

Bird box suppliers

GWF379
Updated September 2007

Blue tits, great tits, sparrows, robins and many other birds take readily to man-made nest boxes, and there are a wide range of designs available to suit them.

Most commercially available bird boxes are made of wood, which is a good insulator, adaptable and attractive. You will also come across a material known as 'woodcrete' or 'cosycrete' made from cement, sawdust and woodshaving. As well as being very long lasting, this is also tough enough to keep out marauding squirrels and woodpeckers. We even found one box made from recycled plastic.

Different birds favour different designs. For example, the smaller tits like an enclosed box with a 25mm diameter hole, whereas great tits prefer 28mm, pied flycatchers 30mm, and nuthatches and sparrows 32mm. Smaller birds can use boxes with larger holes, but will face more competition from the larger birds. Wrens, robins and spotted flycatchers are more likely to be attracted to open-fronted boxes. All the suppliers listed below supply these basic types, and we've listed all the less common boxes in case you are looking for something more unusual.

Bird box suppliers

The Bird Table

Laindon Road, Horndon-on-the-Hill,
Essex SS17 8QB 01268 413109
www.thebirdtable.co.uk
Basic range, in wood.

Ernest Charles

FREEPOST, Copplestone, Crediton,
Devon EX17 2YZ 0800 731 6770
www.ernest-charles.com
Wide range in wood and woodcrete,
including house martin, swallow and
woodpecker.

CJ Wildlife

The Rea, Upton Magna, Shrewsbury
SY4 4UR 0800 731 2820
www.birdfood.co.uk
Very wide range in wood, recycled
plastic and woodcrete including
blackbird, house martin, kestrel,
little owl, starling, swallow, swift,
tawny owl and tree creeper.

Garden Bird Supplies Ltd.

Saxon House, 27 Duke Street,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1HT
www.gardenbird.com
Wide range in wood and woodcrete
including house martin and swallow.

J.E. Haith Ltd

65 Park Street, Cleethorpes,
Lincolnshire DN35 7NF
0800 298 7054 www.haiths.com
Wide range in wood and woodcrete,
including house martin, little owl,
starling and swallow.

Jacobi Jayne & Company

Living with Birds, Freepost 1155,
Herne Bay CT6 7BR 0800 072 0130
www.jacobijayne.com
Wide range in wood and woodcrete,
including house martin, kestrel,
starling, swallow, swift and tree
creeper. Also main UK distributors
for Schwegler's range of woodcrete
boxes (www.schwegler-natur.de)

RSPB

RSPB Customer Care, PO Box 280,
Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS23 7XJ
0845 120 0501 www.rspbshop.co.uk
Wide range in wood, including
little owl, kestrel, starling and
woodpecker.

Making your own

The *Gardening Which?* factsheet,
DIY Birdbox GWF465, gives
instructions for making boxes
suitable for the following birds:
blue tit, coal tit, great tit, house
sparrow, nuthatch, pied flycatcher,
robin, spotted flycatcher and wren.

The RSPB 0176 768 0551
www.rspb.org.uk/advice has a
factsheet on making nests for
house martins.

Action for Swifts

www.actionforswifts.com has
details on making swift nest boxes.

Books

The BTO (British Trust for
Ornithology) Nestbox Guide by
Chris du Feu (ISBN: 1902576810),
available in some bookshops or
from Jacobi Jayne, has plans and
detailed instructions for building
boxes suitable for 23 different
species including kestrels, owls and
jackdaws plus information on siting
and maintaining them.