

## Backyard Beauties Online Auction 2023: Construction Tips

By: Barbara Carroll & Glenda Jones

Every year we learn something new about the construction of all things bird and this year we are passing on that accumulated wisdom to all of you who are starting to create.

1. If birdhouses are intended to accommodate nesting birds, please ensure they can be easily cleaned out by including a hinged element in your design.
2. If your item is to be used outside, please ensure elements will not fall off. Hot glue is not secure enough for even the smallest pieces. Please use construction glue or nails.
3. If you are gluing bits in place you can use exterior caulking around the edge to make it waterproof.
4. If you are painting your item, use waterproof paints or seal the design with waterproof sealant.
5. It is helpful to include care instructions for your item: will it withstand winter weather, does it need to be refinished every year, etc.
6. And most important: when you register your item, it is essential to have reference measurements, either by standing your piece next to a ruler or having an item next to it to judge the size.

*If you have any questions or need more information, please contact us:*

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If you would like to decorate a birdhouse and donate it to the auction, but you cannot imagine yourself cutting wood and creating the birdhouse frame, we are here to help! We are trying to provide a **birdhouse building workshop** for just those people whose skills are in decorating rather than construction. If you are interested at all, contact Glenda Jones and she will set it up and you can be off and running. You can contact Glenda at [aljones@xplornet.com](mailto:aljones@xplornet.com) or 613-256-6479.