

# Centennial Park Birdhouses



A Project By Troop 185 and Ben Mirick

# The Necessity of Birdhouses

New England is home to many unique and valuable species such as the Eastern Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Chickadee, and others. However, these species are threatened by ever-increasing urbanization, habitat destruction, and invasive species. Responsibly crafted and well designed birdhouses provide ideal breeding and nesting grounds for these birds, allowing them to continue to thrive in local communities. These birds play crucial roles in the New England Ecosystem and must be preserved.

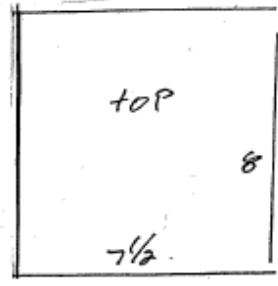
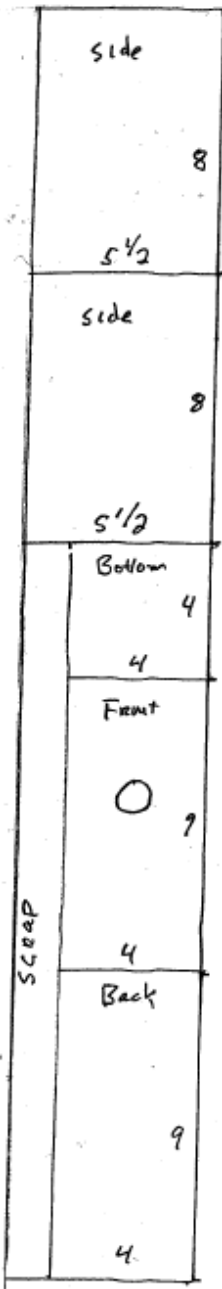
Additionally, birdhouses are fun to have. It is an amazing experience to see birds take up residence and hatch chicks. This is a great introduction to the outdoors and nature for children. They can see the birds come and go, and maybe even see the first flight of a fledgling!

## Building Your Own

Building birdhouses is simple, and a great activity for people of all ages. There are multitudes of tutorials across the internet, or you can design your own! Attached is the Massachusetts Audubon guidelines for birdhouse design. This chart encompasses the majority of native bird species in MA, and has basic dimensions and requirements for their corresponding houses.

<https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/10092/161164/file/birdhouses2.pdf>

In addition to the above, the photo below is a cut pattern for a basic bird house. These are rough plans, but can be adapted for use for a multitude of species and locations. Construction requires little more than a hammer, saw, and willingness to try.



**Materials**

1 x 6 #2 pine (actually 3/4" x 5 1/2")  
 Need 40" per box  
 (allowing for saw kerf and waste)

1 x 8 #2 pine (actually 3/4" x 7 1/2")  
 Need 8" per box  
 (saw kerf not an issue)

1 x 2 #2 pine (actually 3/4" x 1 1/2")  
 Need 16" per box  
 (saw kerf not an issue)

5 d galvanized box nails (to nail tops, bottoms, and sides)

2" galvanized common nails (for door pivots and door pin)

1 5/8 exterior screws (to fasten 1 x 2 to back)

