Building Your Own Birdhouses

By Randall Dellenbach

Nowadays, anyone can buy a [birdhouse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birdhouse%E2%80%8E) in nearly any shape or size. A quick Internet search turns up a three-story pagoda, a Victorian cottage, and a Cape Cod with wrap-around balconies and real pine shingles – all for the birds. For those who like to work with their hands, however, there’s nothing like making your own.

While he enjoys all kinds of finished carpentry, such as furniture-making and cabinet work, Randall Dellenbach, a Chicago-based business owner, has a special fondness for building birdhouses. Dellenbach appreciates the exacting and detailed process, requiring knowledge of the special needs of different bird species. In general, entrance holes should be perfectly round and properly sized, roofs should be rainproof, and the structure should stay cool in hot weather.

For avid hobbyists like Randall Dellenbach, birdhouse-making provides a relaxing and satisfying way to spend free time during the winter months. For the birds, of course, a well-made birdhouse is an ideal home.