Water For Wildlife

Water is essential for all forms of life on Earth. By providing a regular clean source ofwater, you will be delivering a basic wildlife need.

A large pond is a fantastic habitat and good for the wildlife it supports. However, you may not have the space or think it appropriate to have one. If this is the case, you may like to consider providing water for wildlife on a smaller scale.

Alternatives To Ponds

- Even a washing up bowl or old sink set in the ground will be colonised by creatures in a matter of weeks, providing a cool dip for a frog or toad and providing a welcome drink to visiting birds and mammals.
- f you consider having any open water a hazard, you could create a marsh instead. A marsh can be created like a pond by using a butyl liner, but filling it with damp soil instead of water.

Bird baths

- It is essential for birds to keep their feathers in good condition by washing and preening.
- Any shallow sloping bowl could be used as a bird bath. A simple idea is to use an up-turned dustbin lid balanced securely on bricks. This, being close to the ground, will provide a drink for other creatures as well.
- Water should be between 2.5 and 10 cm deep.
- If the base of the bird bath is rough, this allows birds to grip securely whilst bathing.
- Remember that birds are vulnerable when wet as they cannot fly, so choose a site away from any potential predators. Birds may like it if the bath is located near bushes or shrubs which could provide cover if threatened.
- Bird baths need to be cleaned regularly.

Water Wise

- Consider having a water butt to collect and save water. Use this water to top up your pond or pool and to water any new plants.
- The pupils could investigate how wise the school is with water and how much gets used. Do taps get left running? Could the toilets flush with less water? The pupils could create a code for water saving in the school.

Water Rail

Facts

- Water covers nearly three-quarters of the surface of the planet.
- Water is essential to life on earth!

Saving **Norfolk's Wildlife** for the Future