

# *The Indiana Gourd Society*

## *Birdhouse Hints and Tips*

Helpful hints for attracting specific types of birds to your bird houses.

Make sure the size of the hole fits the size of bird you wish to attract and it is more likely that you not only will attract that species but deter other birds and predators from entering the birdhouse.


Not only is the hole size important, placement of the hole in the bird house is just as important. And, the placement above ground and away from traffic is also a major factor in attracting the birds to the bird house.
















For best results use the table below to help you determine the architecture and placement of the birdhouses around you property. Approximations are used since the dimensions of gourds are hard to calculate and/or measure. **Download the PDF file and enlarge to 200-300% for a better view of the photos.** You might also want to click on some of the links listed at the bottom as sources for this document to actually see some drawings of birdhouses made of other materials.



Pick any variety gourd that will accommodate the approximate measurements from the chart below. Based on the measurements and a Martinhouse gourd variety the sizes would be approximately as: Small = 6"-8" in height, Medium = 8"-12" in height, Large = 12"-18" in height, and Extra large = 18" and up in height. Again, the hole size is the critical factor in attracting a specific variety of bird, but, please don't be disappointed at whatever bird variety happens to inhabit your gourd birdhouse.

Try a variety of the different hard shell gourd species: Apples, Basketballs, Birdhouses, Bottles, Cannon Balls, Small Dippers, Hardshell Mixes, Martinhouses, Wartys, and Wrenhouse Mixes would all be good for you as starter birdhouses. (If you wish a more conventional type birdhouse, see the Web Sites listed below the chart for more information .)

When you have actually attracted a family of birds, please take a picture and send us a digital photo and we may use it on our birdhouse link.

Species	House Floor Area (Inches - Approx)	Gourd Depth or Height (Inches - Approx)	Hole Height From Bottom Of Gourd (Inches - Approx)	Diameter Of Entry Hole	Gourd Height Above Ground (Feet - Approx)	
Bluebird	5 X 5	6 - 8	6	1 ½	5 - 10	

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Chickadee	4 X 4	8 – 10	6 – 8	1 1/8	6 - 15	
Duck, Wood	10 – 18	10 – 24	12 – 16	4	10 - 20	
Flicker	7 X 7	16 – 18	14 – 16	2 1/2	6 - 20	
Flycatcher, Crested	6 X 6	8 – 10	6 – 8	2	8 – 20	
Jay, Blue						
Martin, Purple	6 X 6	6	2	2 1/2	10 - 15	
Nuthatch, White-breasted	4 X 4	8 – 10	6 – 8	1 1/4	12 - 20	
Owl, Screech	8 X 8	12 – 15	9 – 12	3	10 - 30	
Owl, Small	6 X 6			1 1/2		
Phoebe	6 X 6	6	At least 1 side open		6 - 15	
Robin	6 X 8	8	At least 1 side open		6 - 15	
Swallow, Barn	6 X 6	6	At least 1 side open		8 - 12	
Titmouse, Tufted	4 X 4	8 – 10	6 – 8	1 1/4	6 - 15	
Woodpecker, Downy	4 X 4	9 – 12	6 – 8	1 1/4	6 – 20	
Woodpecker, Red-Headed	6 X 6	12 – 15	9 – 12	2	12 - 20	

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Wren, Bewick's	4 X 4	6 – 8	4 - 6	1X2 Horiz Slot	6 - 10	
Wren, Carolina	6 X 6	6-8	4-6	1 ½ X 2 ½ Horiz Slot	10 - 15	
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## Sources: Birdhouses

About: Birding / Wild Birds - Retrieved from <http://birding.about.com/library/blhousespecs.htm> November 15, 2006

USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center - Retrieved <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/birdhous/index.htm> November 15, 2006

Birdhouse Basics - Retrieved from: <http://www.holoweb.com/cannon/kestrel.gif> November 15, 2006

Homes for Birds - Retrieved from: <http://www.bcpl.net/~tross/by/house.html> November 15, 2006

## Sources: Bird Photos

Free Foto. Com - Retrieved from: <http://www.freefoto.com/browse.jsp?id=01-01-0> November 15, 2006

USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center - Retrieved from: <http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/id/pictlist.html> November 15, 2006