

Students design birdhouses worth chirping about

Birds are choosy, just like people. So the nearly 500 young architects in the Best Birdhouse Builder Contest, part of the International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show at Detroit's Cobo Center, had to design a birdhouse worth chirping about.

All seventh and eighth graders attending schools in the O&E circulation area were eligible to enter. The contest meets state guidelines for math and science proficiency. Give a bird the right house and it will raise a family, help keep bugs out of your yard and entertain you all day long. The overall shape and the entrance hole diameter determine the kinds of birds that'll call a house home.

In this year's second annual Best Birdhouse Builder Contest, overall winners were (with their school and birdhouse category)

• First place (\$150 gift certificates) — Eighth grade, Eleanor Macdonald, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, American Kestrel, Seventh grade, Jennifer Henson, John D. Pierce, Redford, Wood Duck.

• Second place (\$100 gift certificates) — Eighth grade, David Kwiatkowski, Bloomfield Hills Middle School, Bloomfield Hills, Bluebird, Seventh grade, Tim Orlovski, St. Valentine, Redford, House Wren.

• Third place (\$50 gift certificates) — Eighth grade, Allison Rosinski, Russell H. Junior High, Bluebird, Seventh grade, Laura Vi-

decoq, St. Robert Bellarmine, Redford, American Robin.

TWENTY HONORABLE mentions (\$25 gift certificates) went to:

• Eighth grade — Chris Deal, Holmes Middle School, Livonia, House Wren; Collin Krezeminski, Clawson Middle School, Clawson, Bluebird; Jonathan Russell, Detroit Country Day, Beverly Hills, Barred Owl; Chelsea Smoder, St. Michael, Southfield, American Kestrel; Ryan Griffin, Holmes Middle School, Livonia, Bluebird; Katie O'Neill, St. Valentine, Redford, House Wren; Chris-

lina Maloney, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, House Wren; Mary Kauffman, St. Mary, Royal Oak, Bluebird; Stephanie Cook, Academy of the Sacred Heart, Bloomfield Hills, House Wren; Matt Britcher, Pioneer Middle School, Plymouth, Bluebird.

• Seventh grade — Jason Van Esley, Pierce Junior High, Redford, American Kestrel; Joe Gresham, St. Valentine, Redford, House Wren; Andy Higgins, Elton Academy, Birmingham, Bluebird; Brandon Molitor, Adlai Stevenson Junior High, Westland, American Kestrel; Joseph Carroll, St. Michael, Southfield,

Each young architect receives a \$10 gift certificate from Harmony House.

House Wren, Stacey Wolt, Fairlane Christian West, Northville, American Robin; David Leidel, Elton Academy, Birmingham, House Wren; Christine Sullivan, Oakland Christian, Auburn Hills, Tree Swallow; Bryan Abdelnour, St. Robert Bellarmine, Redford, American Robin; Joel Sewell, Oakland Christian, Auburn

Hills, Wood Duck.

All 1,000 birdhouses are displayed in the Birdhouse Garden, near the middle of the back of the builders show floor, next to the Cafeteria/Entertainment Area.

Each young architect receives a \$10 gift certificate from Harmony House and a certificate of achievement from the O&E.

A plaque goes to each participating school. Teachers of first through third place winners receive a complimentary dinner for two at the Golden Mushroom, Southfield, courtesy of the O&E.

Contest judges represented the O&E, the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Judging criteria, based on the DNR's "Woodworking for Wildlife" habitat book, ranged from accuracy and creativity to design and workmanship. Entries had to be durable, ramped, well ventilated, easy to clean and toxin free.

The builders show continues 1-10:30 p.m. today and Friday, 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

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