



Birdhouse Guidelines

Discover which dwellings are best for your backyard birds.

SPECIES	DIMENSIONS	HOLE	PLACEMENT	COLOR	NOTES
Eastern bluebird	5x5x8" h.	1½" centered 6" above floor	5-10' high in the open; sunny area	light earth tones	likes open areas, especially facing a field
Tree swallow	5x5x8" h.	1⅜" centered 6" above floor	5-8' high in the open; 50-100% sun	light earth tones or gray	within 2 miles of pond or lake
Purple martin	multiple apts. 6x6x6" ea.	2⅛" 2¼" above floor	15-20' high in the open	white	open yard without tall trees; near water
Tufted titmouse	4x4x8" h.	1¼"	4-10' high	light earth tones	prefers to live in or near woods
Chickadee	4x4x8" h. or 5x5" base	1⅞" centered 6" above floor	5-15' high	light earth tones	small tree thicket
Nuthatch	4x4x10" h.	1¼" centered 7½" above floor	12-25' high on tree trunk	bark-covered or natural	prefers to live in or near woods
House wren	4x4x8" h. or 4x6" base	1" centered 6" above floor	5-10' high on post or hung in tree	light earth tones or white	prefers lower branches of backyard trees
Northern flicker	7x7x18" h.	2½" centered 14" above floor	8-20' high	light earth tones	put 4" sawdust inside for nesting
Downy woodpecker	4x4x10" h.	1¼" centered 7½" above floor	12-25' high on tree trunk	simulate natural cavity	prefers own excavation; provide sawdust
Red-headed woodpecker	6x6x15" h.	2" centered 6-8" above floor	8-20' high on post or tree trunk	simulate natural cavity	needs sawdust for nesting
Wood duck	10x10x24" h.	4x3" elliptical 20" above floor	2-5' high on post over water, or 12-40' high on tree facing water	light earth tones or natural	needs 3-4" of sawdust or shavings for nesting
American kestrel	10x10x18" h.	3" centered 14" above floor	12-40' high on post or tree trunk	light earth tones or natural	needs open approach on edge of woodlot or in isolated tree
Screech-owl	10x10x18" h.	3" centered 14" above floor	12-40' high on tree	light earth tones or natural	prefers open woods or edge of woodlot

Note: With the exception of wrens and purple martins, birds do not tolerate swaying birdhouses. Birdhouses should be firmly anchored to a post, a tree or the side of a building.

Source: *Garden Birds of America* by George H. Harrison. Willow Creek Press, 1996.