

American Robin Nesting Shelf

Woodworking plans: one 1x10 board, an open front, and a sloped roof

Robins won't use an enclosed box, but they will use an open shelf. This one has an open front, sides that are open along their lower front edge, and a sloped roof to shed rain. It builds from a single 4 ft 1x10.

Design Specs

Spec	Measurement
Shelf floor (inside)	7 3/4" wide x 8" deep
Floor to ceiling	8" at the back
Front	Open
Sides	Partly open: solid at the top and back, cut away at the lower front
Roof	Sloped at about 18.5 degrees
Mounting height	5 to 25 ft
Spacing	65 ft
Location	Under the eaves, beneath a soffit, or over a light fixture

Materials

Item	Qty	Notes
1x10 cedar board (actual 3/4" x 9 1/4")	1 @ 4 ft	All parts, with about 1" to spare, so cut carefully
1 5/8" exterior screws (coated or stainless)	About 14	Assembly
Exterior screws for mounting	2	Length to suit your wall or trim

Tools

Circular saw or miter saw • Table saw or circular saw with rip guide • Drill/driver • 1/4" bit • 3/16" bit for pilot holes • Speed square or protractor • Tape measure • Pencil • Sandpaper

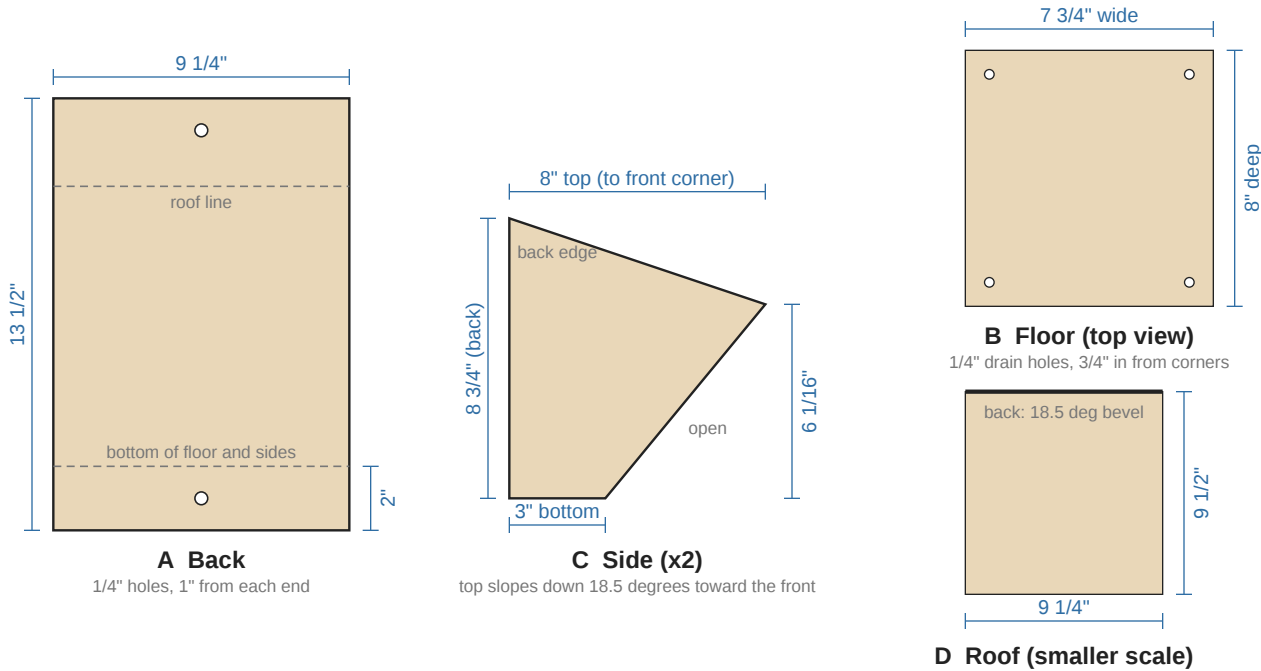
Where the dimensions come from: 70birds.com describes its robin platform as an 8" x 8" base with about 8" floor to ceiling, an open front, and partly open sides. GrowItBuildIt.com notes the shelf must fit a robin nest of about 7" x 8". The Minnesota DNR shelf plan that NestWatch links to is cut from one 1" x 10" x 4' board with an 18.5-degree roof. This plan follows those: an 8"-deep floor, 8" of headroom at the back, and an 18.5-degree roof from one 4 ft 1x10. The floor is 7 3/4" wide rather than 8" because that is what fits between the sides on a 9 1/4"-wide board.

Cut List (all from one 4 ft 1x10)

Part	Qty	Size	Notes
A Back	1	9 1/4" x 13 1/2"	Two 1/4" mounting holes
B Floor	1	7 3/4" wide x 8" deep	Rip from an 8" length; four 1/4" drain holes near the corners
C Sides	2	8" deep at top, 3" at bottom; 8 3/4" tall at back	Sloped top at 18.5 degrees; diagonal front edge
D Roof	1	9 1/4" x 9 1/2"	Bevel back edge 18.5 degrees

Cutting order along the 48" board: back 13 1/2", floor blank 8", two side blanks 8" each, roof 9 1/2". That is 47", leaving about 1" for saw kerfs.

Part Drawings



Drawings are to scale except where noted. Dashed lines on the back show where the floor and roof meet it.

Assembly

- 1 Cut the parts** in the order listed on page 2. Rip the floor blank to 7 3/4" wide.
- 2 Shape the sides.** On each 8" side blank, mark the back edge 8 3/4" tall. From the top of the back edge, draw the roof line sloping down 18.5 degrees to the front edge, which ends 6 1/16" up. Along the bottom, mark 3" in from the back. Draw a straight line from that mark to the front top corner and cut along it. That diagonal leaves the lower front of each side open.
- 3 Bevel the roof** along one 9 1/4" edge at 18.5 degrees so it sits tight against the back.
- 4 Drill the holes.** Drill four 1/4" drain holes in the floor, 3/4" in from each corner. Drill two 1/4" mounting holes in the back, centered, 1" from each end.
- 5 Attach the sides to the back.** Stand each side against the front face of the back, back edge against it, with the side's outer face flush with the back's edge and its bottom 2" up from the bottom of the back. Drill 3/16" pilot holes and drive 2 screws through the back into each side.
- 6 Install the floor** between the sides, flush with their bottoms and tight to the back. Drive 2 screws through the back into the floor and 1 through each side into the floor's back section.
- 7 Attach the roof.** Set it on the sloped side tops with the beveled edge tight to the back. Drive 2 screws down into each side and 2 through the back into the roof edge.

Where to Put It

Placement	Guideline
Location	Under the eaves, beneath a soffit, or over a light fixture
Mounting height	5 to 25 ft
Spacing	65 ft between shelves

Tips

- Screw the shelf to the wall or trim through the two holes in the back.
- Remove the old nest once the young fledge.
- At the higher end of the height range, use a properly secured ladder and a helper.