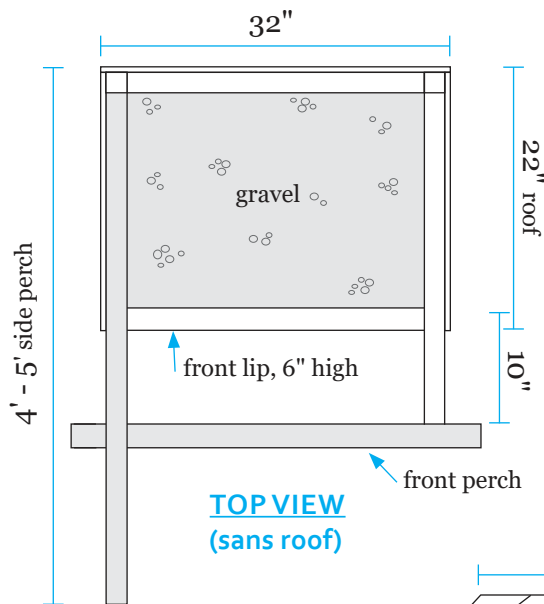
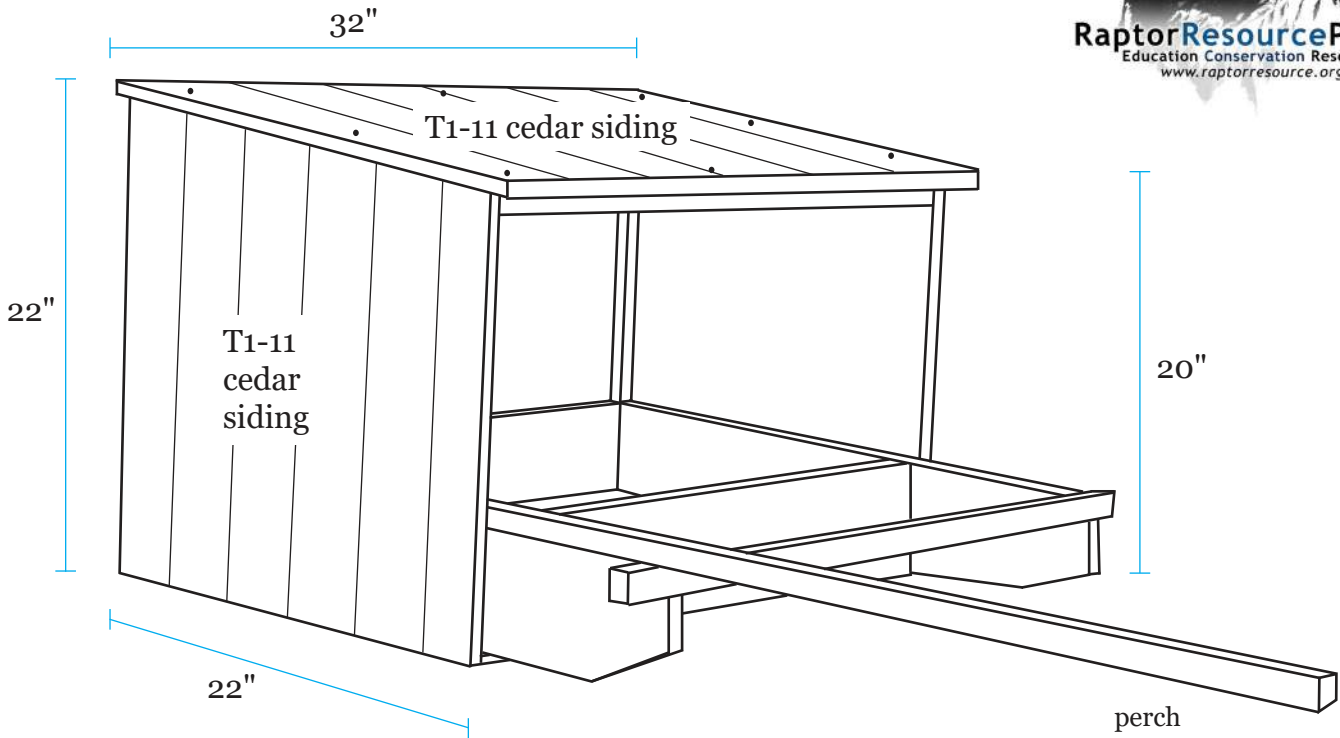
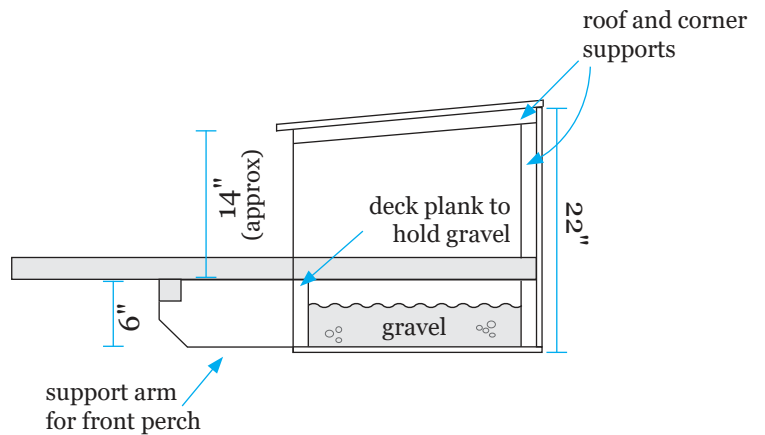


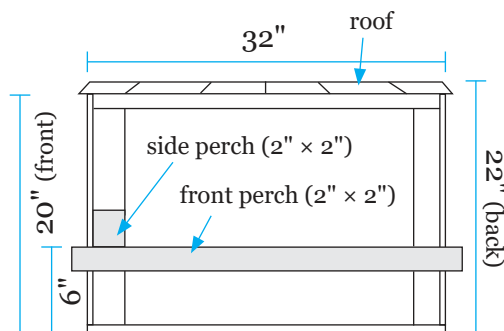
Peregrine Falcon Nest Box



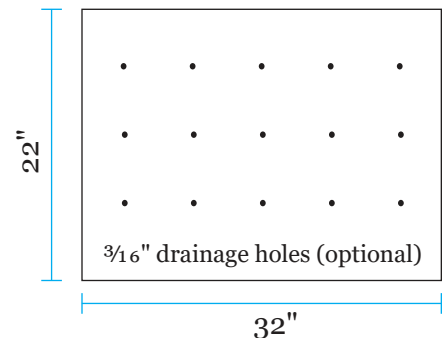
TOP VIEW
(sans roof)



SIDE VIEW
(cut-away view)



FRONT VIEW



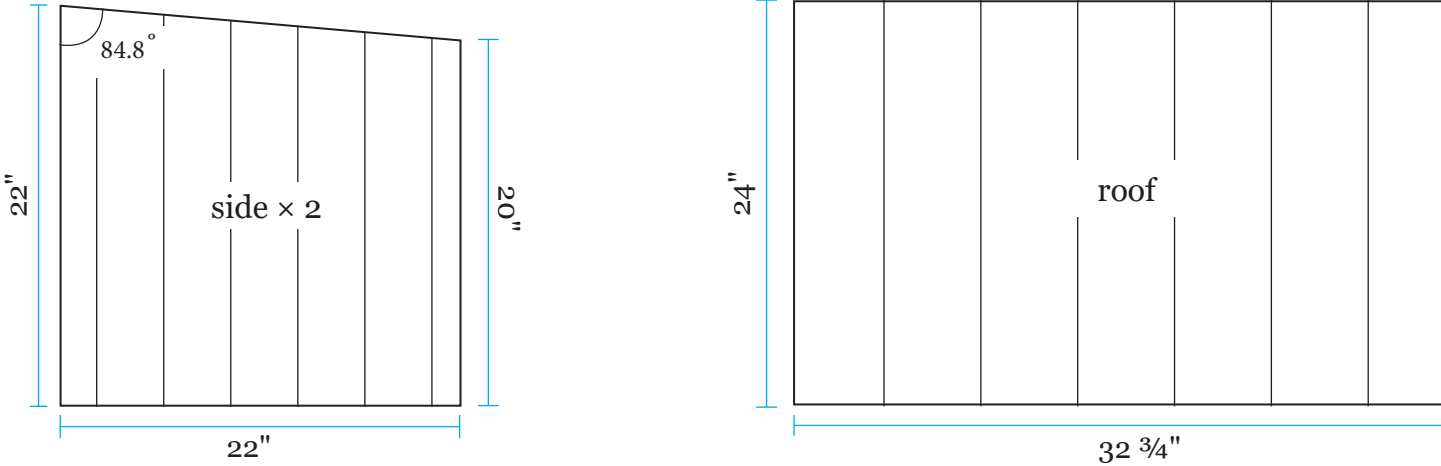
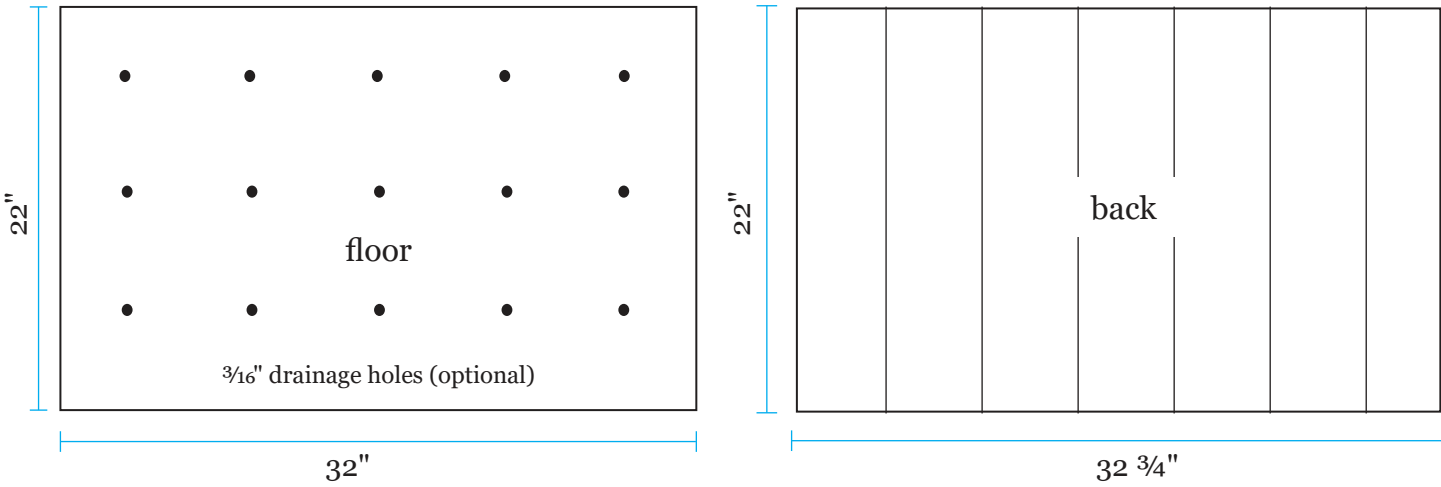
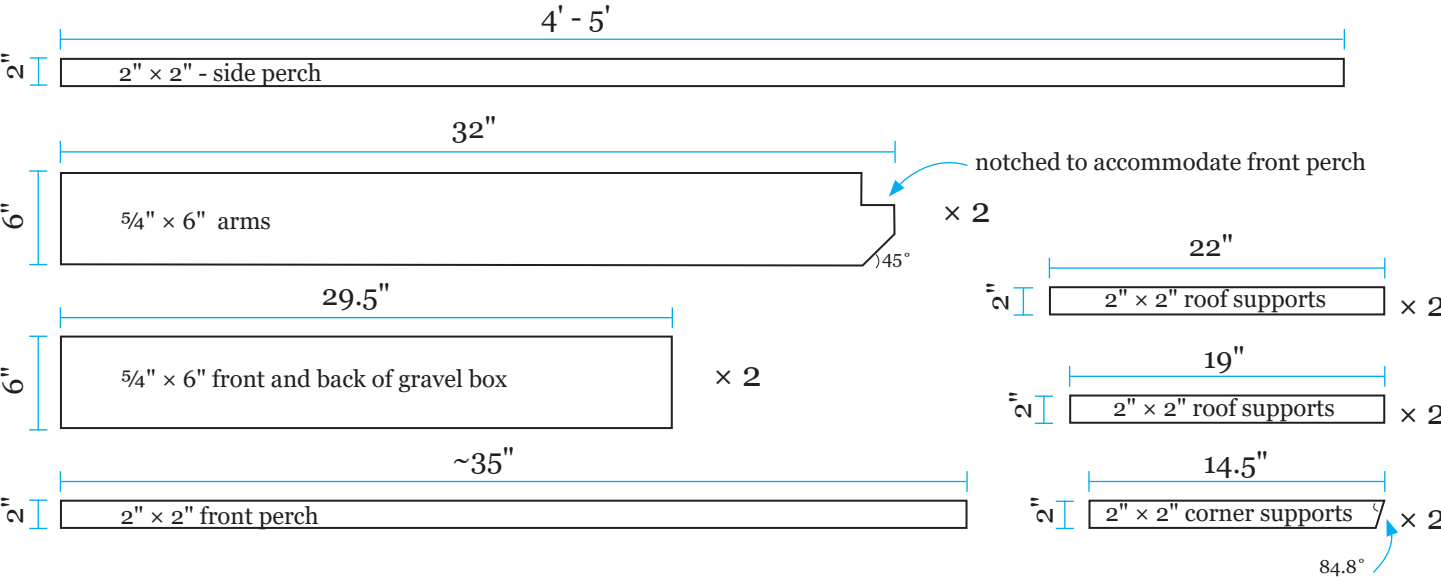
FLOOR

The **Cornell** Lab 
NestWatch

Report your nesting birds
to NestWatch.org

*illustrations not to scale

Lumber Cut List



NOTE: These plans are based on use of T1-11 cedar siding that is 3/8" x 4' x 8' in nominal dimensions, which is 0.375" x 48" x 96" in actual dimensions.

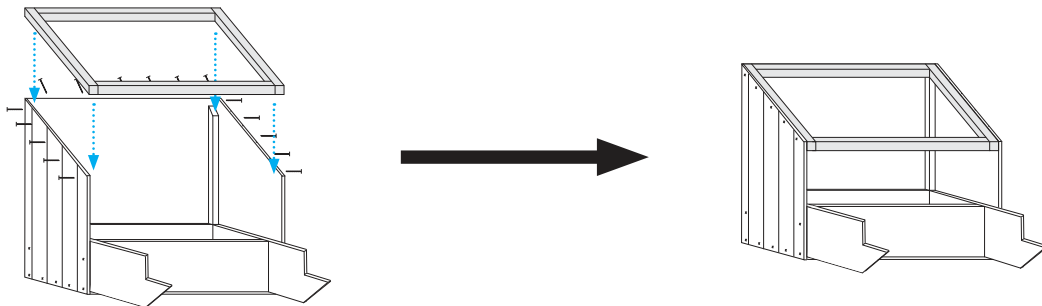
*illustrations not to scale

Materials List:

- (1) $\frac{3}{8}$ " \times 4' \times 8' piece of T1-11 cedar siding
- (5) 2" \times 2" \times 4' treated lumber boards
- (1) $\frac{5}{4}$ " \times 6" \times 12' treated pine decking board
- (1) $2\frac{3}{32}$ " \times 4' \times 8' treated plywood sheathing
- Stainless steel screws
- Drill with $\frac{3}{16}$ " bit (for drilling drainage holes)
- (3) 0.5 cubic ft bags of pea gravel (50 lbs each)
- Hanger bolts, washers, nuts (quantity varies)

Assembly Instructions:

1. Start with the floor piece and attach side arms and front/back of the gravel box.
2. Add cedar grooved-siding panels for the back and sides to the outside of the gravel box, so that grooves run vertically on the sides and back. This will aid with water drainage.
3. Add 2" \times 2" \times 14.5" supports to the back inside corners of the box, checking to make sure the angle of the support matches the side panels. Then, make a rectangular frame with the 2" \times 2" \times 22" and 2" \times 2" \times 19" pieces to place on top of the corner supports at the same angle. Place just inside the top of the box so that the top of the 2" \times 2" rectangle support matches the top of the side and back panels (see illustration below).



*illustrations not to scale

4. Fit the front perch to the notches at the ends of the arms, then add the side perch above one of the side arms. Finally, add the roof to the top of the box, ensuring a ~2" overhang in front. Grooves on the roof panel should run from front to back to aid with water drainage.
5. Mount the box to the chosen surface with a combination of hanger bolts, washers, and nuts so that it is solidly attached to the substrate. Zinc exterior screws (8" \times 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") can be used, but the hanger bolts are the best option for mounting purposes.

Notes:

- The box measures 32" wide. The roof overhangs the box by 2", as shown in the illustration. The back of the box is 22" high and the front is 20" high, creating a downward-slanting roof.
- Space screws no farther than 4" apart when assembling the box.
- Add 2" \times 2" boards in the inside back corners for stability.
- Use 12' deck plank for gravel box and perch support.
- T1-11 cedar siding can be replaced with $\frac{3}{8}$ " \times 4' \times 8' grooved engineered wood siding.

! CAUTION !

Peregrine Falcons can be extremely aggressive during the breeding season. Do not place the box near areas that are frequented by people, such as balconies and rooftop venues. Any person going near a falcon nest should wear a hard hat for safety.

Estimated finished weight (pre-gravel):
40-70 lbs. depending on materials.

- The 6" lip keeps pea gravel in. Fill the box with pea gravel to about 4–5" deep after installing the box. Refresh gravel in the fall after the breeding season, if it becomes particularly soiled.
- Consider using easily-removable bolts to attach the roof of the box to aid with box maintenance at the end of the breeding season.
- Treated wood is recommended, especially for the floor piece. The boxes are heavy, exposed to high winds, and often placed far above public areas such as sidewalks. Preserving the integrity of the box is important to reduce danger both to the nest inhabitants and the people below.
- *Optional:* drill fifteen $\frac{3}{16}$ " holes in the nest box floor for drainage, and space them evenly to ensure the integrity of the floor. Do not drill more than fifteen holes. Consider the substrate your box will be bolted to and, if you can, place the box in a way that ensures that air can flow freely around the box and that any mounting hardware does not trap water.
- Nest boxes should be weatherproof and UV-resistant. Consider painting the outside panels white and/or with polyurethane coating. However, if you do so, be sure to give the box plenty of time to allow these chemicals to off-gas before installing the box. Do not paint the inside of the box.
- A nest box for Peregrine Falcons is best placed in an area where there is already a nesting pair present. Nest boxes may be helpful to pairs nesting among tall city skyscrapers near bodies of water.
- Peregrine Falcons primarily prey upon other birds, and can provide excellent pigeon control. However, they will have little effect on rodent populations. Note that they sometimes drop body parts below the nest, so it would be wise not to place the box above balconies, roofs, or doors/entryways.
- Do not place the nest box near known Red-tailed Hawk nests.
- Do not add doors to the back or sides of the nest box to facilitate banding. If people reach into the back or sides of the nest box, they may drive the nestlings toward the front of the nest box, where they may jump or fall from the platform prematurely. Reaching in from the front will force nestlings towards the back, where they are safe.
- Do not make the nest box too deep. Some monitors worry that the nest box design is not deep enough to protect adults and young; however, Peregrine Falcons are ledge-nesting birds, and a deep nest box is less attractive to them.
- Each box mounts a little differently; however, every nest box should be mounted to make it as sturdy and secure as possible. If possible, bolt nest boxes directly to rooftops. Do not bolt the nest box in the path of daily operations or where maintenance people frequent, and remember that a nest box with gravel added can weigh more than 125 pounds.
- Mount the nest box prior to February, when falcons begin returning from their migration. Boxes mounted prior to this time will be more likely to attract falcons the first year.
- Some nest boxes are adopted immediately, while others sit empty for several seasons. However, once falcons have used the nest box, they will usually keep coming back.
- It is not advisable for humans to work near Peregrine Falcons during nesting season. Too much disturbance puts eggs and nestlings at risk. It is very important not to disturb falcons prior to egg laying, since this may cause them to abandon the nest box. The entire nesting season, from mating through fledging of young, lasts 3-4 months. Once nesting is finished, the adults will stop defending the nest box.