

MODULE 2: WHERE IS MY HOME?

Learning about bird nests and how to make bird boxes

Teacher's notes

Aims

This module is designed to teach children about:-

- the different ways in which birds create nests for breeding
- what habitats and materials they require
- what difficulties and dangers they face
- how people can help birds by providing nesting materials or artificial nesting sites
- how to make and position bird boxes
- how to monitor use of bird boxes.

Contents

The module includes Powerpoint presentations on 3 topics

- general information about bird nests
 - bird box making
 - reviewing what's happened in the bird boxes
- plus supporting documentation and worksheets.

Activities you can undertake with your pupils are:-

- Making nests from twigs and other materials
- Making nest boxes from kits and erecting these in the schools grounds
- Monitoring the nest boxes to see what uses them

In addition to learning about birds, habitats and relationships with human beings, children will use practical skills to make nests and boxes. Monitoring also allows exercises in observation and record keeping and can be related to other educational elements such as production of graphs and pie charts.

Help with these activities

A team of volunteers from Nidderdale Birdwatchers is available to visit schools to help to deliver this module. The advantages of this are:

- There will be examples of different types of nests for demonstration
- Bird box kits and tools will be provided
- Experienced volunteers will help children to learn about birds and their nests
- Experienced volunteers will assist children to construct the bird boxes
- There will be assistance with choosing the right sites for boxes and someone to put them up
- Volunteers will inspect the boxes at the end of the breeding season
- The findings will be used for a second learning session about which birds have used the boxes and breeding success rates.