

Nesting Habits of the most common backyard birds

All species of birds have different nesting habits. From the time of year they breed, to the materials they use in their nest, and even the location they build their nest - it's all unique. Curious about the habits of a specific bird? Find the most common in the table below.

Bird	Breeding Period	Nesting Materials	Preferred Location	Egg Description
Eastern Bluebird	March - July	grasses, weeds, pine needles, fine grasses	cavity (houses)	4-5 clear blue
Cardinal	March - Aug	weed stems, twigs, bark, grasses, leaves	shrubs or trees	3-4 gray - buff brown specks
Chickadee	April - July	woven plant fibers tightly lined w/ thistle & milkweed	cavity (houses)	6 white w/ red - brown specks
Goldfinch	June - Sept	wood chips, moss, hair, feathers, downy fiber	hedges or trees	4-6 very pale blue
House Finch	March - July	twigs, rootlets, grass and other debris	almost anywhere	4-5 white to pale buff
Blue Jay	March - July	twigs, moss, dry grass, dry mud, leaves	shrubs and trees	4-5 olive to pale blue
White Breasted Nuthatch	May - July	bark, roots, grasses	cavity (houses)	5-6 white w/ brown specks
Robin	April - July	grass & mud lined w/ fine grass	shrubs, trees & Robin shelf	3-6 pastel blue

We can help our feathered friends in the nest building process by offering multiple types of materials from which they can partake. Consider natural materials including feathers, string, cotton, hemp, aspen fiber, and even Alpaca fur.



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BE400



SE907

The More You Know

More than 50 species of birds use nest boxes. These include Bluebirds, Kestrels, Owls, Titmice, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens, Tree Swallows, and Woodpeckers. A nest box on your property will provide a valuable home for birds and an enjoyable bird watching experience for you and your family. By attracting nesting birds, you'll enjoy the sites of parents and young in your yard.



Want To Know More?

Visit www.SongbirdEssentials.com for information on Nesting Birds and more!

Songbird Essentials' Tips for Attracting Nesting Birds



About Nesting Birds

Many North American birds nest in cavities - holes in trees and fence posts. While some birds, such as Woodpeckers, can chisel their own holes with their heavy, sharp bills, other cavity nesters must find suitable holes for nesting. Unfortunately, suitable nest cavities can be hard to find in much of North America.

One way to solve the nest site shortage is to provide artificial cavities, also known as bird houses or nest boxes. These have helped boost populations of many cavity nesting bird species whose numbers were declining.



Building SERUBEKKBH Bird House Kit

Types of Houses

Wood Boxes

By far the most popular style of bird house, they are made in all shapes and sizes. You are sure to find a suitable wood house no matter the species you desire to attract. Consider including kids in the fun as you can find many kits for this style of house.



SESCS3004RW Bluebird House

Nesting Pockets

The natural materials of nesting pockets help to keep birds safe from predators as they blend in with surrounding areas and do not attract unwanted attention. They are especially beneficial to non migrating birds in the winter months when they provide shelter in harsh weather.



SE933 Nesting Pocket

Gourd Houses

The use of gourd housing dates back to colonial times when Native Americans offered them as a housing solution to Purple Martins. Now they are offered to many different species and in varying, whimsical designs.



SE954 Purple Martin Gourd



SE519 Owl House

Choosing the Right House

It is important to tailor your bird house to the type of bird you are hoping to attract. Each species have their own specific requirements to help them nest successfully. Use the following table as a guide.

Bird	Floor Size	Entrance Height (above floor)	Hole Diameter	Height (above ground)
Chickadee	4" x 4"	4" -6"	1 1/8"	6' -10'
Titmouse	4" x 4"	6" -8"	1 1/4"	8' -15'
Nuthatch	4" x 4"	6" -8"	1 1/4"	12' -20'
House Wren	4" x 4"	4" -6"	1 1/8"	6' -10'
Carolina Wren	4" x 4"	4" -6"	1 1/2"	6' -12'
Screech Owl	8" x 8"	9" -12"	3"	10' -20'
Wood Duck	12" x 12"	10" -18"	4"	8' -20'
Purple Martin	12" x 12"	1"	2 1/2"	15' -20'
Eastern Bluebird	4" x 4"	6" -7"	1 1/2"	4' -6'
Woodpeckers:	Floor Size	Entrance Height (above floor)	Hole Diameter	Height (above ground)
Flicker	7" x 7"	10" -20"	2 1/2"	10' -20'
Red-Headed	6" x 6"	10" -14"	2 1/4"	10' -20'
Downy	4" x 4"	8" -12"	1 1/2"	10' -20'
Hairy	6" x 6"	10" -14"	2 1/2"	10' -20'

Once you have the perfect bird house chosen, it is also important to offer protection at the entrance hole to prevent predators from gaining access. Some houses come with a portal protector for this reason. If yours does not, you may purchase one separately. Remember to use the correct size for your particular bird.

PORTAL PROTECTORS

SE617 - 1 1/2" Bluebird
 SE616 - 1 1/4" Chickadee
 SE615 - 1 1/8" Wren
 SE618 - 1 1/8" Western Bluebird

