

Birdhouse Specification and Location Tips

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BIRDHOUSE SPECS

YOU NEED TO KNOW



you've ever hosted wild birds at nesting time, you can attest that it is an experience to look forward to every spring. It's very fascinating to watch birds mate, establish and defend territories, and provide for their young. Many species will use man-made [nest boxes](#) or nest platforms, and if you want to use them to attract birds to nest in your yard, it's helpful to know the nestbox specifications required by various species. This will improve the likelihood that the home will be occupied by the species you intend to attract.

You will want to make sure the entrance hole is sized only as large as it needs to be for the species you wish to house. Holes larger than this will invite larger birds and other predators to invade the box, which can be a danger to the chicks or prompt the invaders to take over the box and evict the current residents.

The following chart will help select a birdhouse appropriate for housing a particular species. We not only give you an idea of the specification requirements of the house or platform, but also give you some tips about where and how high to mount it.

Bird Species	Floor Size	Depth of House	Hole Above Floor	Hole Diameter	Placement Above Ground	Mounting Location or Other
Barn Swallow (Nesting Platform)	6" x 6"	6"	NA	None (front side panel)	8' - 12'	Side of building, arbor or in tree
Bluebird	5" x 5"	8"	6"	1-1/2"	5' - 10'	Open areas; facing a field
Chickadee	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1-1/8"	6' - 15'	Thicket of a small tree

Downy Woodpecker	4" x 4"	9" - 12"	6" - 8"	1-1/4"	6' - 20'	On tree trunk; needs sawdust
House Wren	4" x 4"	8"	6"	1-1/8"	5' - 10'	Post or tree mount
Northern Flicker	7" x 7"	16" - 18"	14" - 16"	2-1/2"	6' - 20'	Put sawdust inside
Nuthatch	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1-1/4"	12' - 20'	Mount on tree trunk; natural color best
Purple Martin	6" x 6" (each unit)	6"	2"	2-1/2"	15' - 20'	Open areas; near water; white is best color; many apartments per house
Red-headed Woodpecker	6" x 6"	15"	6" - 8"	2"	12' - 20'	Post mount or tree trunk
Robin (nesting platform)	6" x 6"	6"	NA	None (front side panel)	6' - 15'	Side of building, arbor or in a tree
Screech Owl	10" x 10"	12" - 15"	9" - 12"	3"	10' - 30'	Edge of wooded lot or open woods
Titmouse	4" x 4"	8" - 10"	6" - 8"	1-1/4"	6' - 15'	In or near a wooded area
Tree Swallow	5" x 5"	6"	4"	1-1/2"	5' - 8'	Close proximity to a lake or pond (2 mi)
Wood Duck	10" x 10"	24"	20"	3" x 4" oval	10' - 20'	Post over water or on trees facing water

Choose a Bird House that Will Suit Your Needs



[Nesting Huts Birdhouses](#)



[Observation Bluebird House](#)



[12 Room Purple Martin Bird House](#)



[Convertible Winter Roost Bird House](#)