

## Simple Nesting Box Plan for the Northern Flying Squirrel

(*Glaucomys sabrinus*)

[for Southern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys volans*) take one inch off all dimensions. Access hole must be exactly 1.25 in. (3.175 cm). Place in deciduous or mixed forest.]

\*Note - before beginning construction of this nesting box, do your research and confirm which species of flying squirrel inhabits your geographic region!

1. Ensure access hole size is no larger than specified. You may wish to install a sheet metal occluder around entrance to prevent hole enlargement by unwanted species. No sharp edges!

2. Run a bead of water-based siliconized caulking along length of top where it meets backing board to prevent water infiltration and seal all cracks and gaps accordingly. Drill (4) 1/2" (12.7mm) holes near corners of bottom and (2) 1/2" (12.7mm) holes on each side near bottom for ventilation purposes.

3. Use natural (untreated) softwood ONLY. Thickness - 3/4" (19mm) to 1" (25mm). DO NOT stain or paint interior or exterior. DO NOT use plywood or chipboard. Wear gloves when handling wood, as salt from sweaty hands will encourage porcupines to chew the box.

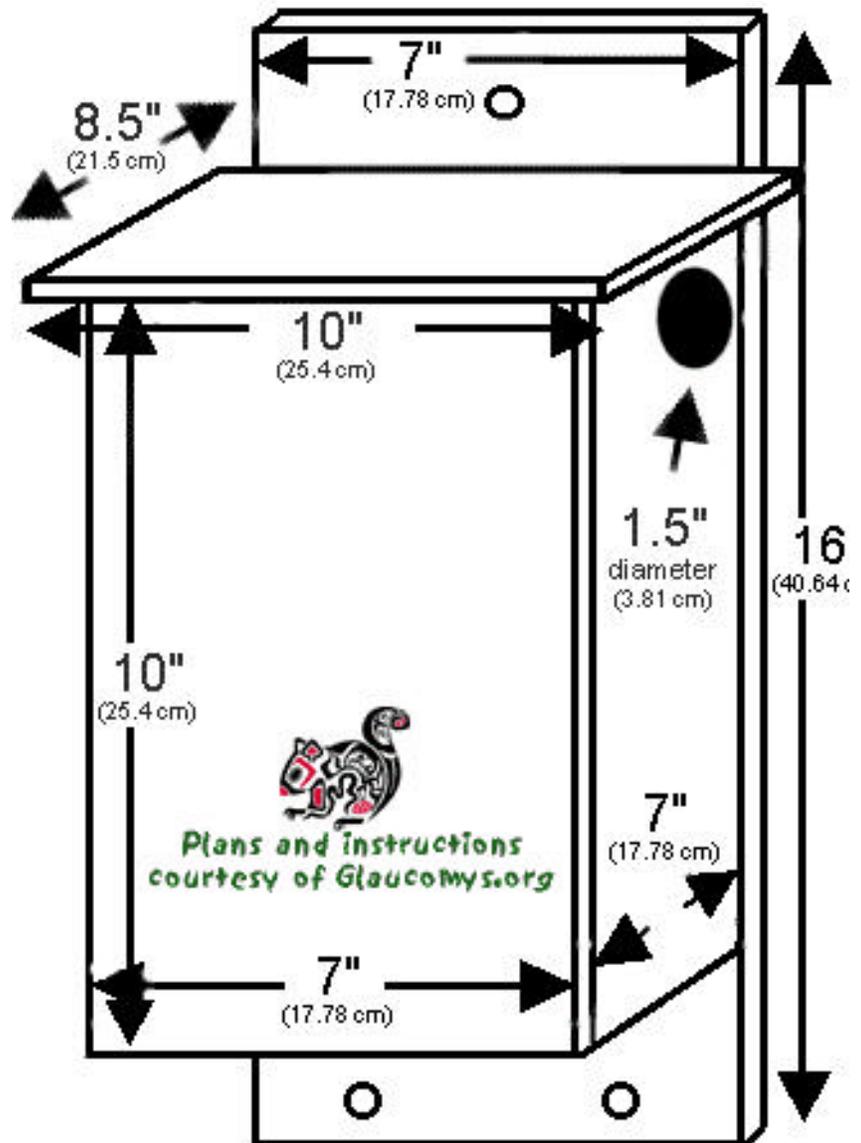
4. If the wood you use is smooth-planed, roughen exterior and interior panels with rasp or coarse sandpaper for better "gripability".

5. Though not absolutely necessary, it is advisable to provide a hinged access door for cleaning purposes. Clean ONLY during January or February, as box will be vacant during this period. Front or side door access is preferred over top door access. Only adults should do the cleaning, and always wear leather gardening gloves when performing a clean-out! Some other animals you might find using this nesting box are: birds, tree frogs, spiders, hornets, bumblebees and deer/white-footed mice.

Place nesting boxes in your oldest stands of coniferous (preferred by *sabrinus*) or mixed forest. Min./Max. placement height is 10'/26' (3m/8m). Place so that access hole faces opposite prevailing wind. Preferably, place so that mammalian predators cannot reach box via limbs of other trees. Should arboreal snakes inhabit the area, drill another access hole at bottom of opposite side. Install within 500m of water (marsh, creek, etc.) or in mesic (wet) forest areas where possible. Install several boxes per 1/2 hectare, as flying squirrels need to have alternate nesting sites available to them for predator/parasite avoidance and rest/elimination purposes.

Monitor occasionally for occupancy by rapping or scratching tree trunk and watching access hole. If you find a flying squirrel has taken up residence, leave it alone. If you bother it too much, it will leave.

The most important feature of your nesting box is that it be waterproof. Please ensure that the inside of the nesting box will remain dry. DO NOT install any nesting boxes if you are aware of house cats (cared-for or feral) in the vicinity.



**BUILDING, PLACING AND CLEANING OF NESTING BOXES CAN BE DANGEROUS.  
ALL WORK DETAILED HERE SHOULD BE PERFORMED ONLY UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION.**