Bird Houses & Feeders
How To Build And Enjoy Them
UNIVERSAL BIRD HOUSE

This universal bird house is suitable for many birds. The table to the right gives the dimensions of its parts for various species.

The hinged top and bottom allow monitoring of the nest and easy cleanout after the nest has been abandoned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird</th>
<th>Back Board</th>
<th>Floor</th>
<th>Sides Width-Length</th>
<th>Roof Width</th>
<th>Front</th>
<th>Entrance Diameter Width-Length</th>
<th>Nails or Screws</th>
<th>Pressure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluebird, Red-naped</td>
<td>7&quot; x 15 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>5 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>12 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>6 3/4&quot; x 10&quot;</td>
<td>5 1/4</td>
<td>1 1/2&quot; x 3 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>10 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warbler, Rock</td>
<td>5 1/4&quot; x 7 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>4 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>10 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>4 3/4&quot; x 12&quot;</td>
<td>4 7/8</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 2 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>1 1/4&quot;</td>
<td>8 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hummingbird</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot; x 5 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>3 7/8&quot;</td>
<td>8 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>3 1/4&quot; x 12&quot;</td>
<td>3 7/8</td>
<td>1 1/4&quot; x 1 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>5/8&quot;</td>
<td>6 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuthatch, Red-breasted</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 7 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>9 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 12&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4</td>
<td>1 1/2&quot; x 1&quot;</td>
<td>5/8&quot;</td>
<td>5 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sapsucker, Red-breasted</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 7 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4&quot;</td>
<td>9 1/2&quot;</td>
<td>2 1/2&quot; x 12&quot;</td>
<td>2 3/4</td>
<td>1 1/2&quot; x 1&quot;</td>
<td>5/8&quot;</td>
<td>5 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DOVE NESTING BASKET
Mounting dove nest in the open, usually in the crotch of a tree limb.
They can be encouraged to nest by erecting a nest basket. From a 12 inch
square of 1/4 or 1/2 inch mesh hardware cloth (wire screen), cut a 12 inch
circle. Then, cut a 2 1/2 inch pie-shaped wedge from the circle and discard.
Pull the circle into a cone, overlapping the edges, and wire together. Secure
the nest basket in the crotch of a tree limb 8 to 10 feet above the ground.

BIRD HOUSES can be as simple or elaborate as you
wish to make them. These basic designs will serve very well.
Additional creative touches will do no harm, but usually
mean more to the builder than to the birds.

Bird houses should be placed near natural
cover. If a house is not used after a season,
however, try moving it to a new location.

NESTING SHELF
Hawks, barn swallows and phoebes don't need cavities for
nesting, but will use this simple nesting shelf. Dimensions
can vary. However, the bottom should be at least 6 by 8
inches, and the sides should be a minimum of 5 inches.
High on the short side. Angle one side so the roof will shed
rain. Mount nesting shelves about 10 feet off the ground
on a tree trunk or the wall of a building.

RUSTIC LOG HOUSE
A short section of log makes a
picturesque rustic bird house. Split
a piece off the back, and use drill
and chisel to hollow out a large
cavity approximately 6 inches
deepest and 4 inches in diameter.
Cut or drill an entrance hole no larger
than 1 1/2 inches in diameter near
the top of the cavity, and attach
house so it's backboard. Hinge the
top for easy cleaning.
MARGARINE TUB MANSION
Attach the tub's lid to the backboard with staples or nails and set aside. Then, using a 50 cent piece as a pattern, trace and cut an entrance hole through the bottom of the tub. A 50 cent piece is about 1 1/2 inches in diameter, the ideal size for an entrance. Be careful not to make the entrance any larger, or the mansion may be taken over by nuisance birds such as starlings. Snap the tub into its cover, and mount.

MILK CARTON CABIN
Take a half-gallon milk carton, and open its top completely. Poke two small holes through the bottom of the carton, and mark their positions on the backboard. Drill two small holes in the backboard, and attach the carton to the backboard with wood screws and washers. Close the top of the carton halfway with brass clamps as shown.

COFFEE CAN COTTAGE
Remove the plastic cover, and use a 50 cent piece to mark an entrance, then cut out as shown. Punch a hole through the bottom of the can, and secure it to the backboard with a single wood screw and washer.
COFFEE CAN FEEDER
The coffee can feeder is very similar to the coffee can cottage. Use a 30 cm piece to cut an entrance hole in the center of the removable lid. Poke two small holes through the bottom and lid of the can, and hang from a bird coat hanger. Wire a perch in the bottom until the birds become accustomed to feeding, and then remove it.

This is a great feeder if you're having problems with larger birds hogging all the feed. Crickets and blue jays, for example, are unable to use the small entrance hole.

EMPTY COFFEE cans, milk cartons, and plastic tubs make excellent bird houses and feeders. These feeders and houses were designed by the National Wildlife Federation, and make great craft projects for children.

All of these houses are suitable for small songbirds, including bluebirds. However, these houses should be placed only in the shade. In direct sunlight they may overheat, which can destroy eggs and kill young birds. Be sure to poke several small holes in protected areas of each house to provide drainage and ventilation.

MILK CARTON FEEDER
Find a quart or half-gallon milk carton, and cut the entrance flap as shown. Use a straightened paper clip or piece of wire to hold the overhanging flap open. Secure the top with two brass clamps, and hang from a coat hanger.

MESH FEEDER FOR SUET
An old onion sack hung along the trunk of a tree makes a great suet holder for woodpeckers, flickers, nuthatches and other insect-eating birds.

SUET PUDDING
Suet may be purchased in a grocery store, or a suet pudding may be made at home. Suet pudding can be made in large batches, and the excess may be frozen. Thaw and use as needed.
- 1 part peanut butter
- 1 part precooked cereal
  (oatmeal, cream of wheat, or commerical mush)
- 1 part suet

Heat until suet and peanut butter melt and mixture can be stirred together. Harden in refrigerator in a clean coffee can.
FEEDING BIRDS is a wonderful way to enjoy them, and the variety of feeders that may be made at home is almost endless. It's best to place feeders near natural cover. Attaching a small, cone-shaped predator guard made of a small piece of sheet metal above or below feeders will help foil cats and sometimes squirrels.

Once you begin a feeding program, be sure to continue through early spring. Many birds spend the winter near feeders instead of migrating south, and are dependent upon regular feeding for survival.

PINE CONE FEEDER
A pine cone on a string is perhaps the simplest bird feeder. Smear the cone with peanut butter or suet pudding (see recipe on page 4) and hang from a tree to attract wrens, nuthatches and other small insect-eating birds.

FAVORITE BIRD FOODS
STEEL- blue jay, woodpecker, red and white-breasted nuthatch, wren, tufted titmouse, chickadee, golden and ruby crowned kinglet, starling, prairie finch, flicker, brown creeper, redwinged blackbird.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS-chickadee, purple finch, junco, sparrow, brown thrasher, catbird, blue jay, tufted titmouse, Carolina wren, cardinal, chickadee.

SMALL MIXED SEEDS (bunya, millet, rape, canary seed, chick, seed, cracked corn-cowbird, grackle, redwing blackbird, brown thrasher, hermit thrush, house finch, catbird, snow bunting, hermit thrush, cardinal, pine siskin, pine grosbeak, goldfinch, purple finch, sparrow, junco.

LARGE SEEDS (sunflower, wheat, oats, corn, millet, rye, buckwheat, soybeans)-quail, mourning dove, ruffed grouse.

PEANUT BUTTER-NUTMEATS: growbeak, nuthatch, woodpecker, chickadee, blue jay, tufted titmouse, finch, cardinal, catbird, sparrow.

FRUIT (chopped apple, banana, raisins)-thrasher, robin, myrtle warbler, hermit thrush, catbird, blue bird, woodpecker, mockingbird, cedar warbler.

TROLLEY FEEDER
Trolley feeders are suspended from a wire between two objects, and slide within reach for easy filling. Dimensions are unimportant, but the wire cone should be made of 1/4 inch mesh hardware cloth. Placing short lengths (3-3 feet) of garden hose on the wire on either side of the feeder will help foil squirrels.
SUET LOG
A suet log hung from a limb attracts woodpeckers, flickers, nuthatches, and wrens. Take a short length of firewood (approximately 2 feet long and 3 to 4 inches in diameter) and drill or chisel shallow holes into or through it (about 1 inch in diameter and 2 inches deep). The exact size and spacing of the holes is unimportant. Perches aren’t needed, but leave the bark on the log so that the birds can grip it while climbing. Put a screw eye in one end of the log and hang from tree. Feed holes with suet or seed pudding.

WINDOW FEEDER
A window sill feeder may be made of boards or plywood. Length and width vary depending on the size of the window and materials on hand. A feeder 10 inches wide with a 12 inch roof works well, and the gap in from allows for easy cleaning.

PROTECT YOUR TREE
Tree limbs may be protected from damage by wrapping a thin piece of foam around the limb before hanging bird houses or feeders.
IMPROVING HABITAT FOR BIRDS

LANDSCAPING YOUR YARD IS AN EXCELLENT WAY TO ATTRACT MORE BIRDS. TREES AND SHRUBS OFFER COVER AND TWO SOURCES OF FOOD TO BIRDS—THE SEEDS, BERRIES AND FRUITS PRODUCED BY THE PLANTS, AND THE INSECTS ATTRACTED TO THE VEGETATION.

THE MOST ATTRACTION HABITAT HAS A MIX OF TREES, SHRUBS AND GRASSES. EVERGREEN AND DECIDUOUS TREES AND SHRUBS OFFER SHORELINES AND COVER YEAR-ROUND. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO HAVE A SOURCE OF WATER NEARBY SUCH AS A BIRD BATH OR BACKYARD POOL. EVEN A SMALL POOL BELOW A TAMASCO CAN BE FRESHENED REGULARLY WITH A HOE.

THE FOLLOWING TREES AND SHRUBS WILL ATTRACT A WIDE VARIETY OF BIRDS. CHECK WITH A NURSERY OR HORTICULTURALIST FOR CULTURAL TECHNIQUES AND SUITABILITY TO YOUR AREA.

GRASSES, FLOWERS, GROUND COVERS:
- Millefleurs
- Sunflowers

SHRUBS:
- Balsam
- Blueberry
- Blackberry
- Smooth plum
- Elderberry
- Forsythia
- Honeysuckle
- Pyracantha
- Nandina

SMALL TREES:
- Cherry
- Crapemyrtle
- Dogwood
- Hawthorn
- Hollies
- Mulberry
- Plum
- Serviceberry

LARGE TREES:
- Blackberry
- Oak
- Poplar
- Magnolia
- Lobolly or longleaf pine
- Carolina Hemlock
- Eastern red cedar

BUILDING TIPS

EXPENSIVE Power tools on an elaborate workshop aren't needed to build bird houses and feeders. A few basic hand tools such as a hammer, saw, screwdriver, chisel, and a hand or electric-powered drill are fine. Here are some hints on construction:

- Treated lumber may produce fumes that are harmful to birds. Don't use it for bird houses. Common lumber, such as pine and spruce, is fine for bird houses and feeders. More resistant wood, such as cypress, cedar and redwood, also works very well, but is harder to find and more expensive. Exterior plywood may also be used, but must be painted and is more difficult to work with.

- Remember that lantern sizes are larger than their true dimension.

- Window areas, one-inch boards are rarely only about 5/10 inches wide (take a tape measure to the lumber yard)

- Bird houses may be treated on the outside with a latex-based paint or stain. Keep the inside natural, however. Feeders may be painted or varnished. Do not treat a house or feeder with creosote because it is toxic.

- Screws or nails may be used as fasteners. Screws are more permanent, although a little more trouble. If you're building houses and feeders as a craft project with children, pre-drill the nail or screw holes.

- Bases should not be made or bird houses. They will only attract nuisance birds such as starlings and house sparrows.

INFORMATION


BACKYARD WILDLIFE HABITAT PROGRAM

Information available from the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. MO, 1400 15th St., NW, Washington, DC 20050.

BOOKS:

The Complete Book of Birdhouses by Susan Campbell. Published by Dover Publications, 31 East 2nd St., NY, 11501.


Woodworking for Wildlife Houses for Birds and Mammals Published by the Department of Natural Resources. Box 7, Centennial Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155.

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