



Building for birds

January 2022



Background

Our planet is currently facing an ecological emergency, with many species facing threats such as habitat loss, competition from invasive species and climate change. This includes our own native species in London, with once common species being put on the UK red list, such as the Starling, House Sparrow and Swift. Such species are important to the local ecosystem, as they help distribute the seeds of local plants and provide natural pest control.

In order to help these species recover, we are taking it upon ourselves to seek action. With full support of our local council, we propose to act via **Building for Birds** and give nature a home. This project will consist of us creating bird boxes to increase nesting opportunities for local birds.

The Project

We are setting out on a project to make bird boxes in our schools as part of an extracurricular activity. These boxes will provide nesting opportunities for a range of birds and will help increase and sustain the number of birds contributing to London's ecosystem.

There are a variety of boxes which are suitable for birds. For example, open fronted boxes are most suitable for robins, while small holed boxes are of interest to blue tits.

Delete red text and the paragraph that does not apply to your school:

For schools where you can choose the design:



Our project will allow students to choose what type of bird box they are interested in making. Three designs can be chosen from: <https://tinyurl.com/23upwtk4>

For schools needing one set design:

Our project will see students build a small holed nest box. The design and guide can be found from this RSPB guide: <https://tinyurl.com/2wryat2z>

Students may then go on to paint their boxes, but in the interest of attracting birds, colours will be kept in neutral / forest tones such as browns and greens.

The bird boxes can then be:

- taken home by students
- be collected to be sold for charity at a later date

We would like to set up a club outside of core hours to build the bird boxes. Any students who are interested in taking part can get involved.

What do we need

- Wood (upcycled if possible)
- Workshops and workshop tools
- Teachers' assistance, working within their school and opening their doors for a wider and more inclusive club
- Online resources for discussion
- Guide to make the boxes
- Paints (if to be painted)
- Waterproofing - green sandpaper for roof

Project impacts

- Active environmental engagement can help students struggling with climate anxiety
- Can increase the amount of birdsong in the area, as well as bird numbers
- Support endangered members of a vital part of the ecosystem and
- Building something sustainable and long lasting to have a positive impact
- Engage with other people in our local community
- Can be used as a point on the way to achieving the green flag award

Suggested structure of the project

January	February	March	April
Begin Conversation with teachers	Confirm project plan, source materials	Build boxes	If to be handed out, hand out now



	Promote activity to other students		Review project
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Who we are

We are a group of Youth Climate Ambassadors working with Hammersmith & Fulham Council. As a group of young people of all ages, from 11 to 20, we are passionate about local solutions to the climate and ecological emergency.

This project is supported by the Climate Unit at Hammersmith & Fulham Council. The team there is happy to help our school get this project working. For more information or help with sourcing materials, discussing designs etc. please contact:

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