



CONSTRUCTION OF WOOD DUCK NEST BOX

1. Using 1 ¼ inch galvanized box nails attach the back to the floor. Allow for the ¼ to 3/8 inch space for the raised floor.
2. Attach solid side piece to the back. Position floor and nail in place.
3. Attach the front piece to the side and then to the floor.
4. Attach the upper part of the remaining side to the front and back (ensuring that the angled cut allows the lower part to be opened and at the same time shedding water).
5. Position door to allow a 1/8 inch gap between it and the top part. The "hinge nails" are located 2 inches down from the top of the door. The two nails must be exactly opposite each other for easy opening. For freer movement of the door it should have an additional 1/16 of an inch removed from its width.
6. Position roof so that the overlap on the sides is equal. Allow the roof to project about ¼ inch over the back. Use three nails on each side to hold roof in place. If asphalt roofing is going to be used attach with roofing mastic or roofing nails. Flashing is added on to ensure a dry interior.
7. To install a locking pin (nail) to hold the door closed, drill an 1/8 inch hole through the front and into the door panel - see plan. The nail used for keeping the door closed should move in and out quite freely.
8. Assemble drawer as per plan. Test for fit. There should be a 1/8 inch clearance all around.
9. Fit the ladder so that it just clears the drawer and sits just below the entrance. Attach with two screws.
10. Plywood will weather much better if it has at least two coats of good exterior stain or paint. Choose light earth tones that blend in with the surroundings and are not conspicuous.
11. Load the tray with at least four inches of coarse chainsaw sawdust or wood shavings and the nest box is ready.
12. Mounting the box on a tree or a pole depends on a number of variables. The inverted keyhole opening and spike work well.

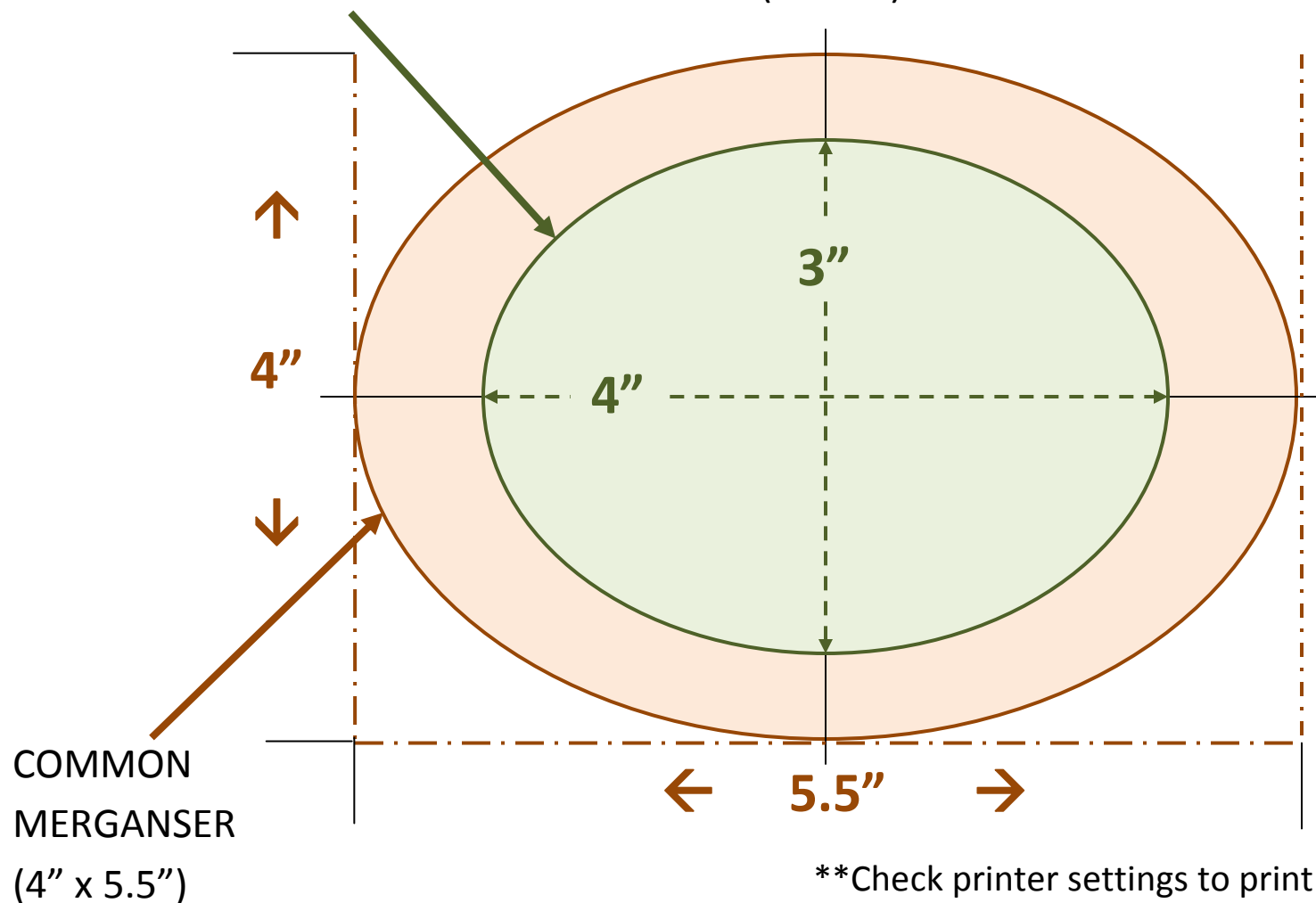
PLACEMENT OF NESTBOXES

The placement of your nest box is as important as its design and construction. Of the six cavity nesting ducks, the wood duck is often the most sought after species. It has been observed nesting all over the southern part of our province with a larger concentration in the Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, and the Sunshine Coast. The remaining species usually choose to nest in the interior of the province.

Wood ducks prefer locations near smaller bodies of fresh water such as ponds, sloughs and streams. The habitat near the nest boxes should provide feeding opportunities for the nestlings and protective cover from predators. Nest boxes should be placed 6 to 10 feet above the ground and face the water. There must be a clear line of flight to and from the entrance hole. Mount boxes in a vertical position or with a slight forward tilt. To maintain a healthy environment in the nest box, it is essential to clean out the debris in the drawer each winter or early spring and replace with at least four inches of coarse sawdust or shavings. If the box has not been monitored through the season, now is the time to determine the success of your venture. This provides you with some basics to get started.

TEMPLATES FOR OPENINGS

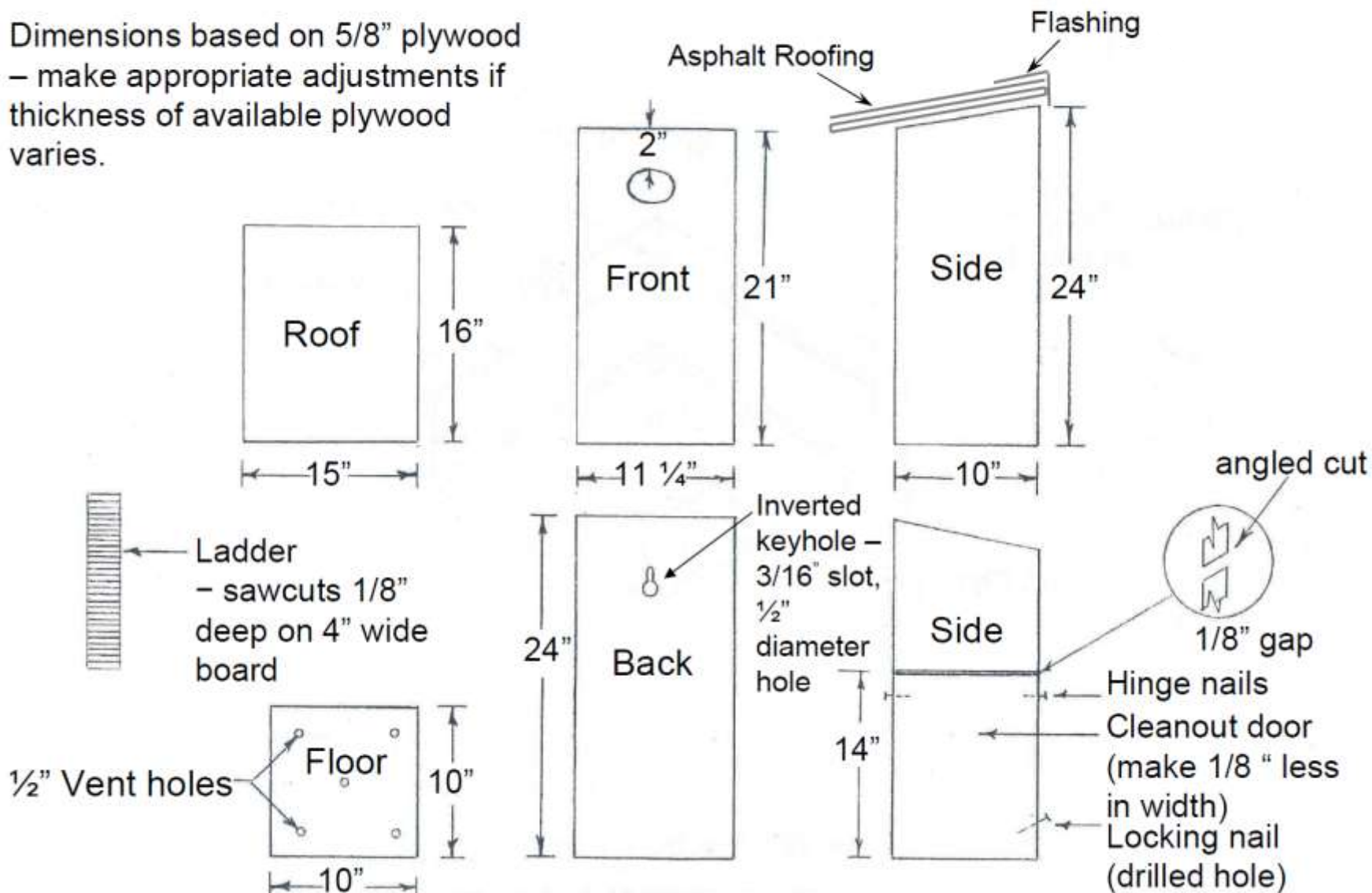
ENTRANCE HOLE FOR WOOD DUCK, HOODED MERGANSER, COMMON GOLDENEYE, BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AND BUFFLEHEAD (3" x 4")



Check printer settings to print file at "Actual size**" and "**Scale: 100%**" to ensure exact dimensions; measure ovals to be sure before cutting

DUCK NEST BOX WITH DRAWER

Dimensions based on 5/8" plywood
– make appropriate adjustments if
thickness of available plywood
varies.



For Common Mergansers: Floor is increased to 11" x 11" and other dimensions adjusted accordingly.

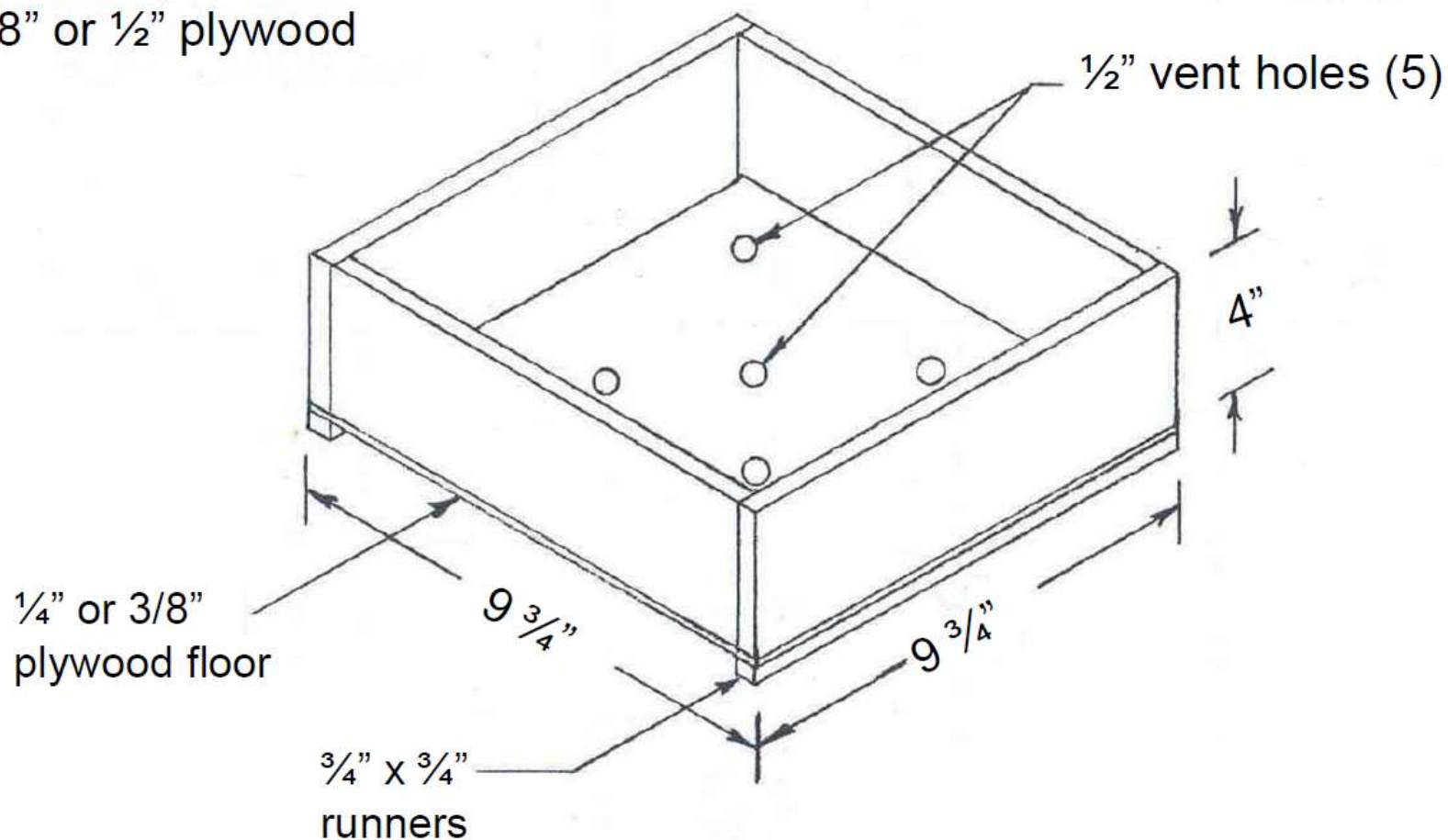
****NOT TO SCALE****

Designed by J. Sadowski (revised 2010)

TRAY FOR DUCK BOX

(Facilitates monitoring and cleaning)

Sides may be
3/8" or 1/2" plywood



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