

## Making a Gourd Birdhouse

1. Find a suitable gourd for a birdhouse; goose-neck, birdhouse, apple, martin house, and sometimes warty or long-handled dipper gourds are the best. Clean gourd with water and scrubbing pad if necessary.
2. Poke 3-4 holes in bottom of gourd for drainage (an awl works well).
3. Poke holes in neck (or top part) of gourd. Thread wire, leather strands, or similar materials through holes for hanging.
4. Use hole saw cutter on drill to make entrance hole. Hole should be aligned parallel to hanger holes so that gourd can swing backwards-forwards rather than sideways.

### Hole Sizes:

**Wrens:** 1" hole; hang gourd in brushy area

**Chickadees or Nuthatches:** 1.25" hole

**Bluebirds:** 1.5" hole; house should be in open area in trees 4-5' above ground

**Martins:** 2" hole; these birds nest in colonies, so more than one birdhouse will be necessary

5. Decorate gourd with paint, wood stain or varnish. Be sure to coat exterior with polyurethane for weather protection.

