

The Birdhouse Network



Nesting Habitat and Birdhouse Requirements

Species	Nesting Habitat	Box Height	Hole Size
Eastern Bluebird	open field or lawn; orchards; open, rural country with scattered trees and low or sparse ground cover;	3-6 feet	1 1/2" diameter
American Kestrel	pastures, fields, meadows, or orchards with mowed or grazed vegetation; place boxes on lone trees in fields, on trees along edges of woodlots, and on farm buildings	10-30 feet	3" diameter
Wood Duck	forested wetlands or near marshes, swamps, and beaver ponds; place boxes in deciduous trees, 30-100 feet from the nearest water, spaced 600 feet apart	6-30 feet	4" wide, 3" high
Eastern Screech Owl	forests, parks, woodland clearings, forest edges, wooded stream edges, under a tree limb. Add 2"-3" of wood shavings	10-30 feet	3" round north facing;
Great Crested Flycatcher	deciduous or mixed deciduous-coniferous forests, forest edges, woodlots, orchards, parks, on post or tree at forest edge	3-20 feet	1 3/4" round
Northern Flicker	pastures, groves, woodlots, orchards, fields, meadows, woodland clearings, forest edges, urban parks, on pole or tree at forest edge or along fence rows bordering crop fields; box should be completely filled with wood chips or shavings	6-30 feet	2 1/2" round; southeast facing
Tree Swallow	open fields near water, expansive open areas, marshes, meadows, wooded swamps; on a post in open areas near tree or fence, 30-100 feet apart	5-15 feet	1 3/8" round east facing
Purple Martin	broad open areas (meadows, fields, farmland, swamps, ponds, lakes, rivers) with unobstructed space for foraging on flying insects; there should be no trees or buildings within 40 feet of the martin pole in any direction; houses should be painted white	10-15 feet	2 1/8" round
Tufted Titmouse	deciduous forest, thick timber stands, woodland clearings, forest edges, woodlots, riparian and mesquite habitats; spaced one box per 8 acres, hole should face away from prevailing wind	5-15 feet	1 1/4" round
Carolina Chickadee	forests, woodlots, and yards with mature hardwood trees, forest edges, meadows, area should receive 40-60% sunlight, hole should face away from prevailing wind; 1" wood shavings can be placed in box	5-15 feet	1 1/8" round

<u>White-breasted Nuthatch</u>	deciduous woodlands, mature forests, woodlots, near open areas, forest edges, orchards, often near water; hole should face away from prevailing wind; wood shavings can be placed in box	5-20 feet	1 3/8" round
<u>House Wren</u>	variety of habitats, farmland, openings, open forests, forest edges, shrub lands, suburban gardens, parks, backyards; near trees or tall shrubs	5-10 feet	1 1/4" round
<u>Carolina Wren</u>	forests with thick underbrush, forest edges, woodland clearings, open forests, shrub lands, suburban gardens, parks, backyards; near trees or tall shrubs	5-10 feet	1 1/2" round
<u>Prothonotary Warbler</u>	lowland hardwood forests subject to flooding, stagnant water, swamps, ponds, marshes, streams, flooded river valleys, wet bottomlands; box should be over or near water <u>Milk Carton Nest Box Plan</u>	2-12 feet	1 1/4" round
<u>Hooded Merganser</u>	quiet, shallow, clear water pools surrounded by or near the edge of deciduous woods: small forest pools, ponds, swamps; add 3" of wood shavings; add ladder under inside of entrance hole for young to climb out	6-25 feet	3" high by 4" wide horizontal oval
<u>Brown-headed Nuthatch</u>	open stands of pine-hardwood forests, clearings scattered with dead trees, forest edges, burned areas, cypress swamps	5-20 feet	1 1/4" round