



# NatureNorthWest

*For all your nature education needs*

## Nest Box Notes

**Nest Box Location:** North or North East Walls to avoid prevailing wind/rain and direct sun. On a tree is ideal but the side of a building can work equally well. Box angled downwards slightly to avoid water entering the entrance hole and flooding the nest. Reasonable distance from other nest boxes, from bird feeders and from other ideal nest sites such as cavities in an old wall. Ideally shrubs and trees nearby.

**Time of year:** Ideally before the end of February as birds are prospecting for nest sights from then. Any time outside of this is a good time, boxes put up in April have been successful that season. Also some birds use the boxes for shelter in winter.

**Nest Box Type:** Small hole at front ~ Blue tits and Great Tits 2-5 metres up. These two species are by far the most common users of nest boxes.

Large rectangular entrance ~ Robins and Wagtails, 1-3metres.

**Maintenance:** After use between November and January boxes should be cleaned of old nest material and scalded with boiling water to kill any bird parasites. Boxes should not be disturbed once up between the months of February and October. Eggs / nest material should never be removed during these months.

**Cameras:** Fixed line ~ 1 power source required, gives a stronger signal. Direct line from camera to recording device or screen.

Wireless ~ 2 power sources required. The power for the camera could be battery as opposed to mains. Still good signal, can beam signal to a receiver within line of sight up to 50 metres. Receiver can be inside glass and is wired to a recording device or straight to the screen.

Hard drive boxes or (with a special adaptor) laptops can be used to record footage and create a movie of the birds nesting.

**Notes:** Birds will often prospect a variety of sites so if nothing happens this season be patient. Some birds build several nests in a season and only one is used. Droppings are usually carried away by birds that use nest boxes so the site should remain quite clean. Small song birds will lay one egg a day for up to 13 days, then incubate the eggs for 2 weeks, then feed the chicks until they fledge about three weeks later. Cameras can be used for a variety of wildlife projects; one of the most popular is to mount them in a waterproof box beside a bird feeder, excellent for survey work.