

with bark or other material as shown in Fig. 10. Mr. E. H. Forbush in his circular issued by the State Board of Agriculture for Massachusetts, from which we have also taken most of our illustrations, makes the following suggestions for making of these boxes.

"An incision is made on the side intended for the back of the box, through both outer and inner bark, from the top to the bottom of each section: then, on the opposite side, some two or three inches from the top, there is bored through

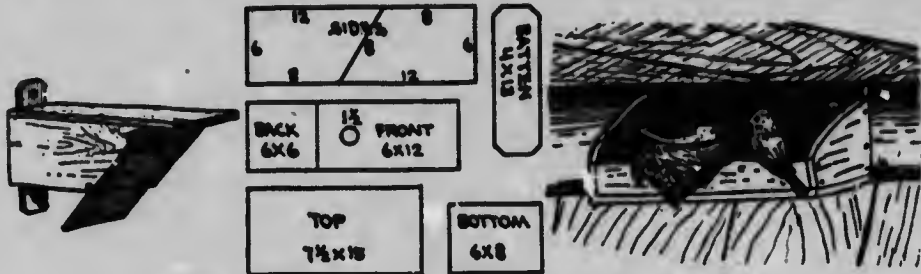


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.

the bark, with an auger or extension bit, a hole of the size desired for the entrance. If such tools are not at hand the aperture may be cut with gouge, a chisel or even a knife. Next, a wedge-shaped stick is inserted into the incision at the back and under the inner bark, to start it off, and with this implement it is peeled very carefully. In peeling birch one should be careful not to separate the inner and outer layers of the bark. Caution should be used when working about knots or rough places. The bark will make the sides of the box, and two sections each an inch thick sawed from the ends of the barked log, will make the top and bottom. Now the bark is tacked to the bottom and top. The bark will draw apart somewhat

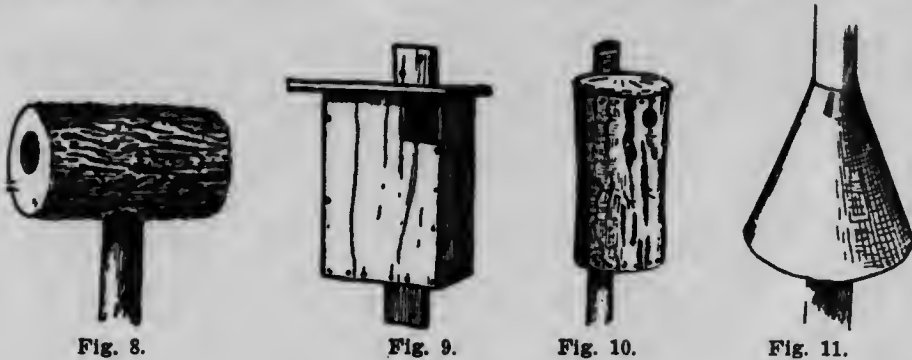


Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

Fig. 11.

at the back in drying but this aperture may be covered when the box is put up by nailing a short stick or pole over the opening on the back, which stick in turn may be nailed or screwed to the supporting tree, building or pole. To make the roof watertight, a piece of cotton cloth, duck or denim may be put on, tacked down over the edge and painted, or a piece of roofing paper may be used."

Excellent boxes can also be made with boards as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, but if possible, the wood should be covered with bark. If this is not possible, however, it should be stained and not painted. Other nesting boxes easily made are shown in