**Moose PVC Bird Nest Box**





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| **Parts List** | **Instructions** | **Cost x1** | **Cost x4** |
| 3.5”x36” Steel U-Post |  | $2.50 | x4 = $10 |
| 2”x5’ PVC pipe Post | 2”x10’ x2 cut to 5’ lengths | $2.50 | x2 = $10 |
| 4” to 2” PVC adapter |  | $6.50 | x4 = $26 |
| 4”x6” PVC pipe Nest Box | 4”x24” cut to 6” lengths | $1.50 | x1 = $06 |
| 4” Qwik Cap |  | $4.50 | x4 = $18 |
| 3.75x3.75” hardware “cloth” floor | ¼” single layer or ½” doubled | $1.00 | x4 = $04 or scrap |
| 6” carriage bolt floor anchor | Any 6” bolt with two washers/nuts | $2.00 | x4 = $08 or scrap |
| .67”x11.25”x12” roof | Composite 8’ cut to 12” lengths | $3.50 | x1 = $28 (x4 left over) |
| 5-gallon bucket predator guard | Support w/ 3 screws ~2.3” apart, 4’ up | $3.00 | x4 = $12 or scrap |
| Total Cost **in 2017** |  | ~$27 | X4 = ~$130 |

**Tool List:**

​Table saw and/or Sabre Saw, Xacto Knife, Trauma Sheers or Tin Snips, 2.25” hole saw, Hand Drill and Screwdriver, Post Driver or Sledge Hammer

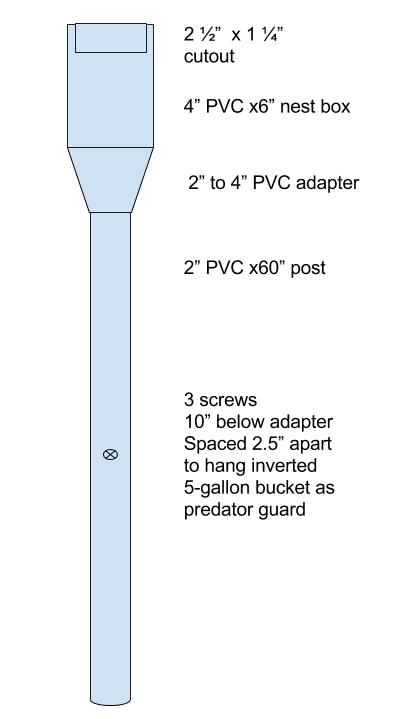
**Pre-assembly instructions (see pictures below):**

1. Cut 11-12” Square Roof and glue it to rubber Quick Cap (gorilla glue is good but expands when curing)
2. Cut two pieces of hardware cloth and assemble with 6-8” centered bolt

Bolt works as center-weight to keep floor from tilting and as plunger to expel spent nests

1. Cut 2” PVC post to ~5’ length
2. If planning to add predator guard inverted bucket
   1. Use hole saw to cut 2.25” hole in bottom of bucket
   2. Measure ~11” down from top of post and wrap masking tape around post; make it level
   3. Drill 1st hole along upper edge of tape
   4. Measure 2.5” to left and right of hole to mark 2nd and 3rd holes for screws
   5. Screw in the three short screw so screw-heads project a few mm
3. Cut 4” PVC to 6” length; cut 2.5x1.25” entrance slot into Quick Cap with Xacto Knife
4. Put Quick Cap onto Nest-Box and trace opening to cut matching entrance to Nest-Box
5. Cut two 1.75”, vertical, ventilation slits opposite the entrance slot from upper edge of Nest-Box

(slits will extend ~1/2” below Quick Cap when roof is in place)



A**ssembly:**

1. Choose a location
2. Place a post smaller than 2”; U-posts and retired chain-link posts work well
3. Cover with 2” PVC post ~5’ tall
4. Slide optional inverted bucket guard until suspended by 3 screws in post
5. Add 2” to 4” PVC converter
6. Add 4” PVC Nest Box
7. Add hardware cloth base to Nest Box and cover with pine-needles
8. Add 4” Qwik Cap to top of Nest Box with entry slit matching Nest Box slit
9. Add 11-12” roof, glued to top of Qwik Cap (glue roof in advance)
10. Gelstain post & nest if wanting to blend better with landscape

Stain inside of nestbox if wanting darker interior

**Advantages:**

PVC post – Entire assembly can be moved inside for winter if desired (may extend product life)

PVC vs Wood Nest Box – Cheaper, fewer parts, easier to make and assemble, longer life

Moose vs Gilbertson – Cheaper, fewer parts, easier to make and assemble, heavier and better insulated

Supported from bottom, so no risk of nest-box falling from a top-suspension design

Slit vs Round opening – No sparrows, easier feeding of older nestlings

Mobile, vented floor – No moisture, fly larvae may fall through, easy to expel spent nest

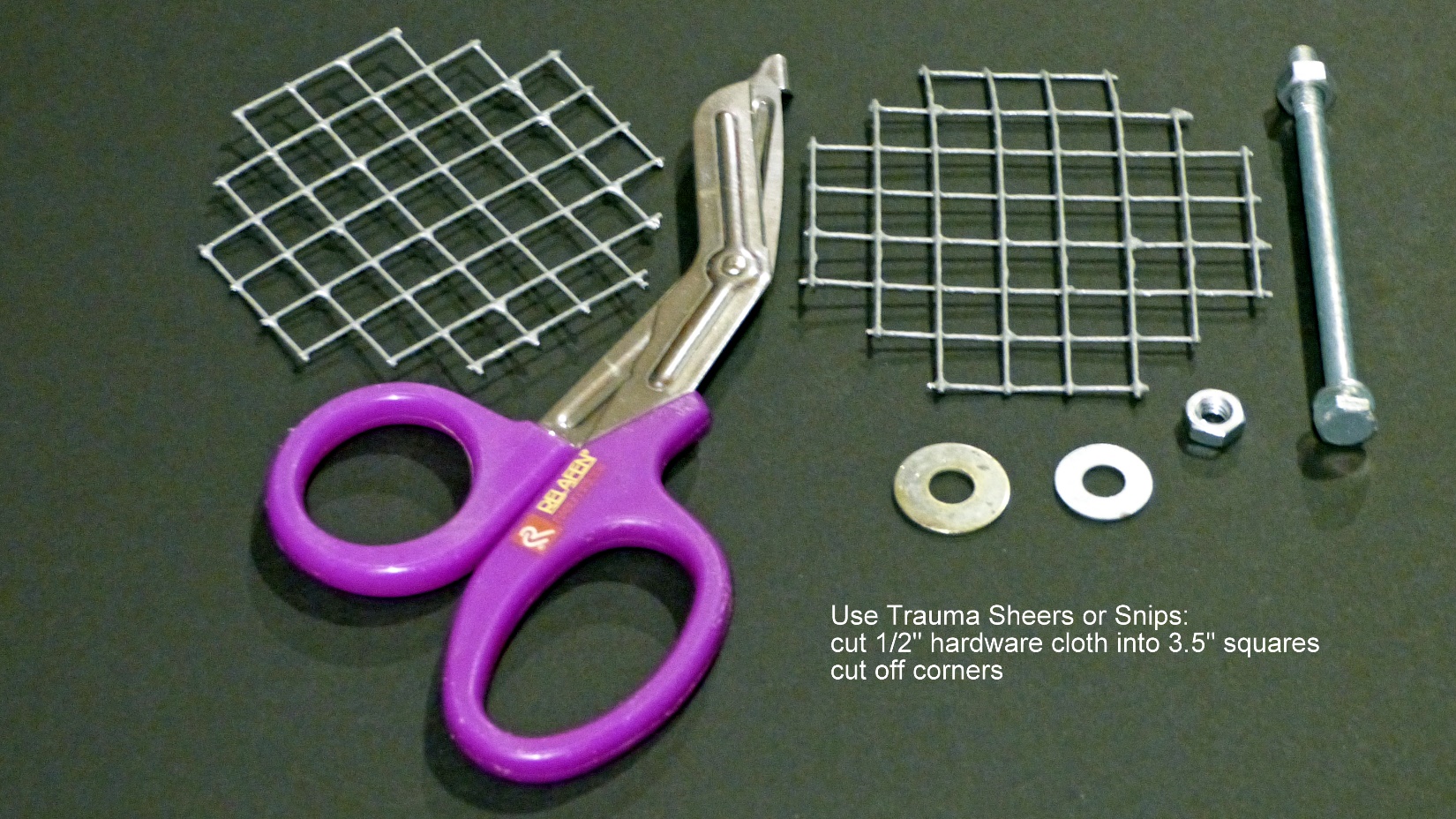
Removable Roof – Easy viewing and photography of nestlings

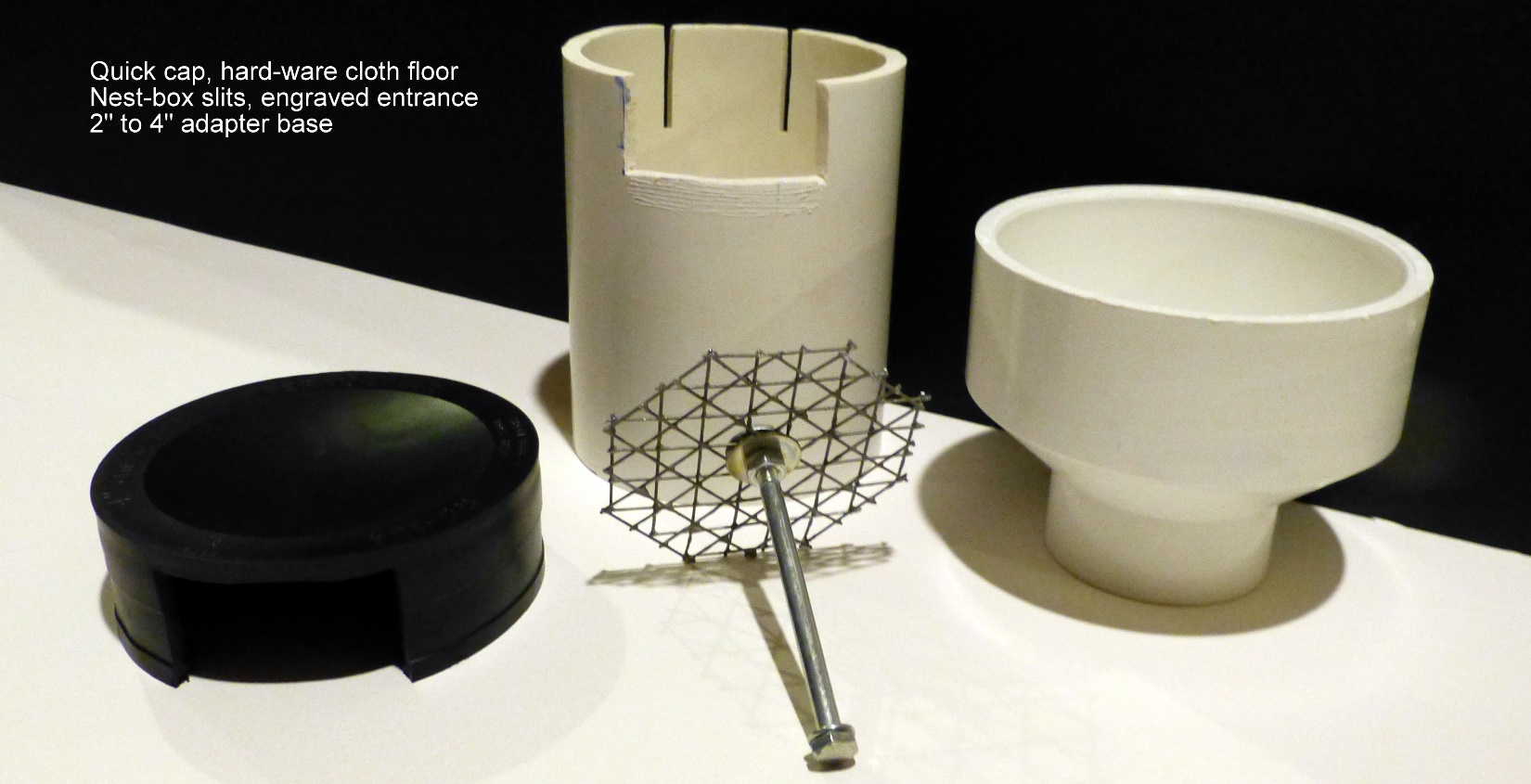
Removable Nest Box – Easy viewing and cleaning

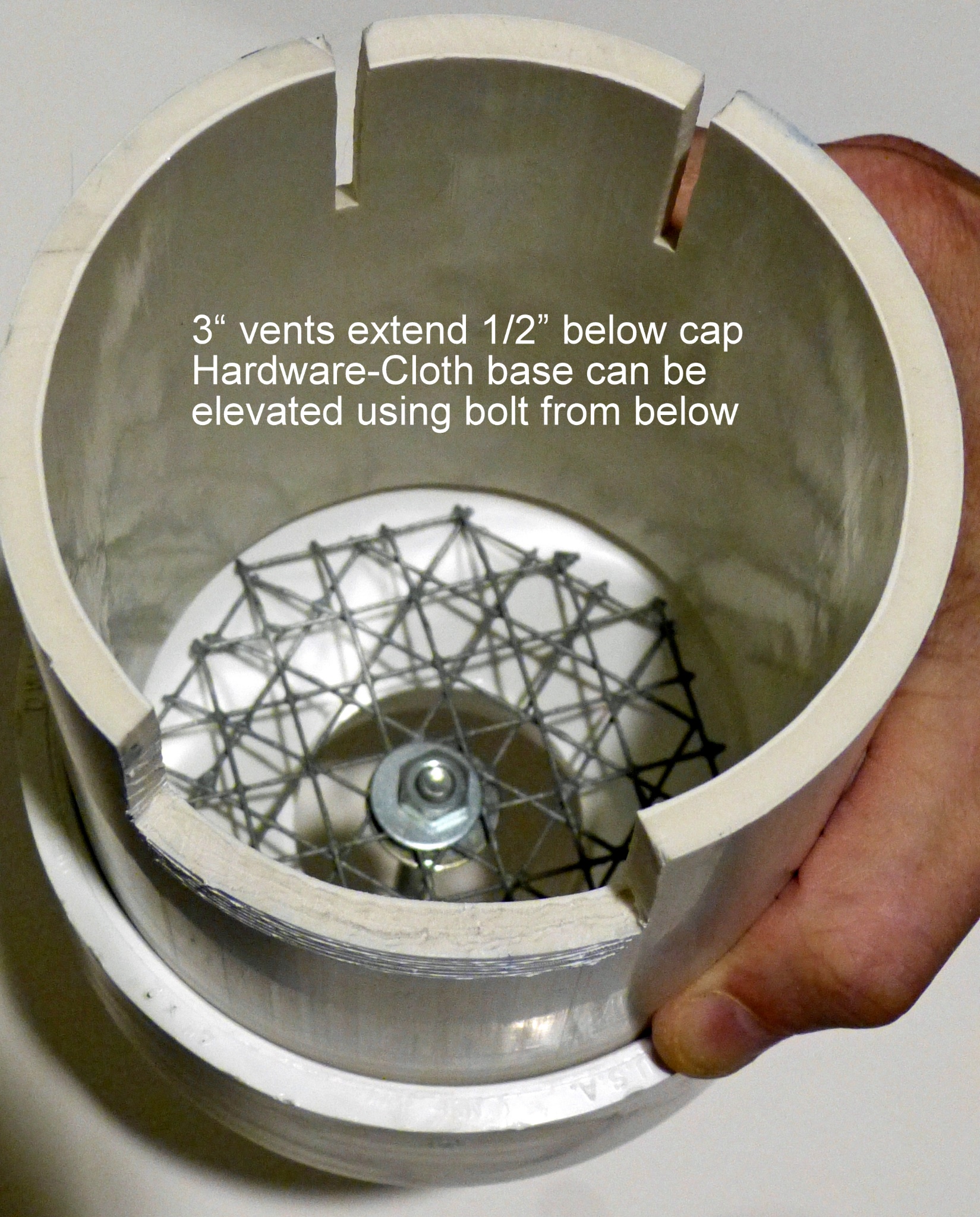
Bucket Guard – Cheaper than metal and no seams with exposed screws for climbing snakes

**Why my interest?**

I inherited an interest in birds from my father, whose family grew up next door to a bird expert. Ruth Thomas studied and banded birds and wrote, “Crip, Come Home” as well as, “Brush Goat, Milk Goat” and a weekly column on birds in the 1940s in the Arkansas Democrat Newspaper. Many of my relatives have fed birds (including hummingbirds) and land-lorded Purple Martins and Bluebirds. I finally upgraded to property that lent itself to land-lording in 1998. My plastic Purple Martin gourds last forever, while my Bluebird houses have been replaced many times over the years. In researching PVC as an option, I ran into the Gilbertson design but thought it was overly complex and had some risk for dropping the nest-box onto the ground, so I designed my own nest-boxes and put them into use in 2016. With only 1.5 acres for 5 nest-boxes, 2017 saw 13 Bluebirds and 20 House Wrens fledged from the new boxes.











Remove Nest-Box for viewing by lifting adapter off the 2” post



Roof can be removed/replaced before/after lifting nest-box off the 2” post

Removal is most easily done by tipping roof toward the front







