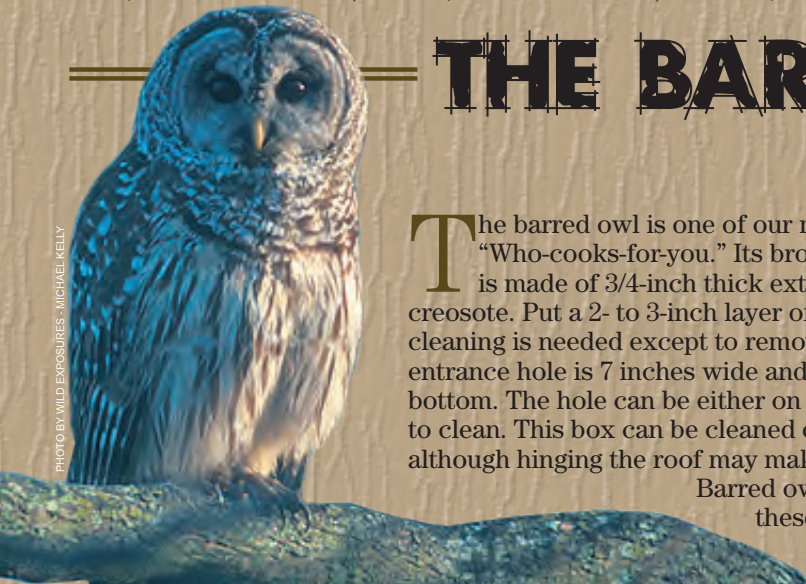


WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

THE BARRED OWL

PHOTO BY WILD EXPOSURES - MICHAEL KELLY



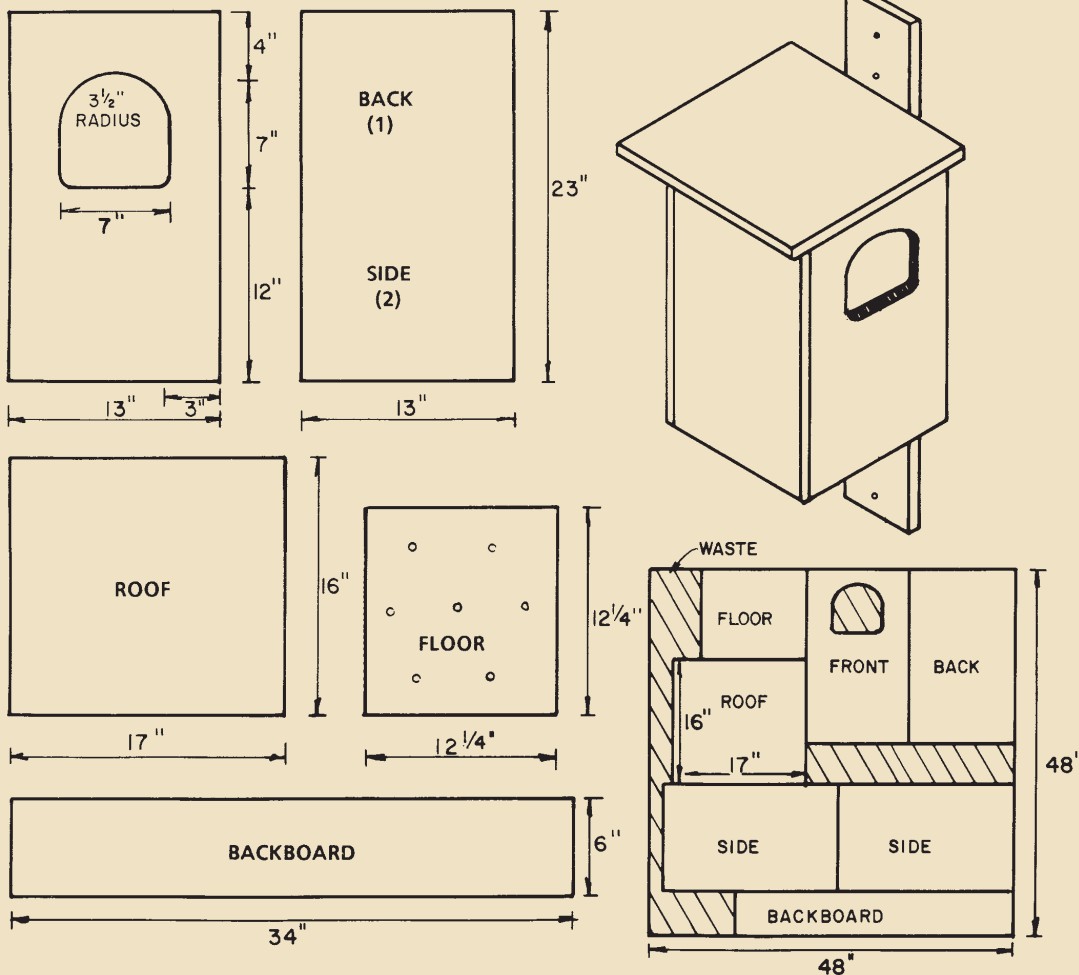
The barred owl is one of our more common owls in hardwood forests. Its call is a distinctive “Who-cooks-for-you.” Its brown eyes with blue pupils are unique. The barred owl nest box is made of 3/4-inch thick exterior grade plywood. Do not paint, stain or treat the box with creosote. Put a 2- to 3-inch layer of small wood chips or pine needles in the bottom of the box. No cleaning is needed except to remove leaves and other litter that squirrels put into the box. The entrance hole is 7 inches wide and 7 inches high with a rounded top and rounded corners at the bottom. The hole can be either on the front or on a side, but if it is on the side the box is easier to clean. This box can be cleaned out through the hole, so the roof does not need to be hinged, although hinging the roof may make it easier to check and maintain the box.

Barred owl boxes must be spaced a half mile from each other because these owls defend a territory of 400 to 600 acres per pair. The box should be cleaned out or placed in December. Locate it 15 to 30

feet high in a mature upland hardwood or lowland hardwood area and preferably within 200 feet of water. Do not place the box on the edge of a clearing or within 150 feet of a residence. The entrance hole should not be obscured by branches or leaves, but a perch near the nest box is desirable. This perch should be near enough to the box so that the young can “branch” out onto it as they leave the nest otherwise they may fall to the ground and be eaten by predators. The box should be placed on a living tree which is at least 12 inches in diameter.

The large entrance hole may predispose barred owlets to raccoon predation, so it’s important not to leave a scent trail on the tree. Raccoon predation can also be reduced by placing a 2-foot-wide sheet of tin or aluminum around the tree at chest height. Nest box checks should be infrequent or made with a ladder.

NOTE: No hinged door needed.
Clean through entrance hole



Plans from *Woodworking for Wildlife*
Compiled by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
and Arkansas Forestry Association

LUMBER: One 4' x 4' x 1/4"
sheet exterior plywood