



## Flying Squirrel Landing Platform

Build a platform feeder (i.e. a board with a rim) and fasten it onto a large tree trunk about 1.5m off the ground. Similar feeders in Algonquin Park and Pinery Park all had flying squirrels within 2-3 weeks. You need to fill the feeder with sunflower seeds at dusk daily. These squirrels are strictly nocturnal.

Thanks to Jeff Skevington (information) and Janelle King (photograph) for the inspiration.

## Physiology

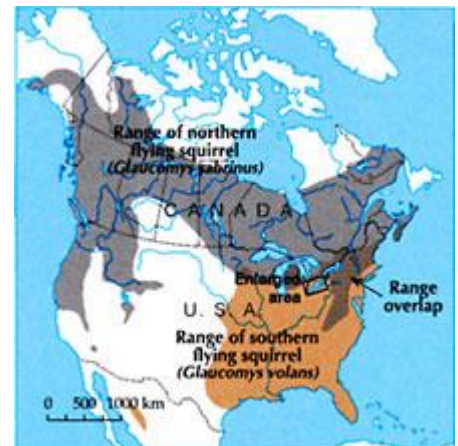
Contrary to what its name suggests, the flying squirrel cannot fly. Instead, it glides with two furry membranes, called patagia, loosely stretched between its wrists and ankles. The flying squirrel normally glides diagonally downward from one branch, scurries to the top of the tree and jumps on a downward slant to the next one. The flying squirrel also has a flat, furry tail that it uses as a rudder while gliding. The squirrel uses both its tail and membrane to steer left and right, and even to make 180-degree turns.

The flying squirrel is normally brown on its back, and white on both its belly and the bottom side of its furry membrane. The northern flying squirrel equals in size to a red squirrel, and the southern species is comparable to a chipmunk. Nocturnal mammals, they have large, dark, bulging eyes that are well adapted for night vision. They also has something called "feelers," which are sensitive whiskers used to make nocturnal travel easier. To mark forest routes, the squirrel uses scent glands in its cheeks.

## Habitats/Behaviours

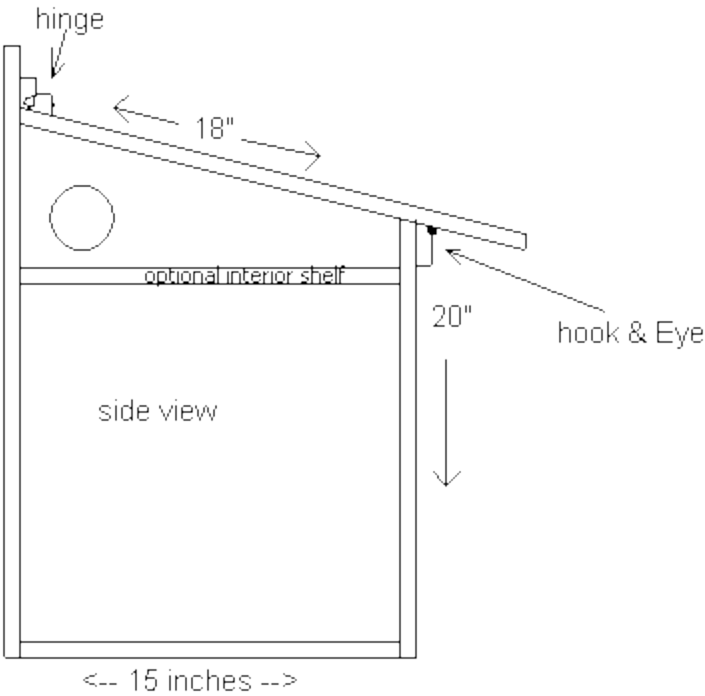
The squirrels are most active between dusk and dawn. Omnivorous, it eats nuts, seeds, berries, insects, tree buds and sometimes eggs or nestlings. Although the northern and southern flying squirrels are mainly found in trees, they forage the forest ground for food. They run slowly and clumsily on the ground and, if startled far from a tree, will try to hide.

The northern species lives in mixed or coniferous forests, while its southern counterpart occupies hardwood forests of oak, maple, beech and hickory.

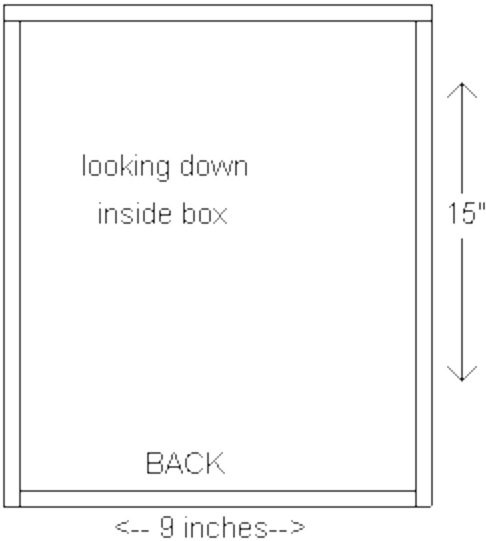


**Source** [http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids/animal-facts/flying\\_squirrel.asp](http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids/animal-facts/flying_squirrel.asp)

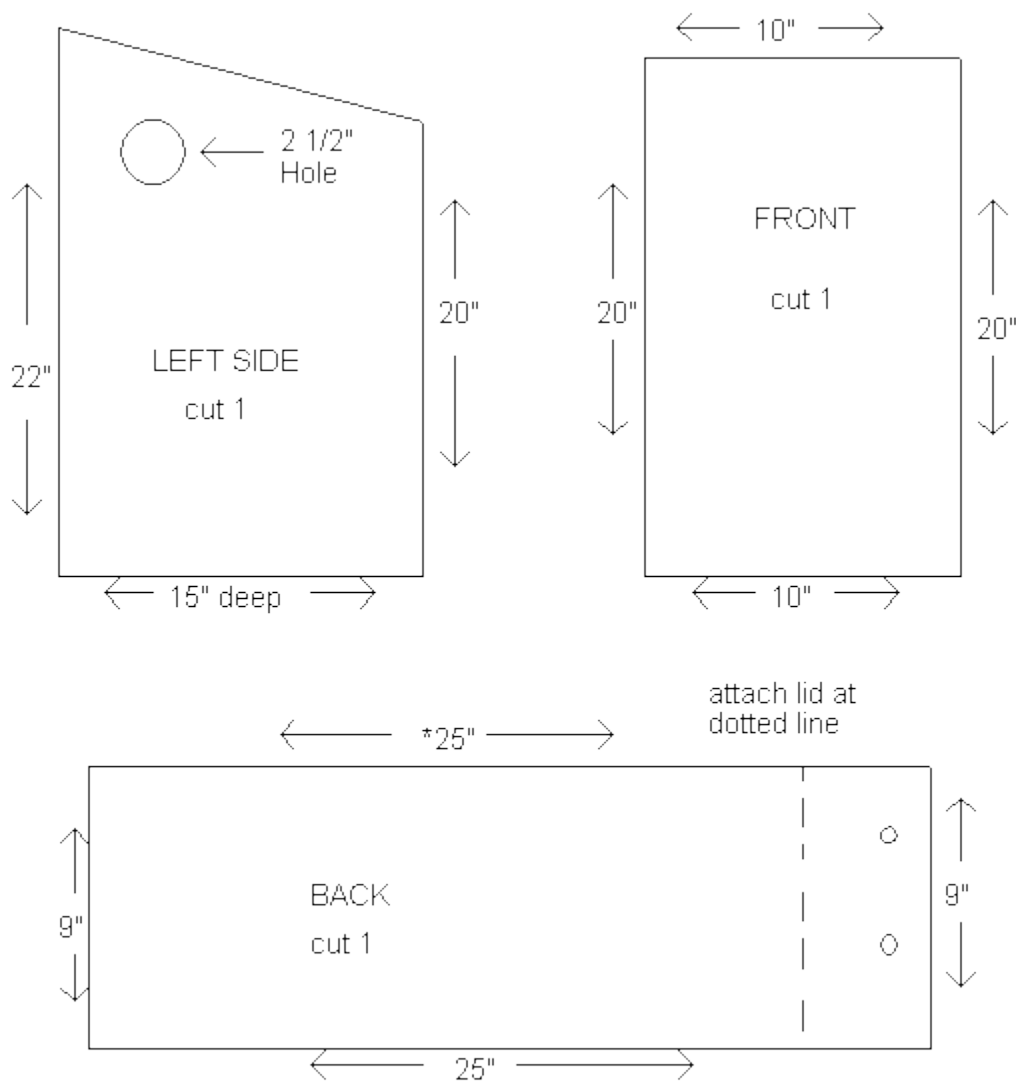
**ASSEMBLY OF SQUIRREL BOX**



<-- 10 inches -->

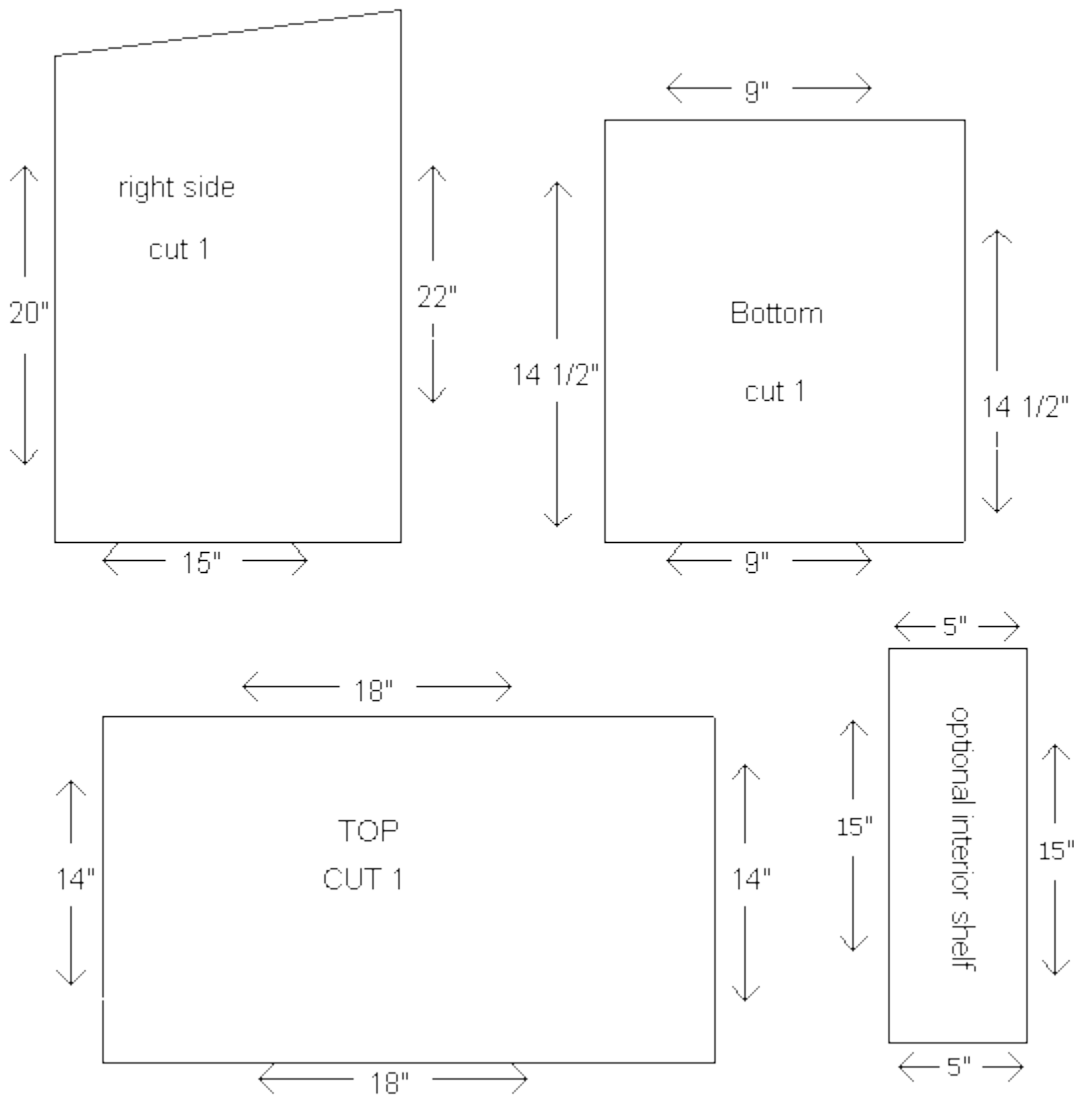


**CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING PIECES FOR SQUIRREL BOX**



\*may cut longer if you wish an extension piece on bottom to have for mounting in addition to the 3" space at the top.

## PIECES TO BE CUT CONTINUED



## SUPPLIES FOR SQUIRREL BOX

- **1/2 Sheet of 4' X 8" plywood will make 1 squirrel box. I use exterior plywood, AC grade (may use 1/2" or 3/4")**
- **1 pair of 1 1/2" utility hinges**
- **1 hook and eye closure (1")**
- **1 1/4 " or 1 1/2" wire nails , 17 or 18 gauge (1 pack will do more than box) Length of nails depends on thickness of plywood**
- **Carver Tripp makes a non-toxic stain. Please use non-toxic stain as squirrels will chew on the box**
- **I seal my boxes with Shellac after applying stain as it protects the box and is non-toxic when dry**
- **2 heavy duty nails for nailing box to tree.**