

Setting up a Bird House – 7 Things to Consider



How about making a nice place for birds to stay? It's a better alternative than them roosting on your house. Besides, it's fun attracting these beautiful creatures. Here are some things to think about as you put up a house.

1. Make or Buy? Not a handyman type? Then there are plenty of pre-made bird houses at garden and hardware stores, or even online. Also online are designs for free so you can do it yourself. Don't let this step slow you down though. Make the decision then get it up!

2. Their Best Interests in Mind. Hey, birds need protection from the elements and from predators just like us. Locate the bird house away from the prevailing wind and harsh sun — your home's southern and eastern exposures are the best. And while it won't be difficult keeping the birds warm these days, you need to provide air vents for them to breathe.

3. Feeding Your Feathered Friends. Keep your feeders clean and full. Once you get the birds hooked, they will come to rely on you for food. Different species appreciate different feed mixes. For instance, woodpeckers, nuthatches and chickadees appreciate suet-rich formulas.

4. I Need Water! Birds need increased sources of water in the heat. Many of their regular sources are dried up, and their metabolisms are working hard to fight increasingly warm temperatures. Bottom line...keep the water troughs filled.

5. Unwelcome Guests. Be on the lookout for a wide range of unwanted guests such as squirrels, mice, insects and sometimes snakes. Here's a handy tip for handling wasps and hornets, which are often a problem in the summer. Rub the top of the bird house with a bar of soap. The scent and texture is distracting to these types of insects.

6. Design a Bird-Friendly Backyard. To attract and keep the broadest variety of birds coming back to your property, design a landscape that's bird-friendly. Make sure your property includes a combination of ground cover, shrubs, small trees and large trees. This variety of plants also provides color and breadth that can help complete a rich overall outdoor scene.

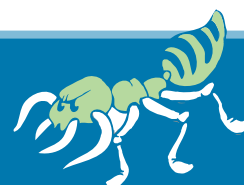
7. Decorate It! You've had fun getting the bird house...now have fun finding the right color(s) for it. Use colors that are appealing to your senses. And use paints that are eco-friendly as well as materials that will stand up to the weather.

Check with the Atlanta Audubon Society for more information on birds in this area, keep a set of binoculars close by, and enjoy the opportunity to provide a little aid and comfort to the wild animals that fly through your neighborhood.



Perimeter Pest Control Special! \$29.⁹⁹ for First Application!

(Valid through September 1st)



Sign up for our Perimeter Pest Control Treatment by September 1st and we'll do the first application for only \$29.99.

Here's what you get:

First, we'll spray a barrier around your home. Then we will spray all the places where pests live in your yard:

- On ground cover
- In mulched areas
- In the water dishes of potted plants
- At the base of your shrubs and small trees

Here's what you can expect:

- Expect to see a significant reduction in fire ants, ants, ticks, fleas and spiders on your property.
- You'll see fewer bugs indoors since there will be fewer outdoors.
- Expect one treatment to last approximately 30-60 days.* We'll apply the next three treatments when we do your lawn or tree and shrub treatments for just \$49.99/treatment.
- Just like with our lawn, tree and shrub service, you can call us with any questions or concerns between treatments.

How do I order this treatment?

Call us today at 770-447-6037 ext. 2 or visit our website, www.arbor-nomics.com, to get an estimate and sign up, and enjoy your patio, deck or backyard without bugs this fall.

*The duration of the effectiveness of this treatment depends on the amount of rainfall during that time period. More rain will shorten the duration of the effectiveness.

You Do What??

A “basic” lawn care provider provides “basic” service. But we like to think that we go beyond that to handle other needs that tend to crop up. So in addition to our award-winning lawn and tree and shrub services, we’re proud to offer you the following add-on services. We will keep an eye out for any problems, but if you notice any problems with your lawn, don’t hesitate to let us know. Call us from 8:00 AM -5:00 PM at 770-447-6037 ext 2 to find out more, get an estimate, or to sign up for any of these —

Grassy weed treatment

- **Nutsedge:** These are weeds that resemble grass. Our treatment minimizes nutsedge substantially. Three applications of our product will guarantee nutsedge control for the season.
- **Clump grass:** This is for properties that have a different type of grass growing within their primary grass, such as fescue growing in Bermuda grass. Two applications of our product will guarantee control for the season.

Flea and tick control

An insecticide treatment that is sprayed on grass and wooded areas to control fleas and ticks. This is offered as a monthly treatment during the warm season.

Fungicide treatment

Brown patch and dollar spot are two common, easily identifiable, fungal diseases here in Georgia. We can treat your lawn with a fungicide every 21-28 days during the warm season (April - September) so these diseases don’t become a problem for you.

Aeration

Aeration removes plugs of soil, allowing water and air to get down to the roots. This treatment is recommended at least once each year for most Atlanta homeowners since we all live on heavy, dense Georgia clay. The result will be a thicker, healthier lawn. Bermuda grass, zoysia, and centipede are especially sensitive to aeration. We recommend aerating in April, May or June.

Aeration/overseeding

This service is recommended for fescue lawns only during September through November. “Overseeding” is laying seed down over grass to help it to grow thicker.

Fire ant control

TopChoice™ by Bayer. Arbor-Nomics can apply this once a year for 12-month control. It will also have a short-term effect (30-45 days) on fleas, ticks and crickets.

Mosquito treatment

This exterior barrier treatment encircles your property (up to 30 ft. around your home) and is applied monthly during the warm season. It significantly minimizes the activity of mosquitoes on your property. Included in the treatment is the placement of a larvacide to keep eggs from developing into larva.

Perimeter pest control

Introducing Arbor-Nomics Turf Outdoor Perimeter Pest Control Program: The outdoor pest control treatment that takes care of fire ants, ants, ticks, fleas, and spiders.

Vegetation control

This treatment will help you get rid of kudzu and underbrush and should also be used before doing a lawn conversion (sodding your lawn or changing from one grass to another). We can treat lawns or wooded areas all year long. The number of applications needed will depend upon the type of vegetation we are going to treat.

Bare in Mind...

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An interesting thing today is everyone is getting cremated. The "memorial" can be anywhere, anytime. Ralph's was right away, Ed's will be in July, Edith's in August or September.

In the olden days, a very lucrative career was being an Undertaker. There was plenty of steady business out there, no one demanded a refund, and you could have a heck of a cash flow if you rented tuxedos for the deceased to be buried in!

Now the cemetery business is dying off, people are being cremated and there's no need for a lot of land to bury them. My cousin Randy told me the politically correct term is now "A Home for the Terminally Still."

So, as in the restaurant business, there's a lot of combining going on in the funeral business: Like KFC merging with Taco Bell and Dunkin Donuts with Baskin Robins and ToGo's. I'm seeing more funeral homes being built in cemeteries, crematoriums being built in funeral homes (don't go in the kitchen and ask, "What's cookin'?!"). You can even have the dearly departed's ashes made into a little clay figurine or whatever. So there's a pottery division involved too. I've even heard of a veterinarian and a taxidermist opening a shop together. There's a big sign out front proclaiming the merger and a smaller sign that reads: "No matter what, you get your pet back."

Okay, back to my aunts and uncles. The first cousin to schedule a memorial service was Randy Bare for my Uncle Ralph. Ralph and Betty had lived in Columbus, Ohio, all their adult lives so Randy wanted the services there instead of in Youngstown, where they were born. So I took off for Columbus to see a lot of relatives I hadn't seen in years.

The memorial service was in the nursing home where Ralph and Betty lived so that Aunt Betty could attend. An added bonus, I'm sure, was avoiding the high expense of a funeral home—the cost of going down is going up. (A hypocrite is a funeral home owner trying to look sad at a \$50,000 funeral). The memorial service was held in the chapel, and it was filled to the brim with all Ralph's relatives and friends.

We formed a receiving line after the service and everyone came up and commented on how much they loved Ralph and Betty. Ralph, who was the head of a large corporation before he retired, had supervised a lot of the new landscaping and he also helped with the pool installation – beautiful! All of us cousins got together afterward for "horsey dorsies," drinks, and a wonderful homemade meal. My cousin Jim, ever the lush, held up a glass of some expensive 1959 Merlot and swirled the glass around so he could see the wine shimmering in the light. "You know," he said, "it's true that wine improves with age. The older you get, the more you like it."

He still wears his lousy toupee. His real side hair is turning grey and then that jet black toupee sets right on top of his head like an overturned soup bowl. For most people, a toupee is a top secret, but not for Jim. He actually told me that at his funeral he was going to have it nailed on, that's how much he hates his baldness. It's so funny; when we were teenagers, Jim had a beard, mustache, and hair down to his shoulders. Once my mother said, "Boy, I don't think that Jim is going to amount to much, who would hire him?" I retorted, "I think he wants to be a throw rug."

One time I asked him what he did when someone showed up at the house at night after he took his rug off. "Wow, that's a problem," he exclaimed, "I have to run into the bathroom and stick the goop in it and slap it on." And then get this: He said as he pointed to the top of his head, "You can't be self-conscious and wear one of these." He lost it in a cow pasture one time and tried on nine before he found it.

I really enjoyed talking to all my cousins and getting caught up on everyone. Oh my, don't let me forget the food. What a meal!! All the Bare men were very successful businessmen, engineers, doctors, etc., but the Bare women could cook!

We had a big meal of prime rib, twice baked potatoes, cooked carrots, corn, green beans, salads, rolls and butter, and of course, pies for dessert—cherry, apple, black raspberry, etc...

In fact, the day before, as Uncle Ralph lay dying, my cousin Margie (a nurse) attended to him while all the other women worked in the kitchen. All of a sudden, Ralph opened both eyes wide and struggled to lift himself up onto both elbows. "Do I smell Betty's delicious apple pie?" he exclaimed. "Do you suppose I could get a piece?" Margie hurried down to the kitchen and asked the womenfolk if Ralph could have a slice of pie. "Absolutely not, you tell him that pie is for after the funeral!"

Poor Uncle Ralph, he didn't even have time to change his will!!

Next visit... Ed's memorial service.



"That pie is for after the funeral!"

The BUGGETTE

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Green for Good???

Are you old enough to remember the commercial in the early 1970s about pollution? The commercial was famous for an Indian who walks across a

riverbank filled with garbage. By the end of the walk, we see a tear streaming down his face. For a while, there was an effort to curb and manage pollution, but the '80s really turned into an exercise in excess and waste.

It seems as if the "environment craze" has come and gone several times since then. But due to continued pressure from different directions (Al Gore's award winning movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," \$3.00+ for a gallon of gas, global warming fears, rising global consumption), we might finally be in the "green zone" for good.

Fortunately, consumers have become aware of the benefits and are changing old habits—buying everything from organic clothing to earth-friendly vacuum cleaners and washers and dryers. And some businesses are jumping in too, requiring purchasing agents to buy only environmentally safe products from other businesses. The bar is beginning to be set.

We feel that the development is positive, but we have a long way to go. A recent report shows that the United States continues to be the world's most wasteful country, dumping an average of 4.5 pounds of trash per person per day.

Below are some earth-friendly ideas that will not only save you money, but help pass our beautiful home to future generations.

- **Water your lawn only enough for it to be healthy.** The truth is that a lot of people water to excess. (And because of the water ban, some homeowners have been cited and fined.) As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, water thoroughly one day a week.
- **Buy produce from a local farmer's market or organic farm.** No sense in purchasing organic vegetables that are transported 1000 miles to get here...that wastes fossil fuel and defeats the whole purpose.
- **Print only what's necessary.** The typical worker uses 10,000 sheets of paper a year, the equivalent of the pulp from a full-grown tree. Set printer and photocopier defaults to print double-sided.
- **Plant a tree.** A single tree will absorb 1 ton of carbon dioxide in its lifetime. Plus, shade can reduce your air conditioning bill by 10 percent to 15 percent.



Bare In Mind

by Dick Bare

Hi Everyone! Hope all is well with you and yours.

Just the other day I was thinking about my relatives and how long everybody lived. On my dad's side of the family, there were twelve kids, and nine on my mothers.

Some of my most favorite aunts died in their early forties and fifties (cancer), but by and large everyone lived to a ripe old age — in fact my mother just turned 92 in May. A while back she was commenting on how she remembers when air was clean and sex was dirty.

Anyway, I was thinking about how old my few remaining aunts and uncles were getting: two uncles on the Bare side, Ralph and Ed, 84 and 87; and two aunts, Edith (Metzger) 90, and Martha (Bare), who's been 39 for 40 years.

So a few days after I have these thoughts – bam – I get a call from my cousin John in California that Edith died. Then a few days later a call from cousin Randy in Columbus, Ohio, about Uncle Ralph, and then (no kidding) a call from Chicago that Uncle Ed died too, all in a week. So that leaves my mom, the last of nine going back to 1900, and Martha, the last of twelve going back to 1907.

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