

Module 2 Where is my home?

Notes on Bird Boxes

Bird boxes can provide an effective nesting site for various different species of birds. Bird boxes can also offer protection for birds for roosting during the winter months. Having bird boxes near your school will attract birds and will allow bird observation and monitoring of activity.

How to make a bird box

A good guide on how to make your own bird box is available at the RSPB website below:

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/nestboxes/smallbirds/making.aspx>

Alternatively you can buy many good bird boxes.

Tips on bird boxes

- Positioning of bird boxes is very important. Unless there is a tree or building to provide the box with shade, try to position the box facing between north and east.
- Give a clear flight path to the bird box without any objects in the way.
- Tilt the bird box slightly forwards so that the rain will not come in through the entrance hole.
- House sparrows and starlings prefer bird boxes placed in the eaves of houses. They also form colonies so bird box terraces are more suitable (or alternatively several bird boxes clustered together).
- Wrens and robins prefer open-fronted bird boxes which are low (below 2m) to the ground and well sheltered in vegetation.
- Avoid boxes with perches in front of the entrance and these allow other birds to prey on small birds.
- Bird boxes should be put up in autumn.

Bird boxes should be cleaned out once a year to remove old nests and sprayed against mites which can prevent birds nesting.

This module includes two Powerpoint presentations:

- Bird Box making
- Bird Box monitoring