Blue Bird Box by Todd A Carlson, Hudsonville, MI, carlsont@gvsu.edu

See cutting plan for cutting all pieces out of a single six foot 1x6 cedar board. Pieces can be cut in different order to avoid knot holes is bad places (such as where the entrance hole is). The back piece can be cut a few inches shorter if you run short of wood. There will be very little waste. First assemble the roof. Don’t drill the pin hole until the box is assembled. I use hardwood trim nails (1½” 4d) for assembly. Nail and glue the roof boards together first and then attach the cleats. Be sure the distance between the outside edges of the cleats is slightly less than the with of the side boards so the cleats will slide inside the box assembly. Next assemble the box. Nail the front to the bottom first. Then attach the sides, leaving a gap between the top edge of the sides and the top edges of the front for ventilation. Before nailing the back, set the roof assembly in place and adjust the back so the roof is level. Next drill holes through the front and back for removable pins to secure the roof. Attach the pipe straps to the back. Cut 2 to 3 feet off the metal conduit and drive into the ground. Mount the box with the pipe straps. You may need to put a shim between the pipe and the box under the strap to get a tight fit.
Cutting Plan for 6 foot cedar 1x6

- Back: 16" x 8"
- Roof: 12 1/2" x 8 7/8"
- Side: 8" x 11"
- 45 deg bevel cut:
  - 8 7/8" x 4"

Sides (2X): 5 1/2" x 8 7/8"

- 3/4" pipe straps screwed to back
- 10 foot long 3/4" diameter galvanized electrical conduit

Front:
- Roof Cleat: 2 3/4" x 2 3/4"
- Oval opening made from two 1 3/8" diameter holes

Roof (2X): 8" x 12 1/2"

Bottom: 1/2" x 4"