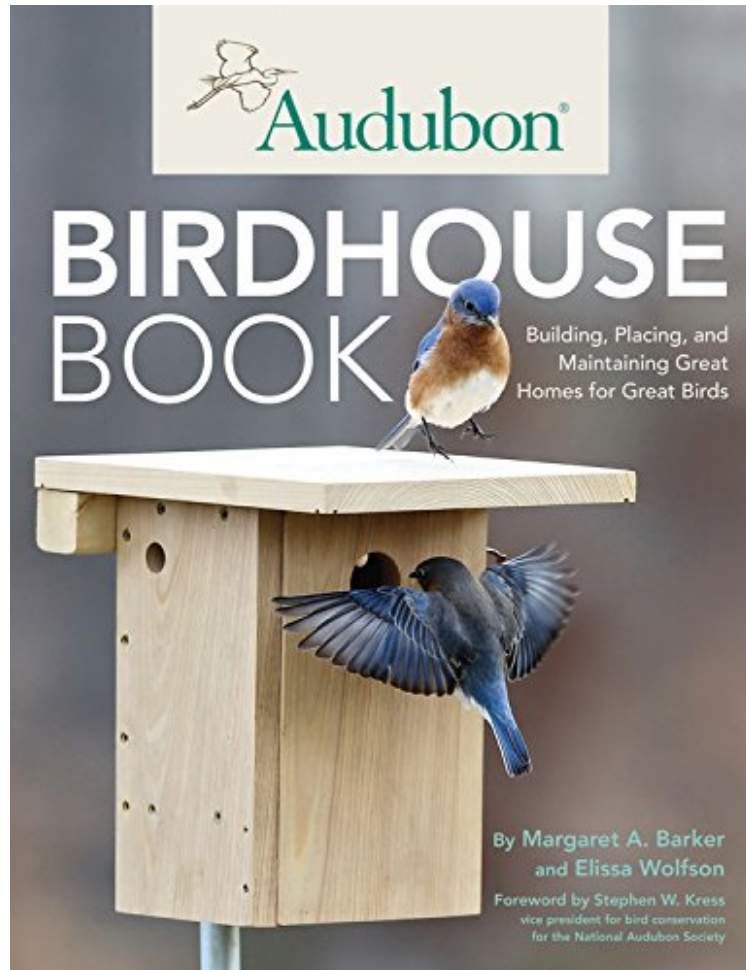


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Audubon Birdhouse Book: Building, Placing, and Maintaining Great Homes for Great Birds

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Margaret Barker, Elissa Wolfson : Audubon Birdhouse Book: Building, Placing, and Maintaining Great Homes for Great Birds before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Audubon Birdhouse Book: Building, Placing, and Maintaining Great Homes for Great Birds:

31 of 31 people found the following review helpful. This book is the best I've seen on birdhousesBy Backyard Bird GuyHaving been in the bird attracting and watching industry for over 20 years and being head of a non-profit bluebird organization, I've seen the good, bad, and ugly when it comes to books on bird housing. In my unbiased opinion, this book is the most complete, factual, and useful one I've ever seen. Whereas many birdhouse books are loaded with impractical designs that almost no one can build, the Audubon Birdhouse Book has simple, easy-to-build plans that are also much better for the birds. I love the excellent pictures, illustrations, and diagrams too. Another very good aspect

of the book is it covers both eastern and western species of birds. So, if you're interested in getting started (or adding to your existing knowledge) in the wonderful hobby of attracting birds with nesting boxes, buying this book is a must. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Pleasantly surprised and impressed. By Marc Arndt I'm a birder, and Audubon member, and I sometimes get an urge to make something, so I started printing plans for bluebird boxes off the web, and knocking out some bluebird boxes. I'd seen this book on Audubon's Facebook a while back and put it on my wish list. After a couple boxes made from plans from the web, I decided I was enjoying it enough to take another step and I ordered the Audubon Birdhouse Book. I fully expected a saddle-stitched book about as thick as a magazine with some plans in it. This book is much more than that. Its 160 pages include the whys, as well as the hows, of building nesting boxes for different common species, from wrens to ospreys. It talks about predators and squatters. It shows how to protect your nest box, good woods and bad woods, what you can finish it with, and what not to finish it with. The plans themselves are clear and concise. Some might be a little beyond my hand saw and cordless drill, but to be honest, I'm more into the making, I don't have suitable locations for many of these. I'll place boxes with birders as I build them. I do have to give it 4 stars because perfect-bind books are hard to work out of. Something that would lay flat and stay open, or even a URL to download PDFs of the plans (with proof of purchase, of course) so I can just have a laser copy in my work area would have been great. I'm really looking forward to this weekend, when I can delve into some new plans and boxes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Decent, but not even close to good/great. By Jeff Perreault It's good, but it still seems hard to find a great book on this topic. I think it's a bit short on species, or at least isn't comprehensive enough on which species might use which design. For example, I've seen it said that blue jays and robins will both use shelf-style houses. In this book there are two different styles for robins, but no cross-listing to show which, or both, would also be applicable to blue jays. Second, I think even a minimal amount of coverage by geographic area would've been a huge improvement. They could've used the space to also give some info on species breeding patterns. Third, one of the things we wonder about is cleaning: when and how. We know that many of the species will brood more than once. We also know that it's possible some of the houses will provide winter shelter. We're guessing there's a shoulder-season sweet spot to clean, but haven't seen anything to help guide the process. All in all it has a few nice designs, but we're still waiting for the elusive more comprehensive guide to building.

A visit to almost any home or garden center presents birders with numerous cute and colorful contraptions that are sold as bird homes. But the fact is, many of these products provide anything but a safe refuge for your feathered friends.

"North American native birds are picky homeowners. Barker (coauthor, *The Feeder Watchers Guide to Bird Feeding*) and freelance writer Wolfson present a useful guide perfect for backyard bird watchers. The book starts with historical content on invasive species, introduced predators, and habitat loss. In addition, readers will find territory maps and material on bird food sources and identification. These projects cover all skill levels and are enhanced by wonderful illustrations. Contributor Chris Willett, a carpenter, provides clear blueprints with exploded views and detailed cut lists. Like *Birdhouses You Can Build in a Day*, this informative volume tailors designs to specific species. However, what sets this work apart is the inclusion of research and scientific study results on what makes a home suitable for a particular type of bird. VERDICT The designs here are for enthusiasts who prefer to serve the needs of the birds rather than human aesthetics. This well-organized and meticulously researched book is a winner." - Library Journal