

One thousand birdhouses head for the city. . .

When the 1991 International Builders Home Flower and Furniture Show opens at Cobo Center this spring, more than one thousand birdhouses will be displayed.

Who built all of these houses? Seventh and eighth grade students from 36 area schools were busy this winter hammering, sawing and nailing together homes for eight species of birds. House Wrens, Bluebirds, Woods Ducks, Barred Owls, Great Crested Flycatchers, American Kestrels, American Robins and Tree Swallows will benefit from the efforts of these young people when, after the show, these houses go up in a thousand back yards.

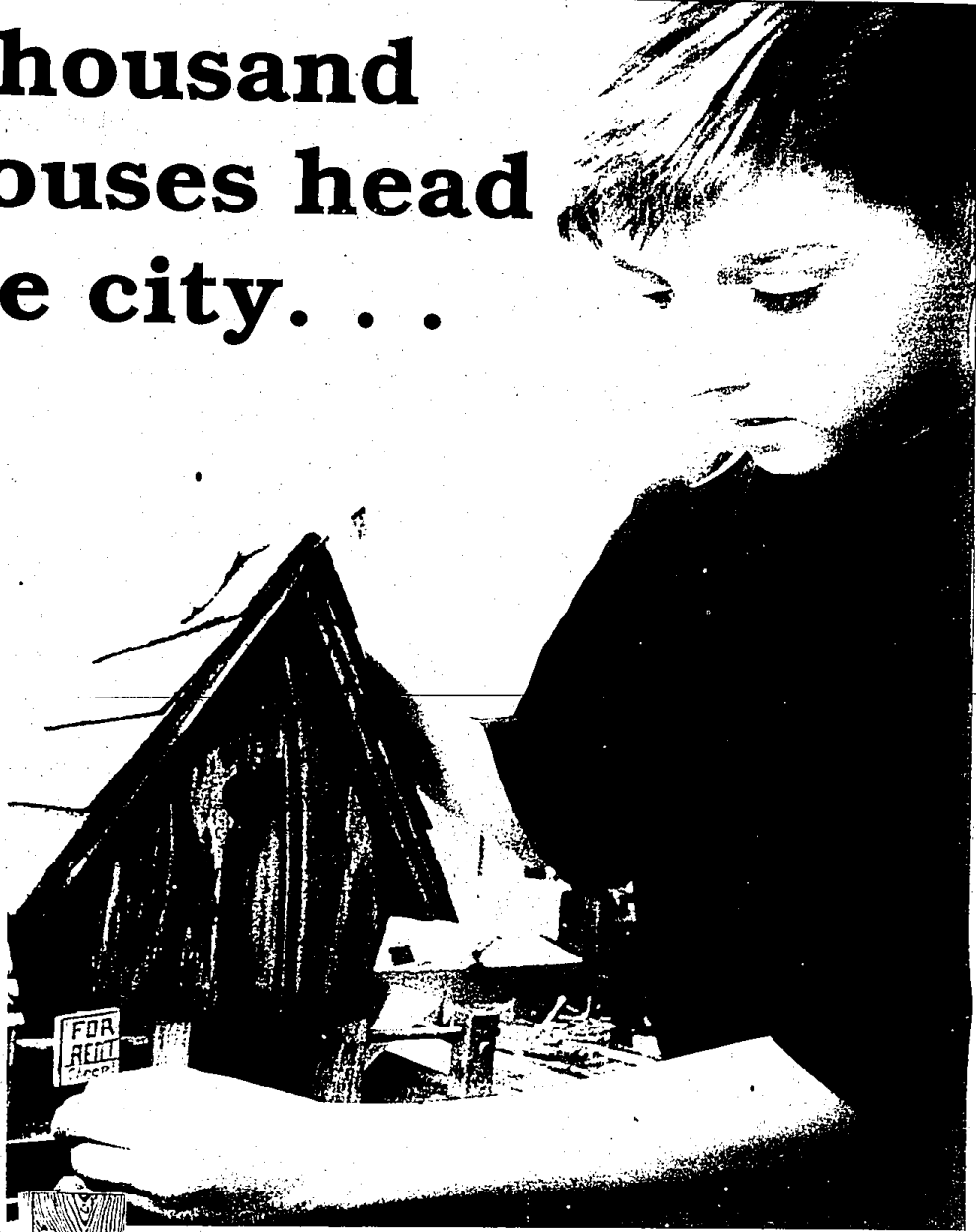
The 1991 Best Birdhouse Builder Contest, sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, challenges each young carpenter to not only build a winning birdhouse, but to learn about the bird that will call it "home."

Contestants learned that the American Kestrel is our smallest falcon and that the tree swallow's eggs are white.

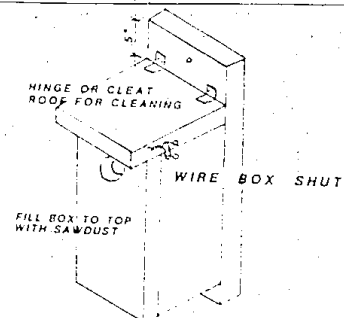
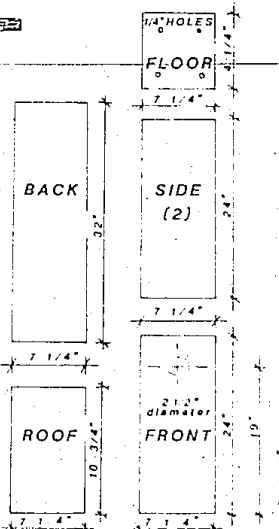
The actual building of these houses offered a challenge as well.

If you'd like to get the feel of this project, just follow the directions below and you'll have made a nest box for the Northern Flicker. In order to attract flickers, you should begin construction with 1 1/2-inch thick cedar boards and fill the interior all the way to the top with sawdust; this imitates a dead limb with soft heartwood.

This is not a contest, but if you're really serious about testing your birdhouse building skills, you should have your construction finished by April 1 for the birds to nest.



One of our 1991 contestants, Cameron Finn, puts the finishing touches on his work.



**1991
INTERNATIONAL
BUILDERS
HOME
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SHOW**
MARCH 16-24
COBO HALL



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