



BIRDHOUSES *of the* WORLD



ANNE SCHMAUSS

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**PREVIOUS SPREAD: A RUSTIC
WOODEN BIRDHOUSE AT
MONTEZUMA NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE IN WESTERN
NEW YORK.**

**BELOW: A RED-BELLIED
WOODPECKER AT ITS NEST,
A CAVITY INSIDE A TREE.**



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THIS PURPLE MARTIN HOUSE IS A MODERN
VERSION OF THE GOURDS USED BY NATIVE
AMERICANS.



CHICKADEES, INCLUDING THIS
CAROLINA CHICKADEE, ARE CAVITY
NESTERS AND WILL READILY COME
TO BIRDHOUSES.



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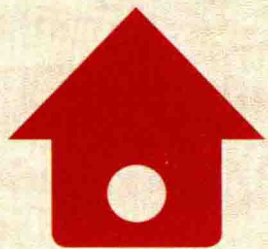
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BIRDHOUSES
of the **WORLD**

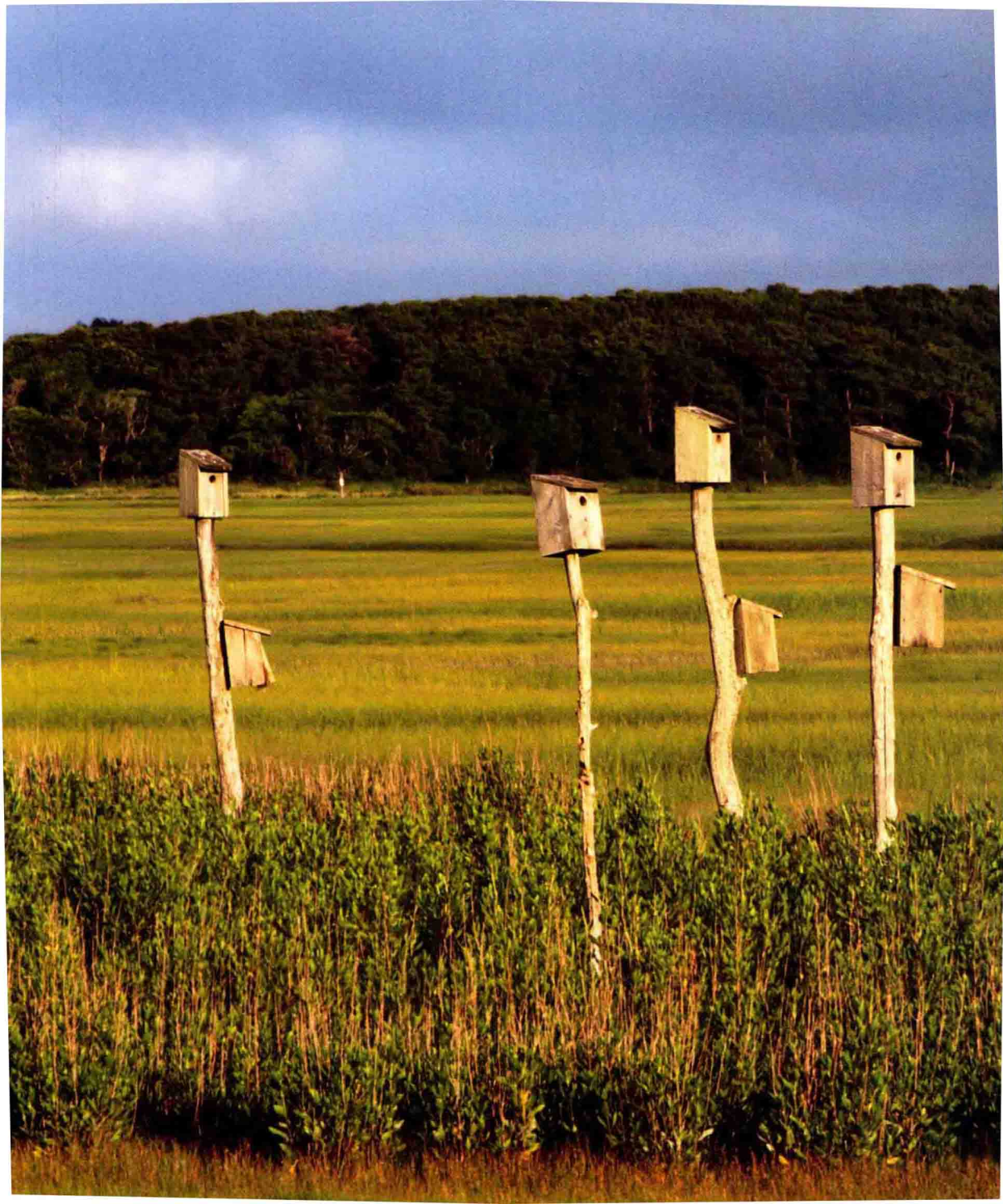
TO DAWN GRABER AND
OUR DAUGHTER, MARY SCHMAUSS.

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PREVIOUS SPREAD: BIRDHOUSES
AT THE EDGE OF A SALT MARSH
ON CAPE COD IN SANDWICH,
MASSACHUSETTS.

RIGHT: OWLS LIKE THIS EASTERN
SCREECH OWL ARE HAPPY TO
USE A BIRDHOUSE.

OPPOSITE: A MALE WOOD DUCK
SITS ATOP HIS HOUSE.

OVERLEAF: AN ART INSTALLATION
COMPRISED OF BIRDHOUSES
NEAR TOLVATTI CITY IN RUSSIA.









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DOVECOTES CARVED INTO THE UPPER PARTS OF CLIFFS, LIKE THESE BUILT IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, CAN BE FOUND THROUGHOUT THE CAPPADOCIA REGION OF CENTRAL TURKEY. DOVECOTE FACADES WERE TYPICALLY PAINTED BY LOCAL ARTISTS USING PIGMENTS OBTAINED FROM AREA PLANTS AND SOIL.

INTRODUCTION

While I was writing *Birdhouses of the World*, so many people told me they had a neighbor or an uncle who built birdhouses. It turns out that building birdhouses is a very common hobby, especially in the United States and Canada. I shouldn't have been surprised, as I've owned a Wild Birds Unlimited store since 1994 and know firsthand how popular birdhouses are. I've sold thousands of birdhouses and had just as many conversations about them. The variety of birdhouses available today is staggering. No longer are birdhouses merely functional nest boxes for birds; now, many are art objects, while others are intended as conversation pieces or perhaps even as commentary on the state of our environment (as you'll see in the Trash Tree from Denmark and the projects by London Fieldworks).

For this book my goal was simply to find the coolest birdhouses on the planet and tell their stories. And what stories they have! In Japan, I found a massive bird apartment that was as much art installation as birdhouse; in Oregon, I found Layla Coats, who meticulously crafts lovely birdhouses from river stones; in Delaware, I found Thomas Burke, who built a monumental replica of George Lucas's Skywalker Ranch.

That birdhouse is installed at the real Skywalker Ranch today. I hope you'll find something appealing about each birdhouse and perhaps you might fall in love with the birdhouse creators as much as I did.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The first structures built by humans for birds were specifically for pigeons and doves and are commonly known as dovecotes. Pigeons were among the earliest domesticated livestock, going back almost ten thousand years, and old dovecotes, some of them thousands of years old, can still be found all over the world and in almost every culture. Throughout history, these dovecotes have been used primarily to raise pigeons and doves for the dinner table (meat and eggs) and as a source of fertilizer for crops and gardens. In the Middle Ages, particularly in France, a dovecote was a sign of great wealth and status. Although the design of dovecotes varies throughout history and from culture to culture, most are somewhat dome shaped (or cylindrical) and hollow in the middle, and most have perches for the birds on the inside and sometimes even on the outside. They were often quite large—in Europe, they could be as tall as