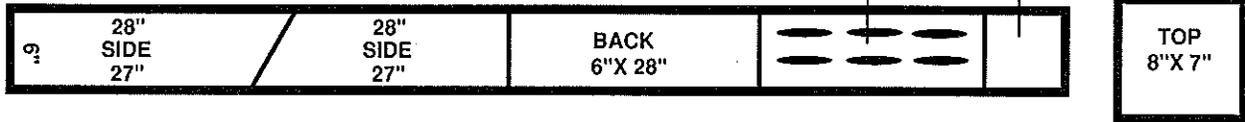
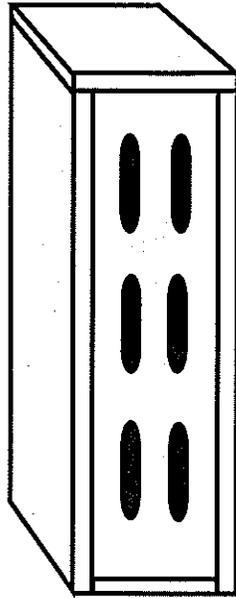


leave at least 100 yards between them because bluebirds are territorial. You'll also want to put them at least 100 yards away from buildings to reduce the chance of house sparrows moving in instead of bluebirds. Boxes should be attached to a smooth metal or wooden post approximately 5 feet from the ground and within at least 100 feet of a tree. Try to face the entrance hole toward the tree and away from prevailing winds. Place a length of stovepipe, a collar of metal flashing or automotive grease on the pole to deter predators such as raccoons.

BAT HOUSE

I can hear it now. You're saying, "Why in the world would I want to build a house to attract bats?" Contrary to popular belief, bats are not disease-carrying, blood-sucking, "flying rats," and you don't need to be afraid of them. In fact, bats can be beneficial. They eat enormous quantities of insects — some species may consume as many as 600 mosquitoes in a single



hour — and are important plant pollinators. If your home is located near streetlights, a pond or stream, or anywhere else insects congregate, you may be able to attract bats by putting up a bat house. Then you'll have a way to get rid of your insect problems without spraying chemicals.

There are many styles of bat houses. Regardless of the style, all inner surfaces should be rough sawn to allow the bats to climb and hang easily. Rough sawn cedar is a good choice, but other woods can work equally well. The house should be fastened to a tree or on the side of a building 12 to 15 feet above the ground. For best results, try to find a place that is sheltered from the wind, but will receive morning sunlight.

BUTTERFLY HIBERNATION BOX

Butterfly watching ranks high on the activity lists of many outdoor users, right alongside bird-watching and wildflower observation. Butterflies add a splash of color to their surroundings as they help pollinate a variety of plants. We know that planting certain species of flowers can attract these insects to our yards in the summer. But where do they go in the winter?

Butterflies have several ways of dealing with the cold. Many, such as monarchs and painted ladies, migrate to warmer climates. The rest overwinter in one of several forms — caterpillar, chrysalis (similar to a cocoon) or butterfly. Those that overwinter as butterflies actually

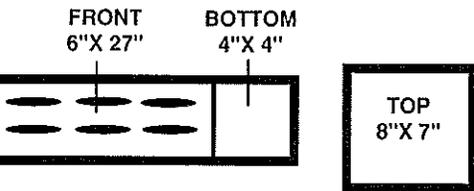
hibernate, usually in cracks and crevices or under plants or hollow logs. Hibernation boxes built of red cedar make good substitutes when natural shelters are scarce.

Placement of the hibernation box is important. Many hibernating butterflies are woodland dwellers so placing it near trees may encourage use. Nearby flowerbeds can provide food sources in early fall before hibernation and

BUTTERFLY HIBERNATION BOX

Materials Needed:

- 1" x 6" board, 10 feet long
- 1" board scrap 8" x 7"
- Hand tools for construction (saw, hammer)
- Nails
- Piece of tree bark



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—

in spring for next year's broods. Mount the box on a pole 2 to 3 feet above the ground with the entrance facing away from prevailing winds. If possible, turn the entrance towards the south or southeast. This will protect the box and allow winter sunlight to provide warmth. Putting a piece of bark inside the box will give a little extra protection. Be sure to clean out the box and remove unwanted insects each spring.

Butterflies that may use your hibernation box include mourning cloaks, red admirals, question marks and green and gray commas. Putting up a hibernation box provides a secure shelter for these interesting insects and lets you watch them more closely. Although it's too late to put up a butterfly hibernation box for this season, it makes a good project for the winter workshop. If you build one now, you won't have to find time to do it in your busy summer schedule.

Fight the winter "blahs" by bringing out the hammer and nails to build a home for a chickadee, bluebird, bat or butterfly. If you have enough outdoor space and the right conditions, why not build all four? You'll be lending a hand to the wildlife in your area. Plus you and your family will have hours of fun watching these birds, insects and mammals adapt to their new homes. ■

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