

OFFICIAL RULES: ACE HARDWARE TEXAS “BIRDTOPIA CONTEST”

1. ELIGIBILITY

Open to legal residents of Texas, 18 years of age or older at time of entry. Employees of Ace Hardware, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising/promotional agencies and partners, and immediate family members are not eligible. Void where prohibited.

2. SPONSOR

Henceforth, Ace Hardware Texas Retailer Group, also referred to as Ace Hardware Texas will be referred to as “Sponsor” in the remainder of this document.

3. CONTEST PERIOD

Contest begins at 12:01 AM CT on 9/20/25 and ends at 11:59 PM CT on 10/19/25 (“Contest Period”).

4. HOW TO ENTER

Submit a photo of your bird habitat in one of three size categories: **20 sq. ft. or less**, **21–500 sq. ft.**, or **over 500 sq. ft.** Entries may be submitted:

- **Online:** Complete the entry form online at Contest.AceHardwareTexas.com and upload your photo. You must choose your preferred AceHardwareTexas store location, include your name, address, phone number, and email address, choose our preferred contact method, and choose the size of your bird-friendly space to be eligible to win.
- **Mail-In** – Entries must be post-marked by 11:59PM CT on 10/19/25. Send printed photo, your name, address, phone number, email address, preferred contact method (phone or email), your preferred AceHardwareTexas location from the website at www.AceHardwareTexas.com, and the size of your bird-friendly space to the following address to be eligible to win: Ace Hardware Texas Birdtopia Quest Contest, % Katy Ace Hardware, 559 Pin Oak Rd., Katy, Texas 77494

Entrants must also provide a short description (up to 100 words) explaining the features of their bird habitat, such as food sources, water, shelter, or nesting elements, to help judges assess its bird-friendly value.

Limit one entry per household.

5. CONTEST CATEGORIES & JUDGING

Entries will be divided into three size categories as noted above. A panel of judges selected by Ace Hardware Texas to include a habitat specialist from The Houston Audubon Society will review all eligible entries.

Judging Criteria:

All entries must include both a photograph and the required short description. Judges will score using the following weighted criteria:

- **Habitat Value (40%)** – Quality of food, water, shelter, and/or nesting resources for wild birds.
- **Creativity & Design (30%)** – Originality, visual appeal, and thoughtful layout.
- **Bird-Friendly Merit (30%)** – Does the description and design reflect bird conservation awareness?

Entries with the highest scoring total in each category will be selected as winners. In the event of a tie, the entry with the higher **Habitat Value score** will rank higher. All judging decisions are final.

6. WINNER NOTIFICATION

Winners will be notified by email or phone on or about October 30, 2025. If a winner cannot be reached within 7 days, an alternate may be selected.

7. PRIZES

The total valuation of prizes is at least \$2,553.22 as noted below:

First Place Prize Package in each size category receives: One Feit Bird Genius A.I. Wild Bird 2.5 L Plastic Solar Camera Smart-Enabled Bird Feeder one (1) port (Retail Value \$219.99), One(1) two(2)-month supply (twenty (20) bags) of Wild & Strong Bird Food (*Retail Value \$199.80*), One (1) Petmate water-tight bird seed container (*Retail Value \$59.00*), One (1) Birding Tour of High Island by Houston Audubon Society staff (date & time restrictions apply and are based on Houston Audubon Society staff availability - *Retail Value \$250*). Total for each First Place Prize package retail value: \$728.79. Winners also receive Wild & Strong & Houston Audubon Society merchandise to be determined by the vendor and organization.

Second Place Prize Package in each size category receives: One (1) Humdinger Texas-shaped hummingbird feeder (*Retail value \$17.99*), Two (2) bags of Wild & Strong Bird

Food (*Retail Value \$19.98*), One (1) Petmate water-tight bird seed container (*Retail Value \$59.00*), Total for each Second Place Prize package retail value: \$96.97. Winners also receive Wild & Strong & Houston Audubon Society merchandise to be determined by the organizations.

Third Place Prize Packages in each size category receives: One (1) Humdinger Texas shaped hummingbird feeder (*Retail value \$17.99*) and Two (2) bags of Wild & Strong Bird Food (*Retail Value \$19.98*). Total for each Second Place Prize package retail value: \$37.97. Winners also receive Wild & Strong & Houston Audubon Society merchandise to be determined by the organizations.

8. PHOTO REQUIREMENTS & RIGHTS

- **Original Work Only:** Your entry photo must be taken by you, at your private residence in East Texas or Southeast Texas, and must depict an actual bird habitat you created. **Stock photos, AI-generated images, images taken by someone else, or any photo not showing your personally created habitat are strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.**
- **No Other People or Trademarks:** Other than yourself, photos must not include identifiable people, logos, or trademarks, including any logos or trademarks on clothing or lawn décor. Exceptions include logos or trademarks of supporting vendors to include the following: Ace Hardware, Members of Ace Hardware Texas logo, The Houston Audubon Society, Wild & Strong logo, Humdinger hummingbird feeders logo, and Petmate logo. No added benefit is given to anyone including sponsor logos as this is not part of the judging criteria.
- **Ownership & Rights:** You must own all rights to the photo. By submitting, you grant Sponsor and its affiliates a **royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual license** to use, edit, crop, reformat, reproduce, publish, and display the image for promotional, marketing, and educational purposes without additional notice or compensation.
- **Retention & Responsibility:** You retain ownership of your photo but should keep a copy of your original file, as Sponsor is not responsible for any loss, damage, or alteration. Sponsor reserves the right to reject any entry that violates these requirements or is otherwise inappropriate.
- **Reproduction Rights:** By entering the contest, Participant gives Sponsor permission to share the winning images publicly via social media channels, emails, and via the Sponsor's advertising channels.

9. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the contest if fraud, technical failures, or any other factor beyond Sponsor's reasonable control impairs the integrity of the contest. Participation constitutes entrant's full agreement to these Official Rules and Sponsor's decisions.

10. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Sponsor may disqualify any entrant who tampers with the Contest or violates these rules.
 - Sponsor reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the Contest for technical or legal reasons, and to select winners from eligible entries received prior to any termination.
 - Any disputes will be governed by Texas law and resolved in state or federal courts located in Texas, on an individual basis (no class actions).
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11. QUESTIONS / WINNERS LIST

Direct questions to **Brick@AceHardwareTexas.com**
or by mail:

Birdtopia Contest
% Katy Ace Hardware
559 Pin Oak Rd, Katy, TX 77449
Attn: Contest Administrator

Winner names will be available after all prizes are awarded. To request a list, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the above address within six (6) months of the Contest's end.