

Birdhouses: Important for our Watershed & Lake Health

Did you know...

- Cavity-nesting birds love to eat the insects in your yard!
- Birds are a great way to start connecting your kids and grandkids to nature.
- Birds need homes too! Habitat loss and competition with other species take their toll on birds.
- Land development and the removal of damaged and dead trees has left many cavity-nesting birds with fewer natural places to raise their young.
- Mountain Bluebirds and Purple Martins are examples of cavity nesting birds who historically lived around Pigeon lake, but have suffered due to habitat loss and competition from non-native birds.



Placement of birdhouses...

- Ideally, birdhouses are set up in the late summer or fall to give birds lots of time to locate them before breeding season.
- The location and size of the birdhouse often determines the species of bird you will attract.
- The birdhouse should be 5 – 30 feet from the ground.
- Slant the entrance hole slightly downward to prevent rain from entering, and away from prevailing winds.
- It is not advisable to mount birdhouses on the sides of trees as that allows for easy access for squirrels and cats.
- The best method for mounting a birdhouse would be on a metal pole, significantly decreasing the ability of predators to reach it. Sides of fences are also suitable depending on the species (i.e. Mountain Bluebird)
- Do not place your birdhouse in an area where herbicides and pesticides are used. These chemicals decrease insect populations which are the main food source for the birds, and also harm the birds directly.

Decorating of birdhouses...

- Painting of birdhouses isn't necessary.
- If you choose to paint, make sure to use non-toxic paints and stains, choose camouflaging colours, and light colors in high sun areas to reflect the heat. Paint should only go on the exterior of the house - make sure to leave the entrance hole lip clear of paint as well.
- Paint well in advance of bird use to prevent bird exposure to fumes.

Maintenance of birdhouses...

- Birdhouses should be cleaned out annually.
- If you paint your birdhouse, be sure to make the maintenance panel removable again.

Our birdhouse entrances are 3.5 cm in diameter, which is perfect for Tree Swallows.