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## **Livable Housing — for the Birds**

Gemma Alexander October 4, 2018





Brightly colored, upcycled birdhouses are among the most charming forms of garden art. But if you want a birdhouse that's actually for the birds, you need to consider a lot more than human aesthetics in your design. Birds will only use nesting boxes that mimic the ones they build or find in nature. They usually have specific requirements about size, shape, and placement of entry. No matter how cute they are, most of the birdhouses sold at the craft fair don't even look like houses to the birds.

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## **Specificity**

It's obvious once you think about it, but different kinds of birds have different nesting needs, so it helps to know which bird you are building a house for. Many Audubon Society chapters provide building designs for bird species

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The Audubon Birdhouse Book presents detailed, biologically appropriate designs for more than 20 North American bird species.



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