

Wild Bird Houses: Placement Tips

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Many of our wild bird neighbors build nests in protected cavities or holes. These include bluebirds, chickadees, wrens, purple martins, titmice, nuthatches, and others. HOLLOWED-OUT cavities in dead trees are perfect for nest building, but it can be challenging for wild birds to find these ideal nesting spots. There may be a shortage of dead trees or an abundance of nest-seekers. Either way, you can help by setting out man-made [nesting huts](#) or [birdhouses](#) along with the protection of a [predator guard](#).

Being a landlord to the wild bird community is highly rewarding. You are helping to protect and preserve an important part of nature. Plus, you are getting a chance to observe the nesting habits of these beautiful little creatures. But there is more to being a landlord than just setting out a birdhouse. Different wild bird species require different kinds of housing set in the proper location.

Purple martins, for instance, are social birds. They prefer to nest in apartment-style birdhouses like the [12 Room Purple Martin Bird House](#), which provides twelve nesting compartments. Purple martins can be choosy about their housing. They seem to favor birdhouses that are painted white and located near a body of water such as a lake or stream. The ideal place for a purple martin house is in an area away from trees such as a lawn, pasture, or field. Purple martin houses need to sit high off the ground, between 12 and 25 feet.



Bluebird houses, on the other hand, sit 5 to 6 feet off the ground. Ideally they should be on open land, not wooded, although a few nearby trees are okay.

Bluebirds are competitive, so place a few houses on your property, if possible, at least 100 yards apart. For studying and recording the habits of bluebirds, choose a house that offers easy access to the interior. The plexiglas inner wall of the [Observation Bluebird House](#) allows you to view the birds without excess disturbance.

Remember to limit your visits to 30 seconds, once or twice a week. Avoid visiting during incubation. It's safe to visit again about 2 to 3 days after the chicks have hatched. Be sure to record your observations in a notebook or journal. You'll find yourself returning to your writings often, as you learn more and more about these fascinating backyard neighbors.

Recommended Products



[Bird Guardian Birdhouse Predator Protector](#)



[Nesting Huts Birdhouses](#)



[Sparrow-Resistant House](#)