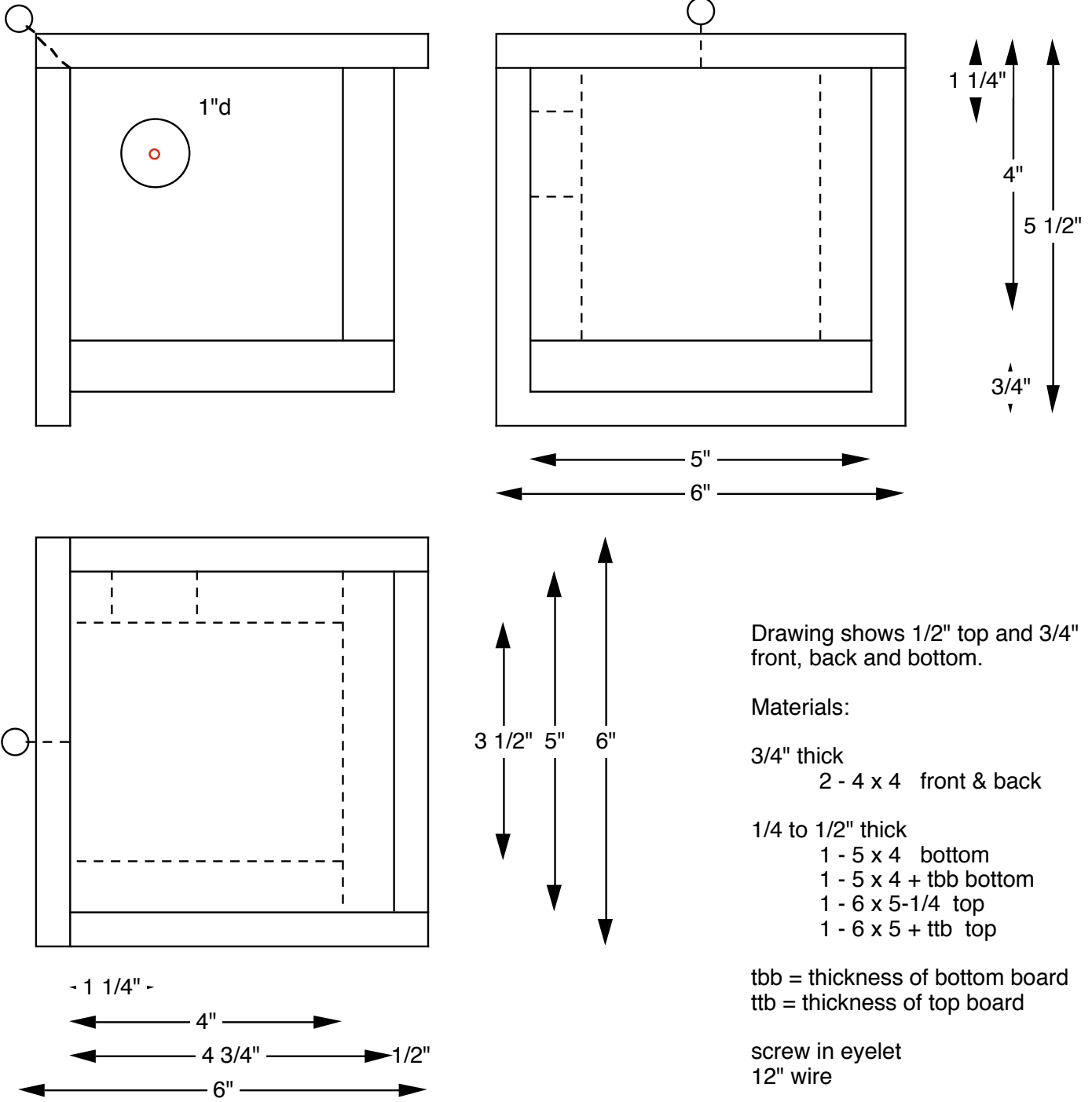


# Scrap wood Wren House



## Bird (Wren) House Information

Assemble the box as shown in the photo. Use exterior glue and nails or screws on all parts **EXCEPT** the back. The back should be screwed but not glued so it can be removed for cleaning. Put a screw part way in the center of the back as a handle to pull it out. Drill a hole through the peak at the center and add a wire for hanging. If the hole goes through to the inside, seal it to prevent water from leaking in. Alternately you can put in a screw eye to use for hanging. Paint the outside to make it last longer. You can paint it plain or decorative.



Information from *Woodworking for Wildlife* by Carrol L. Henderson, MN DNR.

### House Wren

The house wren is one of our most common and enjoyable backyard birds. Its beautiful bubbling calls are a joy to hear during the summer.

House wren nest boxes are likely to be used if they are 5-10 feet above the ground and located under the eave of a building or in a tree. This is the only kind of bird house which can be free-hanging. All other bird houses need to be firmly anchored. House wren holes are too small for house sparrows or European starlings to use. Don't put a perch on the nest box. Perches invite sparrows to try using the nest. If you have a perch on a wren house, take it off.

The entrance hole for a wren house should be 1-inch in diameter.

House wrens generally nest in wooded, shrubby habitats. Their nests are characterized by twigs and the 6-8 eggs are finely speckled with reddish spots. Sometimes wrens will take over the nest of a tree swallow or eastern bluebird after puncturing the eggs of the other birds with their bills.

As soon as one family of wrens leaves a house, clean it out so another brood of young ones can be raised.

**Cleaning** - To clean the square box remove screws to remove the back and the clean out the nest box

**Winter** – It is best to leave the nest box open by removing back or bring it inside during the winter to prevent mice from using it for a nest. They will prevent the birds from using it in the spring.