

## Longwood “Christmas Tree” birdhouses at Barkingfield Park

Longwood Gardens generously donated four small bird boxes and one large owl box to Kennett Township in February 2019. The boxes were part of the 2018 Christmas display and were made from Redwood and Yellow Cypress from trees that fell on Longwood’s property, as well as white pine.

The smaller boxes are installed on posts in the upper hay field at Barkingfield Park. They are attractive as nesting sites to both bluebirds and tree swallows. Both species are colorful and fun to watch, particularly the tree swallows as they forage for insects in flight.

Bluebird/ tree swallow boxes mounted at Barkingfield Park



## Tree swallows

(photo from Audubon: [www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/tree-swallow](http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/tree-swallow))



Tree Swallows. Photo: Meryl Lorenzo/Audubon Photography Awards

## Bluebird

(photo from Audubon: [www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-bluebird](http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/eastern-bluebird))



Photo: Laurie Lawler/Great Backyard Bird Count Participant

Owl box next mounted on large tree on south side of stream at Barkingfield Park



Please share any pictures that you take of birds in residence with the Township office for posting on our website and to share with Longwood Garden as thanks for these birdhouses!

## A Custom Crafted Longwood Gardens Birdhouse

From the 2018 *A Longwood  
Christmas Wildlife Tree*

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Every year, Longwood staff and volunteers create the Wildlife Tree, an outdoor feature that feeds the birds and small animals that live in the Gardens. For the 2018 *A Longwood Christmas Wildlife Tree* display, four Fraser firs ornamented in suet and seeds surrounded a spectacular 15-foot "tree" made of more than 200 illuminated birdhouses designed and built at Longwood.

Constructed in eight different sizes for owls to wrens, the redwood, cypress, and white pine birdhouses were made more resistant to weathering with an application of linseed oil.

