

# Bird House Ornament

## Body of the Birdhouse

**Step 1** Select a piece of wood  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$  for the birdhouse body. Turn between centers to a cylinder slightly greater than 2'' in diameter. With your bowl gouge face off each end. With the cone center leave an indentation dimple on each end of the cylinder.

**Step 2** With a  $1\frac{1}{8}''$  Forstner bit, bore a hole  $1\frac{5}{8}''$  deep. Use masking tape to mark the distance of the depth on the bit.

**Step 3** From the end with the drill hole, come down the side  $\frac{1}{2}''$  in an interesting area and leave an indentation mark. The first indentation mark will be the birdhouse entrance hole. From the entrance hole drop down the cylinder another  $\frac{1}{2}''$  and make another indentation mark for the hole for the perch.

**Step 4** Drill a  $\frac{1}{4}''$  entrance hole and a  $1/8''$  hole for the perch.

**Step 5** Make a mandrel from a piece of  $2'' \times 2'' \times 2''$  scrap wood. Turn a cylinder; on the end turn a gentle cone with the end slightly less than  $1\frac{1}{8}''$  in diameter.

**Step 6** Insert the mandrel into a 4 jaw chuck and slide the birdhouse body on to the mandrel. A wrap of masking tape helps with the grip of the birdhouse piece. Use the cone center and the indentation on the birdhouse body to ensure alignment.

**Step 7** With a  $3/16''$  bit drill a hole into the indentation mark on the bottom of the cylinder for the finial.

**Step 8** With a spindle gouge turn a bead on the bottom portion of the cylinder. Next shape the bottom of the cylinder.

**Step 9** Using a spindle gouge space the birdhouse body ensuring the top is  $1\frac{5}{8}''$  in diameter.

**Step 10** Sand the body of the birdhouse.

## Roof of the Birdhouse

**Step 11** Select a piece of wood  $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{1}{4}''$  for the roof of the birdhouse. Turn between centers to a cylinder slightly greater than 2'' in diameter. With your bowl gouge face off each end. With the cone center leave an indentation dimple on each end of the cylinder.

**Step 12** Use a  $1\frac{1}{8}''$  Forstner bit to score a mark on the end of the cylinder. This mark will show the outside diameter of the shoulder to be cut on the bottom of the roof.

**Step 13** Install a  $3/4''$  Forstner bit and drill into the cylinder 1''

- Step 14** Use a parting tool to cut a 1/8" shoulder into the cylinder to the 1 1/8" scored mark. Check the fit using the birdhouse body.
- Step 15** Make an additional mandrel from a piece of 2" X 2" X 2" scrap of wood. Turn a cylinder and on the end turn a gentle cone with the end slightly less than 3/4" in diameter.
- Step 16** Put the mandrel into a 4 jaw chuck and slide the roof piece onto the mandrel. Use the cone center and the indentation on the roof to ensure alignment.
- Step 17** Use a spindle gouge to shape the roof.
- Step 18** Sand the roof.
- Step 19** From a piece of fine grained wood, shape a finial of your choice.
- Step 20** Next create the roost out of a piece of fine grained wood. Plan for the roost to protrude 3/4" more or less.
- Step 21** In the indentation on the top of the roof thread in a 7/16" small screw eye hanger.
- Step 21** After gluing the pieces together apply coat of Wipe-on Poly.

Reference: [Woodturning Christmas Ornaments](#) with Dale. L Nish

Ike Launstein 03/10/2018