Making a Bird House

Supplies:

- Wood
  - One 5-foot 1” x 6” piece, cut to lengths below
    - 1” dowel, 3.5 inches long
- Drill
- Hammer
- Nails
- Tape Measure
- Wood Glue

Cut List:

- Front piece (A) – Cut to 10”
- Top Piece (B) – Cut to 10”
- Back Piece (C) – Cut to 7 ¾”
- 2 Side Pieces (D) – Cut to 10” (can be cut at a right angle at 10” and modified following the instructions below, or cut at an angle directly as shown in the photo)
- Floor piece (E) – Cut to 7”

Instructions

- Measure and cut lumber to sizes listed above. For the two side pieces, cut a 15° angle from the top corner of each piece.
- Pre-drill two holes in the front piece. The top piece should be 1.5” in diameter (for birds to enter). The lower hole, which does not extend all the way through the board, should be 1” in diameter for the perch.
- Once pieces are cut, begin by attaching one side (D) to the front piece (A), using two nails.
- Then, attach second side piece (D) to opposite side of front piece (A), again with two nails.
- Next, attach back piece (C) to side pieces (D) using 4 nails total.
- Flipping the bird house upside down, attach Floor (E) with nails in each corner.
- Setting birdhouse upright, attach roof in the same way. There will be an overhang facing the front of the bird house.
- To attach the perch, use wood glue directly in the hole, and stick the dowel into the opening. Be sure to twist the dowel slightly to provide the best contact with the glue.
- Your birdhouse is complete! If you decorate it, be sure to use an animal friendly paint (non-oil based) and let it dry completely before setting it out. Show off your completed bird house by emailing us a photo at education@houstonzoo.org