



"Ralph" is handmade from harvested teak and topped with a roof of sandblasted aluminum. It's perfect for chickadees, bluebirds, wrens and swallows. About \$200 through Olive Barn



This Craftsman-style bungalow in solid mahogany with copper roof is about \$58 through Heartwood.



No two birds are exactly alike, so give them fanciful options with these whimsical staked birdhouses from C&D Hardware in the Heights. About \$32 each

FOR THE BIRDS



Wrens — and birdwatchers — find this acorn shape-inspired "Fall Leaves" birdhouse irresistible. From Bird Brain Inc. for about \$30



Add a splash of color to your yard and give your bird friends a safe place to nest. About \$40 from www.target.com (online only)



The stainless steel Museum Birdhouse blends in with its surroundings and allows for subtle reflections of nearby vegetation and the sky. Its dimensions make it suitable for wrens, nuthatches, chickadees and other small birds. About \$180 through tomdukich.com

RESOURCES

ARBOR GATE
15635 FM 2920
281.351.8851
www.arborgate.com

C&D HARDWARE
314 E. 11th St., 713.861.3551
www.canddhardware.com

OLIVE BARN
12668 Goar Rd.
281.589.1921

WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED
14032 Memorial Drive
281.293.0959
stores.wbu.com/houstonw

TOMDUKICH.COM
WWW.AUDUBON.ORG/
MARKET
WWW.BIRDBRAIN.COM
WWW.EHEARTWOOD.COM
WWW.TARGET.COM

GIVE YOUR SINGING FRIENDS A HOME, SWEET HOME

BY BARBARA KUNTZ

Along with the wondrous sights of budding branches and greening grass, springtime brings an audible beauty: the sounds of birds. The coos of doves, the calls of cardinals and, of course, the multitude of voices from our state bird, the mockingbird, which can have a repertoire of 50 to 200 songs, fill spring days and nights.

For all the enjoyment birds give us, let's do something in return for our feathered friends. A birdhouse is the perfect answer to provide shelter — and a nesting area for future generations.

Birdhouse styles are numerous, from those blending naturally with the environment to porcelain works of art to bright, whimsical additions to your landscape. You'll find it easy choosing the birdhouse for you — and your backyard chorus.



Pick a pair of birdhouses, priced \$25-\$35 at Arbor Gate, for your bird friends. Photo by Phoebe Lake