

BIRD HOUSE CONTEST
W.G.C. Conservation Committee, Conservation at "Our Home"
Must Contain Some Recycled Materials
March 18, 2010 Meeting

Denise Sarnie - Acting President for March 2010
Siri Wilbur Kamien, Conservation Committee - Chair of Judges Panel

Participation:

Contest is open to Windham Garden Club members and Junior Garden Club members. There will be separate prizes for Adult and Junior entries, but both will be held to the same qualifications.

Qualifications:

As much as possible, salvaged materials should be used. Credit for best habitat will be decided on non-toxic dwelling with adequate drainage and ventilation, have the proper size nest cavity and entry for intended bird, and be predator resistant. Song birds don't need a perch. Predators will use a perch to pillage the nest. Most birds prefer an inconspicuous nesting site.

** Bat houses will also be accepted for the contest. They will be judged with the bird houses, and compete for the same prizes.

Instructions:

1. Bring your Bird/Bat House to the Meeting at 7:00 for display and Judging.
2. On a 3x5 card, list all the recycled materials you have used.
3. Identify the bird or bat you are trying to attract with this habitat.
4. Put your name on the bottom of your birdhouse, to be revealed at Judging.

Prizes:

The Judges will award 4 Adult Prizes and 4 Youth Prizes.

1. Best creative use of recycled materials.
2. Best bird/bat habitat.
3. Most attractive.
4. Best In Show (combines all qualities).

See page 2 for helpful hints.

SUGGESTED BIRDHOUSE DWELLERS FOR WINDHAM, NH.

1. House Wren, 4 ½-5 ¼", tiny bird that likes woodland edges or residential areas. Has habit of piercing the eggs of birds who compete for territory.
2. Red Breasted Nuthatch, 4 ½-5 ¼", prefers coniferous forest, eats seeds.
3. Black Capped Chickadee, 4 ¾-5 ¾", deciduous or mixed woodlands, even residential areas in the winter, likes seeds. Begins nesting in March.
4. White Breasted Nuthatch, 5-6", prefers deciduous or mixed forest habitat.
5. House Finch, 5-6", cities and residential areas, sings from highest perch.
6. Tree Swallow, 5-6 ¼", lives near streams, marsh, flooded meadows, insects.
7. Tufted Titmouse, 6", prefers swampy moist woods or shade trees in parks.
8. Eastern Bluebird, about 7", prefers open meadows with houses 5-6' high.
- 9, 10. European Starling, and House Sparrow, about 7", prefers the perimeter of meadows, and compete for the same bird houses as the bluebird.
11. Purple Martin, 7-8 ½", live in colonies along open woodlands, residential areas, or open bodies of water. They eat flying insects. Indians hung groups of hollow gourds to attract them to eat mosquitoes. Flocks can reach 200.
12. Great Crested Flycatcher, 9", open forests and orchards or a large tree in farm country. As name implies, feeds on flying insects.
13. Northern Flicker, 12", a brown backed woodpecker. May use snakeskins as nest material. A ground feeder: fallen limbs, lawn beetles, ant larvae, etc.

SIZE OF YOUR BIRDHOUSE:

A list of commercial birdhouse measurements are listed below. The size of the nesting cavity need not be exact, but within the norm for the size of your bird. However, the entry hole is very important. Try to make your hole the exact diameter, and mount the hole at the suggested number of inches off the floor of the birdhouse. These are necessary to keep predators out.

COMMERCIAL BIRDHOUSE MEASUREMENTS:

1. House Wren: 5"x5" floor, 6-7" high ceiling, hole 1¼" diam, 4-5" above floor.
2. Red Breasted Nuthatch: same as wren.
3. Black capped Chickadee: 5"x6" floor, 8" ceiling, 1¼" hole, 5-5+" above floor.
4. White Breasted Nuthatch, same as Black Capped Chickadee.
5. House Finch, 6"x6" floor, 6-8" ceiling, 1 ½" diam. Hole, 4 ½" above floor.
6. Tree Swallow, 6 ½ - 7" floor, 7-8" ceiling, 1 5/8" diam hole, 4-5" above floor.
7. Tufted Titmouse, 5"x6" floor, 8" ceiling, 1¼" hole, 5-5+" above floor.
8. Bluebird, 4"x4" floor, 8" ceiling, 1½" diam hole 5" above floor NO PERCH.
- 9, 10. Starling and Sparrow: 6"x6" floor, 6-8" ceiling, 2" hole 4-6+" over floor.
11. Purple Martin Colony, series of well ventilated cavities 6" wide and 7-12" deep, 2 1/8" hole cut from ½ - 1½" above floor, up to 24 compartments, placed in a very open area, mounted 12'-20' atop a pole greased against predators.
12. Great Crested Flycatcher -
13. Northern Flicker, 7-9"x 9-10" floor, 15"-19" high, 2.5"-2.65" hole positioned to create a deep nesting cavity for predator protection. The flicker can have a more rectangular opening, with the threshold filed into a peak.

BAT HOUSES

There are 5 species of bats that frequent Windham, the most common being the brown bat. Identify your bat, it's size, and it's food source.