

2026 BIRDHOUSE COMPETITION

Birds are vital to the maintenance of healthy gardens and ecosystems. Help highlight the need for nesting sites for birds and showcase your creative skills by building and/or embellishing your own birdhouse to enter into this competition.

BUILD ME A HOUSE!!!



PRIZE CATEGORIES:

Most Original Design

Birds Favorite

Visitors Choice

Best Use of Materials

Most Whimsical

Best Camouflaged

House Not in Shape of a House

Most Architecturally Inventive

Finished birdhouses entered by registered participants will be displayed in the Garden Marketplace held at the Idea Garden, on June 20 from 9-4 pm as part of the annual Garden Walk organized by the Champaign County Master Gardeners. The Idea Garden is located at 1846 S Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. Avian architects may choose to sell their birdhouses at this event. Visitors to the Garden Marketplace may vote for their favorites. Winners in the competition will be announced at 3 pm on site on the day of the event. Competition sponsored by Kismet Studios, LLC.

DEADLINE TO ENTER: JUNE 17, 2026

For more information on how to register your birdhouse, please contact Carolyn Ottmers at cottme@gmail.com

WIN PRIZES! WIN PRIZES! WIN PRIZES!

2026 BIRDHOUSE COMPETITION

Once again, University of Illinois Extension Champaign County Master Gardeners are planning an exciting **Garden Walk** to be held on **Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 9-4 PM**, which will feature 8 gardens in the Champaign and Urbana areas. We will also have a “Garden Marketplace” at the Idea Garden located at the U of I Arboretum on South Lincoln (just south of the corner of Florida and Lincoln Avenues in Urbana). For all the bird-loving gardeners in the county, we are hosting a Birdhouse Competition sponsored by Kismet Studios LLC in conjunction with this event.

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Please contact Carolyn Ottmers at cottme@gmail.com to receive an Entry Form. Send completed entry forms to Carolyn no later than midnight on June 17, 2026.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Most Original Design

Visitors Choice

Birds Favorite

Most Architecturally Inventive

Most Interesting Use of Materials

Best Camouflaged For a Particular Place

Most Whimsical

House Not In The Shape of a House

HINT: nestwatch.org is a great place to start for ideas and more information on birdhouse building.

GUIDELINES:

- EVERYONE is encouraged to enter. It is not necessary to be a Master Gardener to enter. Youth groups and children under 18 need to be registered by an adult.
- Individual or collaborative efforts may be entered.
- Only 1 entry per person or collaborative group.
- Birdhouse kits or existing birdhouses may be used if they are altered in some way. (In shape or surface)
- Each birdhouse must be delivered ready for display between **8 - 9 am on June 20** to the drop off area at the Garden Marketplace adjacent to the Idea Garden located at **1846 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana.**
- All prizes will be awarded at **3 pm, June 20 on site.** All birdhouse creators must be present for the announcement of the winners in order to be a recipient of a prize.
- All birdhouses not sold at this event must be picked up by **5 pm on June 20** or they will be discarded.
- All birdhouses must remain on display at the Garden Marketplace from **9-3 pm.** They cannot be removed until after the competition is over **even if they are sold.**
- We reserve the right to disallow any submission deemed objectionable.
- We are not responsible for any damage to or disappearance of the birdhouse.