## Nesting Box Guidance

## Some guidance to help with your new Nesting box

Providing nesting sites for breeding birds in your garden gives you a wonderful experience of watching a key part of the lifecycle of birds happening close at hand.

## Correct box for the named bird

Essentially wood has researched guidance from the RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) to ensure your nesting box is bespoke for the specific birds that you would like to attract. The size and type of opening/access, the dimensions and the thickness of the timber are all in line with this guidance. The boxes are not painted or coated in the interiors as this would at worst be toxic for the birds and at best might put them off from nesting. All boxes are accessible for cleaning (which is important to do as and when needed. The open type boxes can be cleaned from the front and the round access holed boxes can be cleaned by removing the screw and then opening the lid.

Other specifications are the waterproof hinge and also the drainage holes in the base.

## Top tips for putting up your nest box

* **Not too close to another nest box -** nest boxes of the same type should not be sited too close together as this may promote aggressive behaviour between neighbours.
* **Shelter your box from the weather -** the front of the nest box should be angled vertically or slightly downwards to prevent rain from entering the nest box. Make sure it is sheltered from prevailing wind, rain and strong sunlight.
* **Height from the ground should be about 3 metres -** small-hole boxes are best placed 1-3m above ground on tree trunks, but avoid sites where foliage obscures the entrance hole - a clear flight path is important. If there are no trees in your garden, the next best option is to place your box on the side of a shed or wall. Care must be given to make sure the box isn’t easily accessible to predators.
* **Open-fronted nest boxes should be hidden from view -**attach your box to a wall or fence that has shrubs and creepers growing against it.
* **Make sure cats cannot get into the box -** ensure that it is not easily accessible to predators (cats and squirrels).
* **Keep nest box away from bird feeders -** as high levels of activity of visiting birds could disturb nesting pairs.
* **Use galvanized or stainless steel screws or nails that will not rust.** If fixing boxes to trees, galvanised wire can be used to tie the box to the trunk or hang it from a branch. Make sure to regularly inspect these fittings to ensure the box remains securely attached.
* **Traditionally, nest boxes for small birds are put up in the spring -** pairs begin to prospect in the latter half of February, so a box put up at the end of the winter stands a good chance of attracting nesting birds. However, it is never too early or late to put up a nest box, as some birds will use them to roost in during the winter months.
* **Houses for house sparrows** - a nest box with a 32mm entrance hole fixed on the wall of a house could well be used by House Sparrows. For Starlings try a box with a 45mm entrance hole.