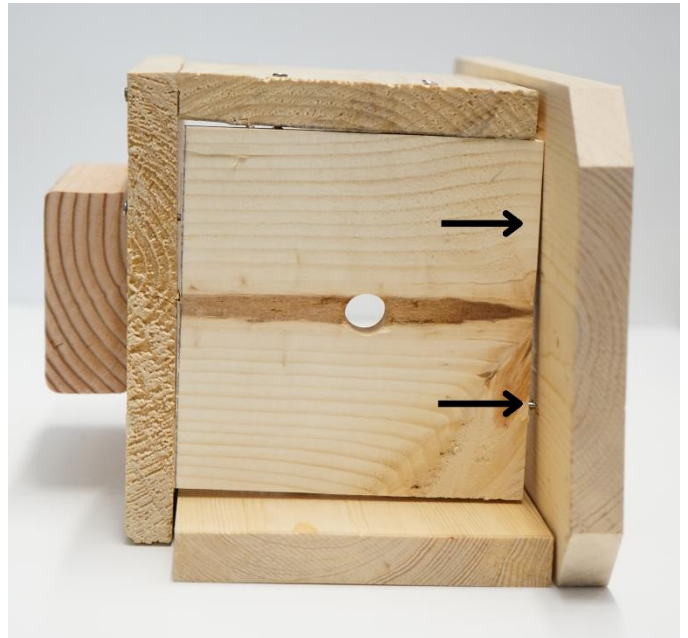
**Step 5:** Nail (D) back panel to (E) right and (F) left panels. Use 3 nails to secure it to the right panel.



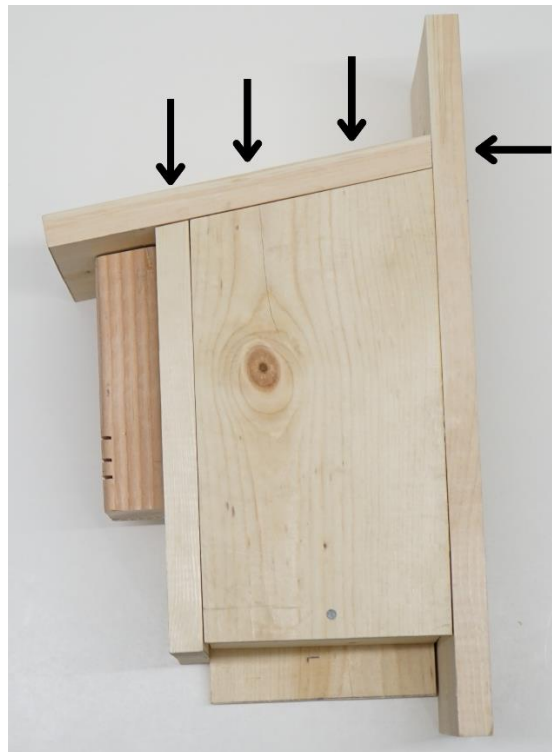
**Step 6:** Use 1 nail and mirror the placement of the nail on the (F) left panel.



**Step 7:** Nail the (D) back panel into the (B) bottom piece, using 2 nails.



**Step 8:** Nail the (C) top panel to 3 wall panels, securing it in place with 2 nails on each side. The (D) back panel nails will be nailed in parallel to the roof and the front, left and right panels will be nailed perpendicular to the roof.



**Step 9:** On the (G) front panel, hammer a nail halfway in on the bottom half of the (F) left panel. Remove it with the hammer and make sure there is an indentation on the edge of the left panels. Then push the nail back in with your hand. This will secure the left panel when shut but allow you to open the side panel for cleaning purposes.



### **Installing your Box**

The bird box should preferably face east or south to catch the morning sun and warm the nest. Mount the box using the back panel.

- Prevailing winds in Park City come from the west- facing your bird box this direction should be avoided if possible.

The box should be installed at least 4 feet above the ground, and vegetation should not obstruct the front of the box.

- Consider placement hazards like nearby animals, pesticide and herbicide use, or high-use human areas like trails.
- Box can be mounted to a house, post, pole, fence, etc.

### **Box Maintenance**

The box should be repaired and cleaned out yearly after nesting season (March- September)

- Clean after October but before mid-February, when Mountain Bluebirds return to the Park City area.
- Remove the nest and nesting materials, brush out dust, and wipe with disinfectant like a Lysol wipe or 10% bleach solution. This reduces parasite and disease transfer year to year. Wear gloves and wash your hands.
  - Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is illegal to destroy or disturb an active nest or keep a bird nest in your possession.
- Repair any loose nails, attachment points, or broken pieces.
- Monitor for wasp colonization.

Paint or stain may help your box last longer. Choose a natural color, like light gray, brown, or green to blend into surroundings.

- Dark colors absorb heat and may become too warm for eggs or young inside the box.
- **Do not** paint the interior of the box or predator guard. Interior walls need a rough surface for fledgling birds to climb out.