

7 Facts about the American Kestrel

1. It is North America's littlest falcon and one of the most colorful of all raptors.
2. You are most likely to see them perching on telephone wires along roadsides, in open country with short vegetation and few trees.
3. Kestrels hide their kills in grass clumps and tree roots to save it for lean times or to hide it from thieves.
4. American Kestrels eat mostly insects and other invertebrates, as well as small rodents and birds.
5. The birds occupy habitats ranging from deserts and grasslands to alpine meadows.
6. The male searches for possible nest cavities like old woodpecker holes, natural tree hollows, rock crevices, and nooks in buildings and other human-built structures. When he has found a suitable candidate, he shows it to the female, who makes the final choice.
7. The American Kestrel is a migratory bird, it only spends the summer in Canada.



Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve

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The Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve Research & Education Centre and Office is located in the Redberry Lake Regional Park: GPS Coordinates 52.717163, -107.215233

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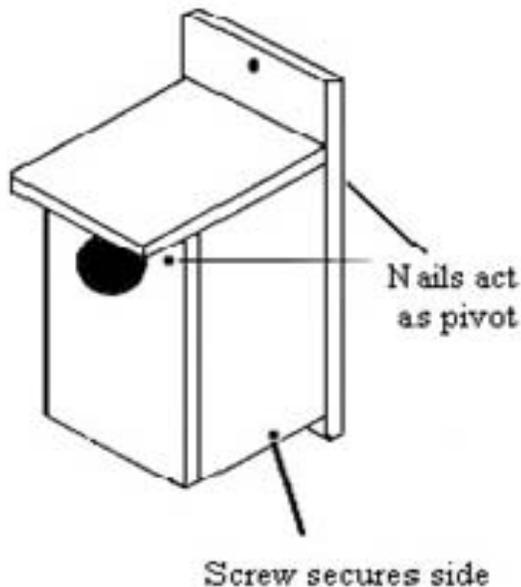
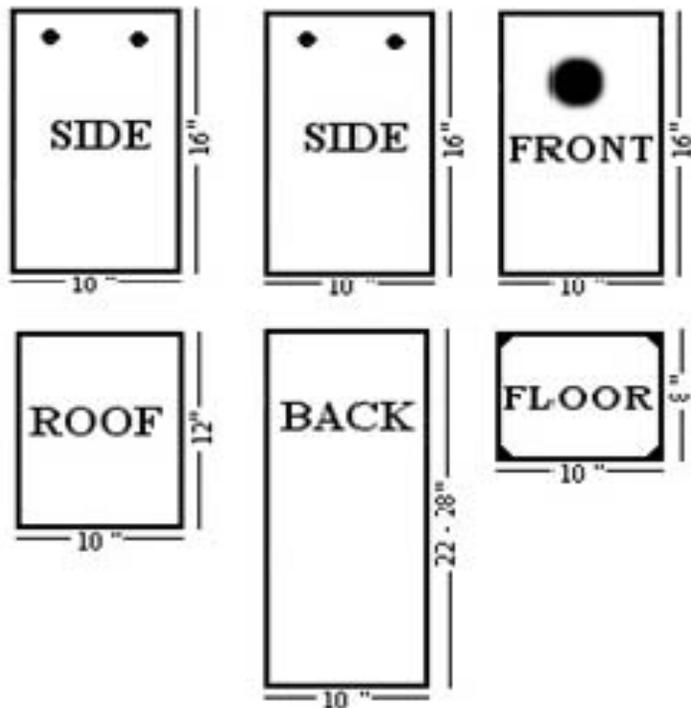
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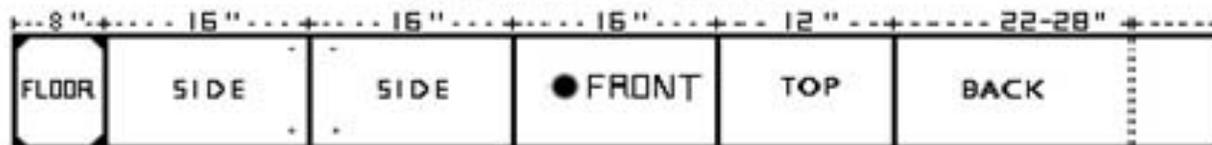


American Kestrel
(Photo: www.wikipedia.org)

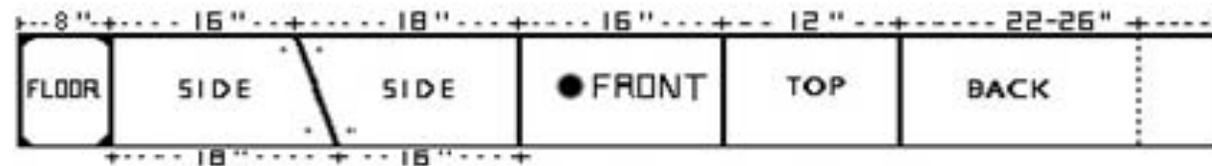
How to Build: A Kestrel Nest Box



Option 1 - Flat Roof



Board (3/4 or 1) in thick X 10 in X 8 ft



Option 2 - Sloping Roof

You will need:

- 3/4" to 1" thick untreated solid stock wood
- Weather resistant screws between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2" long
- Drill and table saw

Using a table saw, cut the board to the dimensions as shown (left).

Drill 4 drain holes on the floor, and 2 ventilation holes on both sides.

Drill a 3" diameter hole in the front.

Assemble the nest box by carefully screwing it together.

Put up the nest box by early February. Nail it to a tree 10 to 30 feet above the ground away from traffic and loud human activity.

Helpful Tips

Use rough feeling wood. It helps adults cling to the box when bringing nesting material and feeding their young.

If you plan on painting, only paint the outside. It is toxic to Kestrels if painted inside.

Instead of using a nail as a pivot, you can use a hinge, and screw the hinge to the top and back, so you can clean out the nest each year.

Find more ideas for nest boxes here:

<http://www.redberrylake.ca/exploreus/hikingtrailstips.php>

