

Birdhouse and Nesting Chart

By placing birdhouses in backyards, people can help provide valuable nesting sites and attract a greater variety of birds. Different birds prefer different sizes of entrance hole (or opening) as well as how high that hole is from the birdhouse floor. Here, we identify birds from Nebraska and the eastern United States that use birdhouses as well as birdhouse species-specific information.

Species	Floor Size*	Height (front)*	Hole Diam.*	Height to Hole*	Mounting Height (ft)	Habitat	
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Cavity Nesters

House Wren	4 x 4	7	1	5	4 - 10	Old fields and thickets	
Carolina Wren	4 x 4	7	1 3/8	5	5 - 10	Old fields and thickets	
Black-capped Chickadee	4 x 4	9	1 1/8	7	5 - 15	Open woods and edges	
Tufted Titmouse	4 x 4	9	1 1/4	7	5 - 15	Woods and edges	
White-breasted Nuthatch	4 x 4	9	1 3/8	7	5 - 15	Woods and edges	
House Finch	5 x 5	8	1 1/2	6	5 - 10	Backyards and porches	
Eastern Bluebird	4 x 4	10	1 1/2	8	4 - 6	Open land with scattered trees	
Tree Swallow	5 x 5	7	1 1/2	5	5 - 15	Open land near water	
Downy Woodpecker	4 x 4	9	1 3/8	7	5 - 20	Forest openings and edges	
Hairy/Red-headed Woodpecker	6 x 6	12	2	10	8 - 20	Forest openings and edges	

Northern Flicker	7 x 7	17	2 1/2	15	10 - 15	Forest openings and edges	
American Kestrel	8 x 8	16	3	13	10 - 30	Open land with scattered trees	
Eastern Screech-Owl	8 x 8	16	3	13	10 - 30	Farmland, orchards, woods	
Barred Owl	14 x 14	26	8	23	15 - 30	Mature bottomland forest	
Wood Duck	12 x 12	22	4	17	5 (over water) 15 (over land)	Wooded swamps, bottomland	

Multispecies Birdhouses

Chickadee, titmouse, nuthatch, wrens, and Downy Woodpecker	4 x 4	8	1 1/4	6	4 - 20	see above	
Bluebird/Tree Swallow	5 x 5	8	1 1/2	6	5	see above	
Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Saw-whet Owl	6 x 6	11	2 1/2	9	15-20	see above	
Flicker/screech-owl/kestrel	8 x 8	16	3	13	12 - 20	see above	

* Measurements in inches; floor size and height are INSIDE dimensions

Sources: Shalaway (1995); Terres (1994); Pistorius (1981).