

Nest Boxes



Illustrations by Beverly Coraldean Images by Dave Kilbey and Elizabeth Dack

Wild birds suffer from a shortage of suitable nesting and roosting sites as well as from shortages of food. You can help them by providing nest boxes and feeding stations.

Making Nest Boxes

- There is a wide variety of nest box designs, catering for different species of birds. Nest boxes are readily available to buy from suppliers such as the RSPB, but they also make an enjoyable design and technology project to build from scratch.
- Use timber at least 2cm thick to provide good insulation and avoid warping. Try and use wood from sustainably managed woodlands if possible.
- If younger pupils will be constructing the boxes, pre-saw and drill the wood and allow them to nail the sections together.
- Create boxes using the diagram below.
- Coat the outer surface of the wood with non-toxic weather proofing stain for a longer lasting box. Never paint the inside of the box as this can harm the birds.
- If you have a problem with squirrels, surround the entrance hole with a metal plate.
- Site the nest boxes on a tree or wall at least 2 metres above the ground, facing northeast to south-east, out of the prevailing wind and the heat of the midday sun. Open fronted boxes can be hidden in a hedgerow or shrubs. Remember to position the boxes beyond the reach of predators.
- Clean out the nest boxes at the end of the breeding season to prevent a build-up of parasites.



Blue Tit in a Nest Box

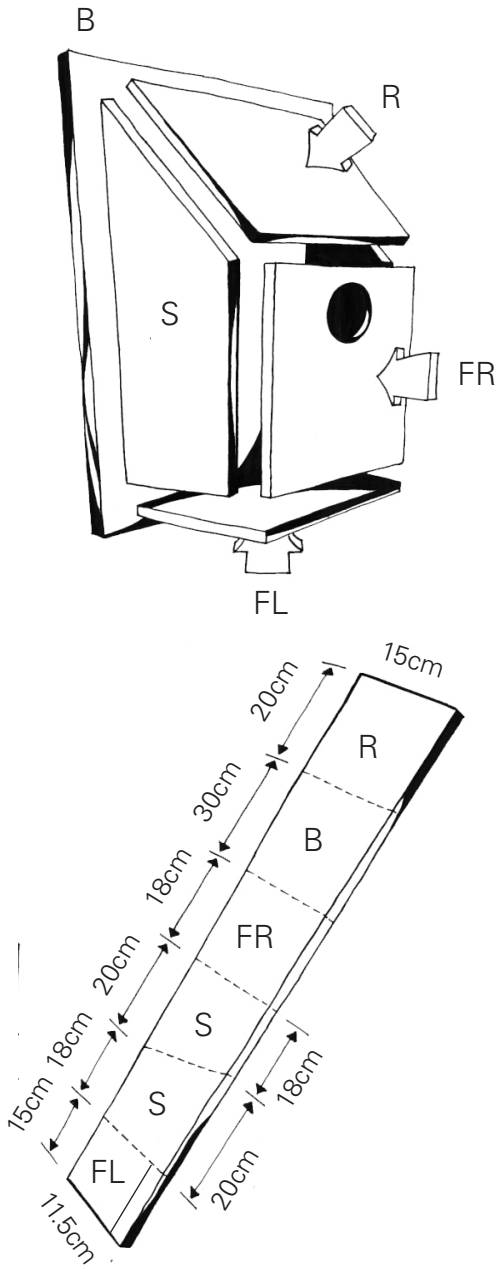
Contacts

- The RSPB is a UK charity working to secure a healthy environment for birds and wildlife, helping to create a better world for us: www.rspb.org.uk
- Bird-Ventures is a local shop in Holt, selling a variety of nest boxes. Bird-Ventures is based at 9b Chapel Yard if you wish to visit or you can purchase items from their website: www.bird-ventures.co.uk

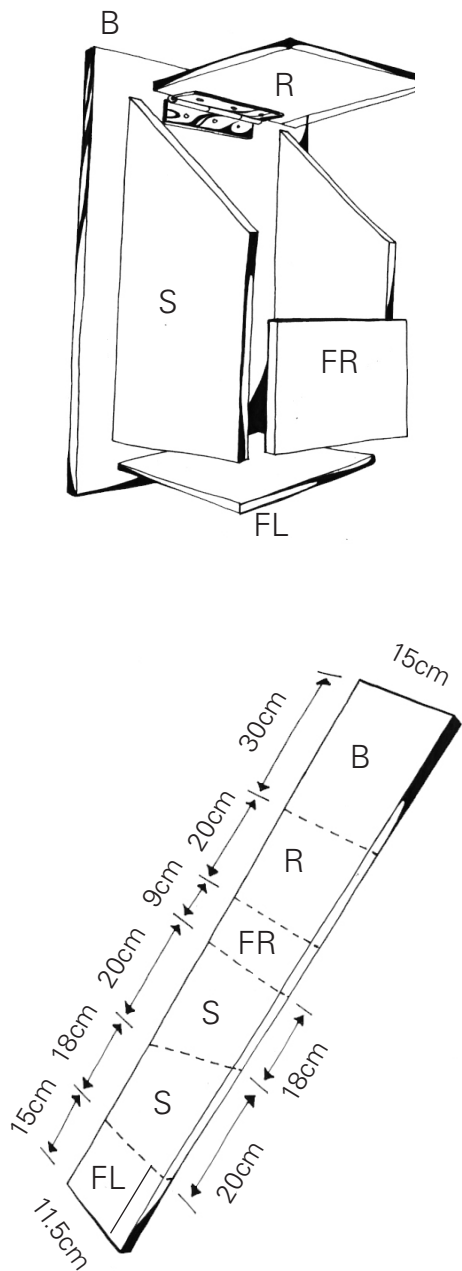
Fact

- Sparrows are sociable birds and like to nest in terraced nest boxes!

Hole Nester's Box



Open Fronted Box



SIZE OF HOLE	BIRD SPECIES
25mm	Blue tit, great tit, coal tit, marsh tit
30mm	Great tit, tree sparrow, house sparrow nuthatch, pied flycatcher
Open	Robin, spotted flycatcher, wren, pled wagtail

