

WOODWORKING FOR WILDLIFE

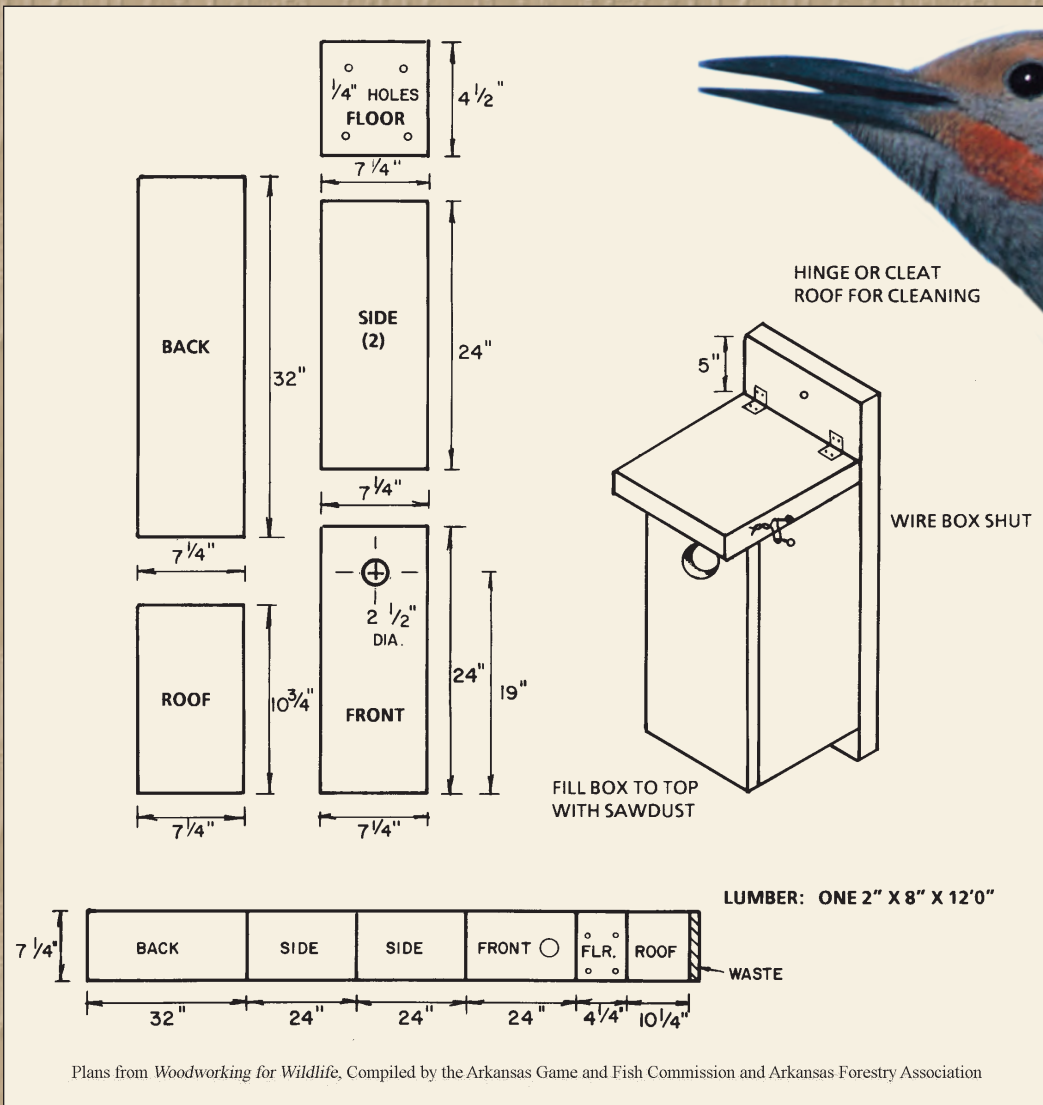
NORTHERN FLICKER NEST BOX



Northern flickers are a common woodpecker across the state. They frequently nest in farm groves, orchards, woodlots and in urban areas. Unlike most other woodpeckers, flickers usually forage for ants and grubs on the ground in crop fields and in grassy meadows and yards.

The secret to attracting flickers is to use 1-1/2 inch cypress or cedar boards for nest boxes and to fill the interior of the box all the way to the top with sawdust. Tamp in the sawdust before March 1 so the box is ready when the flickers are ready to nest. This house should have a hinged roof to facilitate filling it with sawdust. The filled box simulates a dead tree with soft heartwood. Because the Northern flicker is a "primary excavator," it will start at the entrance hole and throw out sawdust until it creates a suitable cavity. Because this box remains filled with sawdust if not used, sparrows and starlings are not a problem. The entrance hole should be 2-1/2 inches in diameter.

Flicker boxes should be placed 4 to 6 feet high, along fencerows that border crop fields or pastures. They also may be placed in orchards and woodlots. Flicker boxes can be attached to existing fence posts or to free-standing posts with predator guards.



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