



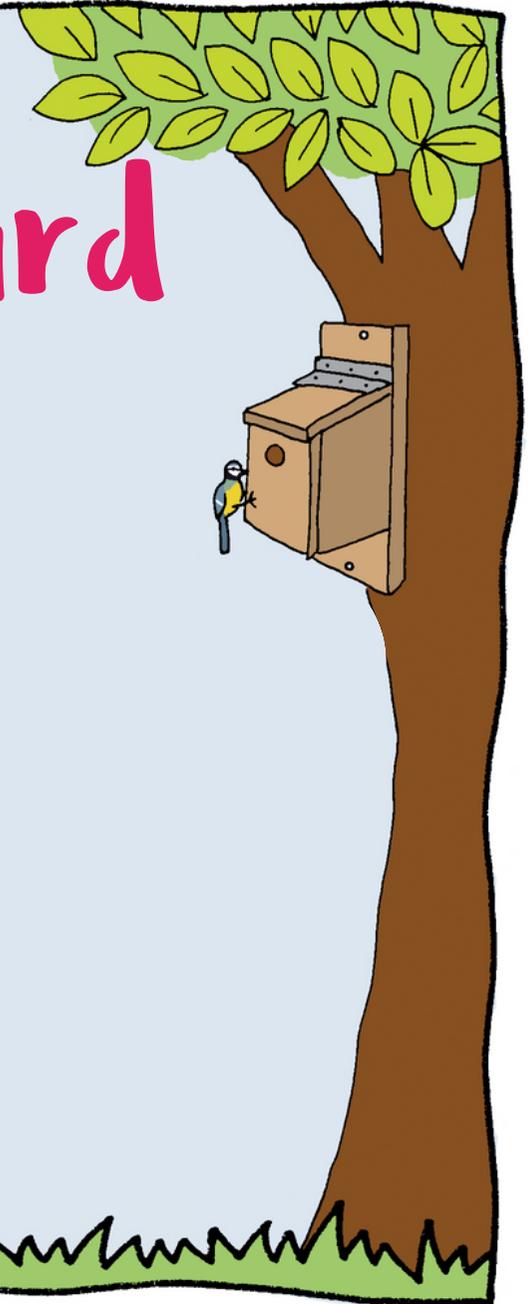
# Wilder School Award

## Aundyr Scoill S'Feie



**Manx**  
Wildlife Trust  
Treisht Bea-Feie  
Vannin

Information Booklet



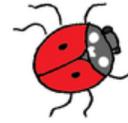
Complete a minimum of 5 of the below activities and send photo evidence to [beth@mwt.im](mailto:beth@mwt.im) to receive your certificate.

Use the 'how to' guides on the following pages to help or contact Beth for further help.

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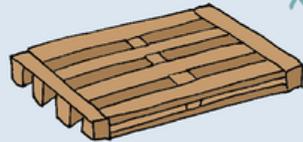
- 1 Hedgehog Tunnel: Contact [beth@mwt.im](mailto:beth@mwt.im) to receive a free hedgehog tunnel pack including everything your class needs survey hedgehogs in your school grounds (April - October).
- 2 Bug Hotel: Stack up wooden pallets with bricks in between and get the children to fill the inside with natural materials that invertebrates love (pg.2).
- 3 Hidey holes: Don't feel like making a whole bug hotel? Why not make mini habitats such as leaf piles, log piles or stone habitats for amphibians (pg.3).
- 4 Repurposed Plant Pots: Before you throw out paper cups, storage boxes or other containers, repurpose them as plant pots and plant some insect friendly plants (pg.4).
- 5 Compost: Either buy a compost bin or even better build a compost heap and use it to teach the children how food waste and other materials biodegrade (pg.5).
- 6 Pond: A full sized pond is great but not always appropriate in a school environment. Instead, build a mini wildlife pond in a watertight container (pg.6).
- 7 Bird Feeder: Put out a shop bought feeder and regularly refill or make your own by mixing lard and seed in a repurposed container such as a yoghurt pot (pg.7).
- 8 Education Session: Take a look at our school sessions and book in a session with Beth on your school grounds. <https://www.mwt.im/what-we-do/education/school-sessions>
- 9 Bird Box: Buy or build your own bird box using the instructions on page 8. Look out for tree sparrows, and contact [rob@mwt.im](mailto:rob@mwt.im) about any sightings (pg.9).
- 10 Nectar Bar: Create a garden border or source a window box to plant some pollinator friendly plants. Make sure to water regularly over spring and summer (pg.10)

# How to build a bug hotel



## You will need:

- Wooden pallets



- Bricks



- Plastic bottles\*



- Bamboo canes



- Straw



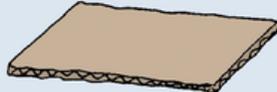
- Leaves



- Tiles



- Cardboard



- Stones/pebbles

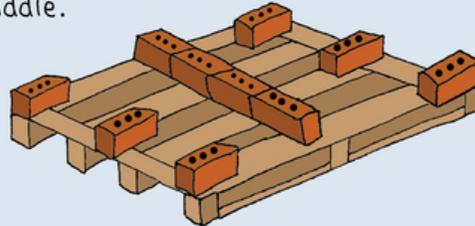


- Twigs/loose bark

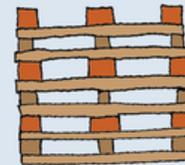


\*Use old plastic bottles for this, and always recycle after use.

- 1 Place a wooden pallet in your chosen location. On top of the pallet, line bricks around the corners and across the middle.



- 2 Place your next pallet on top of this and repeat the process for all of your pallets.



- 3 Cut off the top two-thirds of your bottles. Fill up half of them with bamboo canes/plastic straws and the other half with rolled up cardboard. Place these inside the hotel.



- 4 Fill in the remaining spaces with bricks, leaves, pebbles, stones, tiles, loose bark and straw.



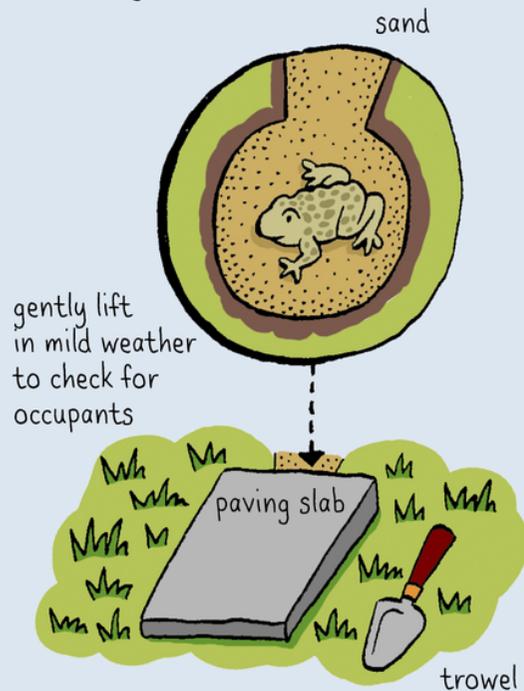
- 5 Add in any extra materials that you want to recycle e.g. old pipes, carpeting, toilet tubes, old plant pots. Be creative - add a welcome sign or give your hotel a name!



# How to build hidey holes

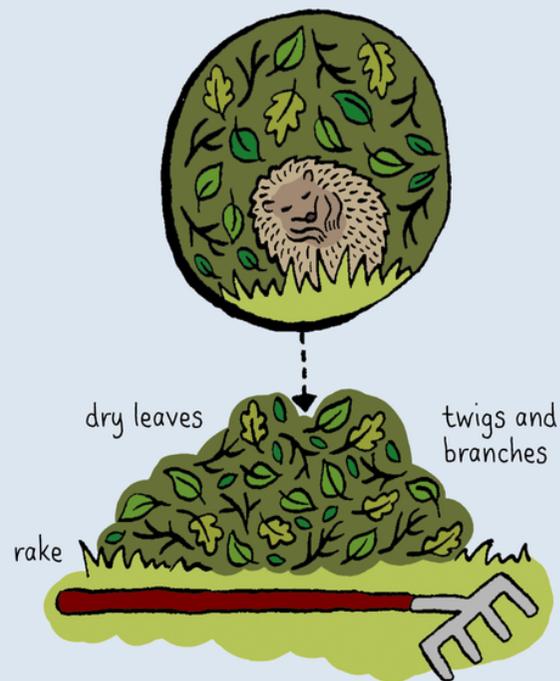
## For amphibians

In a damp, cool area of the garden, dig a shallow bowl in the ground and line with sand. Cover with a slab, leaving enough room for an upward sloping tunnel.



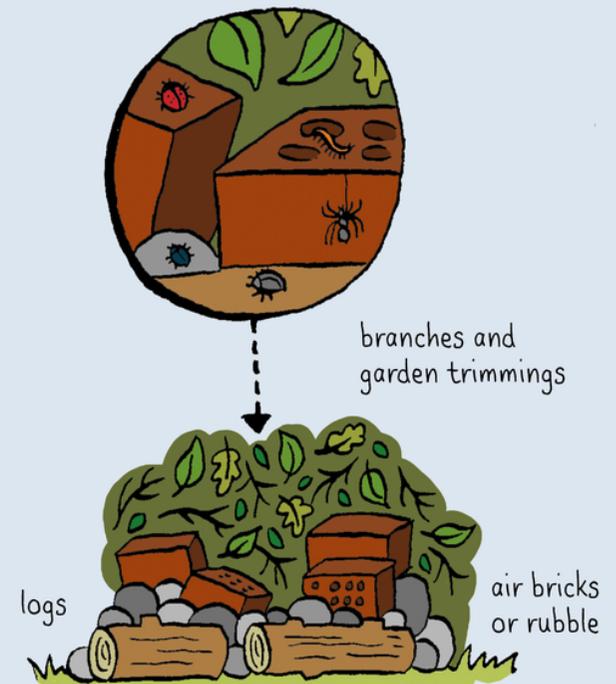
## For hedgehogs

Rake a pile of dry leaves in a quiet, unused corner of the garden (under a bush is best). Build a mesh of twigs and branches around the pile, and leave an entrance space at the bottom.



## For minibeasts

Stack up a log pile as the bottom layer and cover with rubble or bricks (air bricks have ready made hidey holes!) Cover the pile with branches and garden cuttings.



# Grow an insect-friendly garden

Provide for bees, butterflies and other insects all year round by planting shrubs and plants that flower at different times of the year.

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Key
Wallflowers 	Borage  	Heather   	 Great for honeybees
Hawthorn 	Fennel 	Carrots 	 Great for bumblebees
Dandelion  	Lavender  	Dahlia  	 Great for butterflies
Sweet William 	Rosemary  	Mint  	 Great for other insects
Aubretia  	Cornflower  	Marjoram  	 Great for a balcony or plant pot
Lungwort 	Honeysuckle  	Yarrow  	
Sweet Alyssum  	Poppy  	Fennel 	
Cow parsley 	Brambles 	Ivy   	
	Cosmos  	Michaelmas daisy 	
	Cow parsley 		
	Field scabious 		

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

# How to make simple compost

## You will need

- A compost bin, with a lid\*
- A well-drained, easy to access area
- Green compostable ingredients
- Brown materials, like straw and scrunched-up paper
- A gardening fork



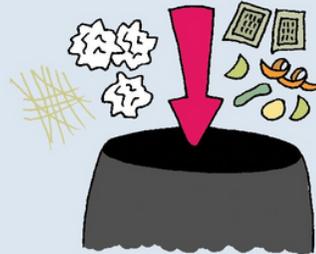
Compost worms are brilliant recyclers so put them to use on your green waste. The finished compost will enrich your garden soil, benefiting even more earthworms! This rich soil also boosts flowers, veggies and other plants.



1 Carefully make holes in the base of your bin if it doesn't have any. Then place it on or close to bare soil to let worms wiggle in.



2 Start putting stuff in... mix brown materials, like straw and paper, with nitrogen-rich ones like veggies and tea bags.



Check out the worms that have moved in!

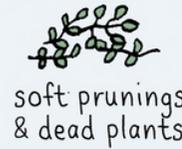


3 Stick a fork in and turn over the contents of the bin (ideally once a month) to let more air in. The more you turn it, the quicker you make compost.

4 It can take from six months to two years, but when it's ready you'll find rich, dark, fabulous compost. Use it!



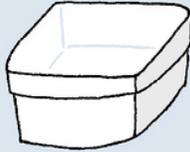
Don't worry if there are lumps, bumps and bits of eggshells.



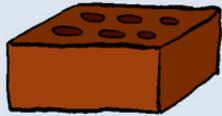
# How to build a mini wildlife pond

## You will need:

- a watertight container\*



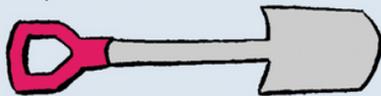
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles



- pond plants



- spade

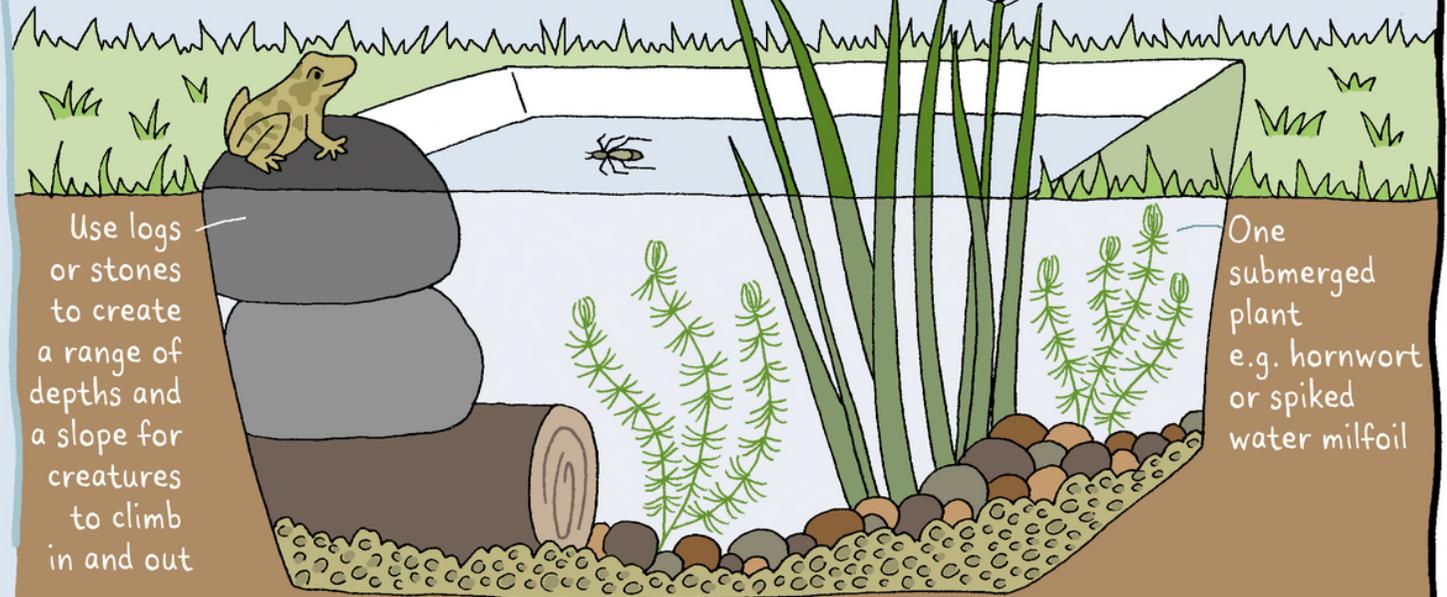


\* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.

- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush



Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil



# How to make your own bird feeder

## What you need:

- dry ingredients
  - bird seed
  - cooked rice
  - grated cheese
  - dried fruit
  - breadcrumbs
  - chopped nuts

- hard cooking fat (lard or suet)

- a pine cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot



Use an old yoghurt pot for this, and always recycle after it's been used

- string



- 1 Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl



- 2 Add the fat and give it a good mix around

- 3 Choose your feeder



plaster all over a pine cone



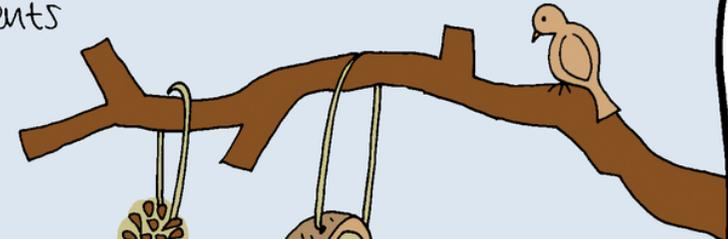
put it round the inside of a coconut shell



press into a yoghurt pot

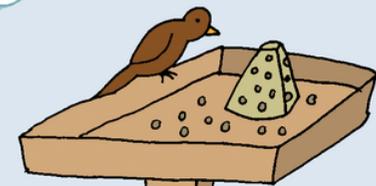
You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake

- 4 Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)



Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help

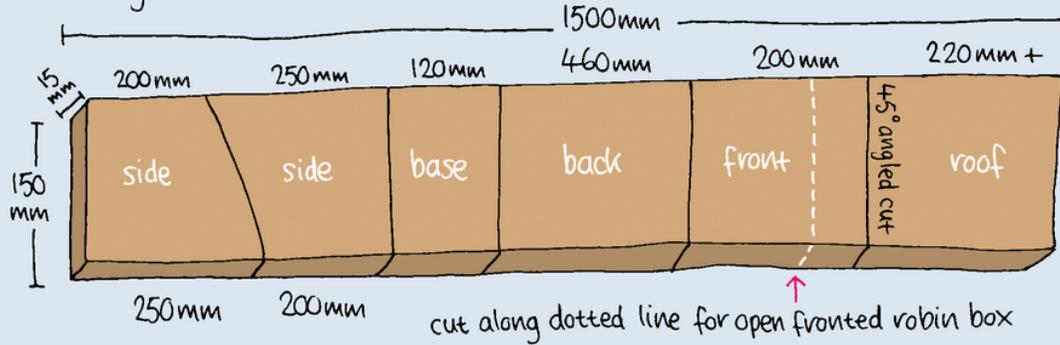




# How to make a nest box

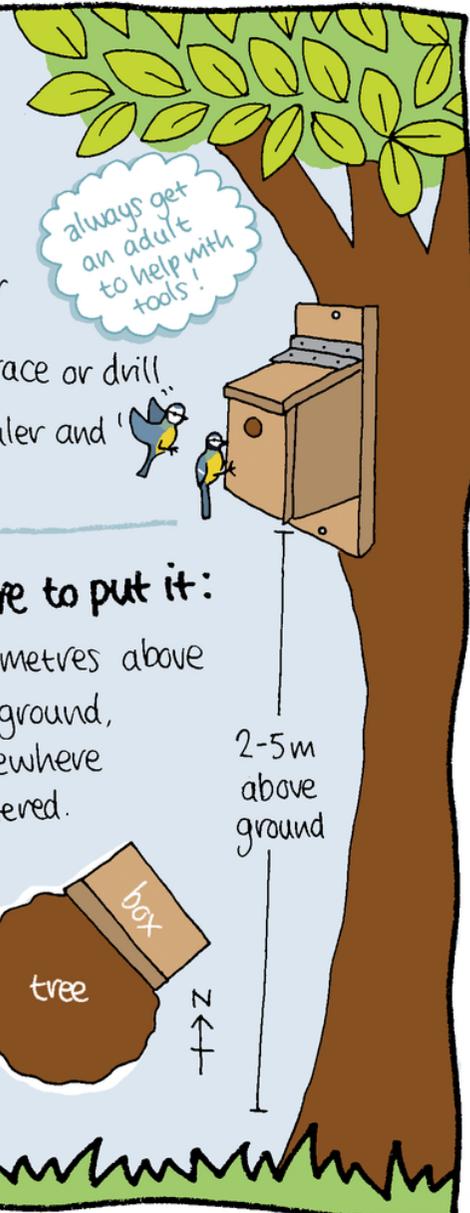
## What you need:

- rough cut timber
- some old rubber or a hinge
- 20mm nails
- tools:



- ▶ saw
- ▶ hammer
- ▶ hand brace or drill
- ▶ pencil, ruler and scissors

always get an adult to help with tools!



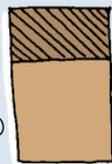
### 1 Mark out and saw panels

Use diagram above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood.

### 2 Choose your box type



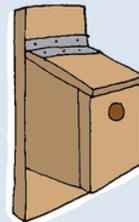
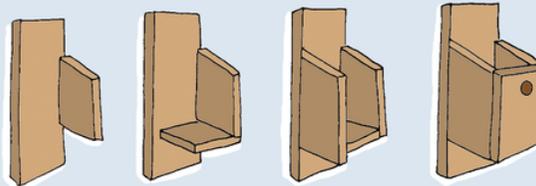
hole fronted box:  
 blue tits (25mm)  
 tree sparrows (28mm)  
 house sparrows (32mm)  
 starlings (45mm)



open fronted box for robins

### 3 Assemble the box

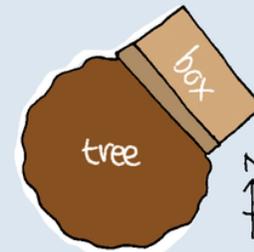
Nail the panels together:



Fix on the roof panel with a hinge or strip of old rubber.

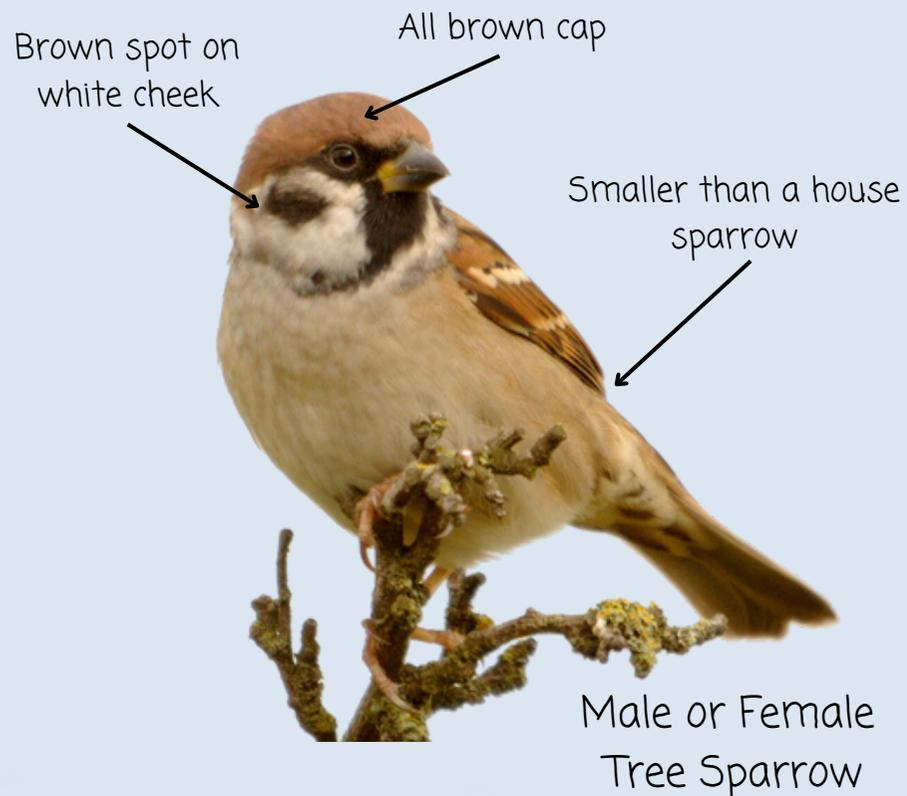
### Where to put it:

2-5 metres above the ground, somewhere sheltered.

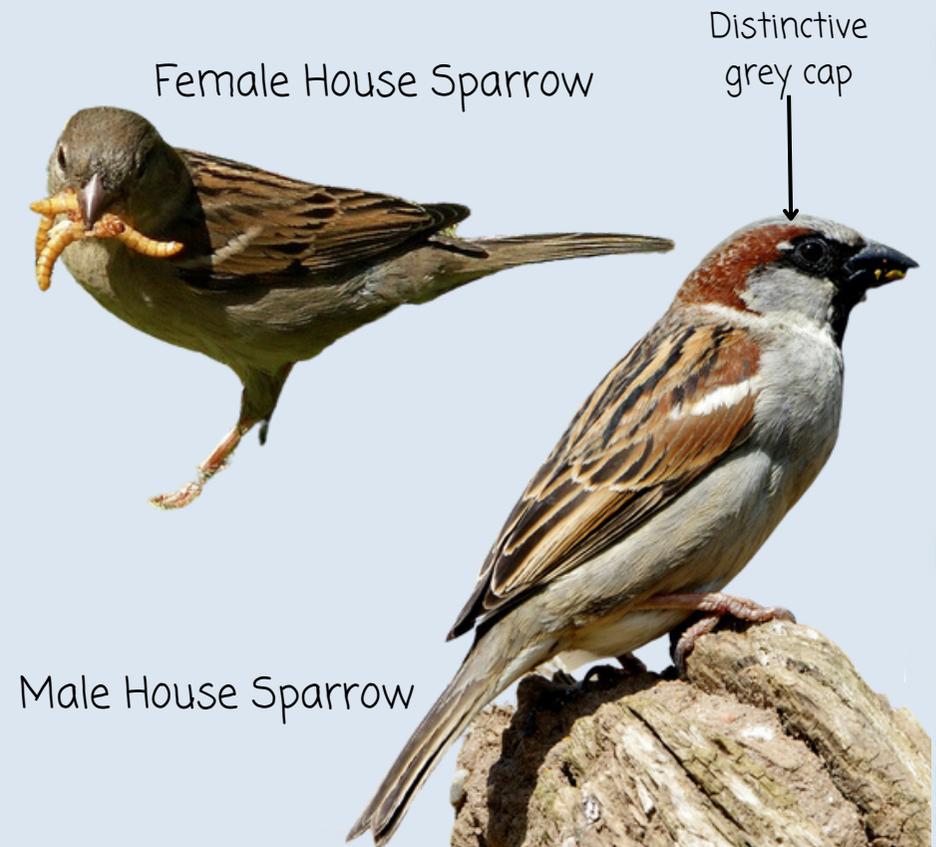


# Save our tree sparrows

- There has been a large decline of tree sparrows regularly sighted in the Isle of Man from 1000 individuals to 6 in last 25 years.
- Contact [rob@mwt.im](mailto:rob@mwt.im) if you think you have spotted a tree sparrow.



- Tree sparrows are often mistaken for the much more common house sparrow.
- House sparrows are frequently seen on bird feeders and in colonies.



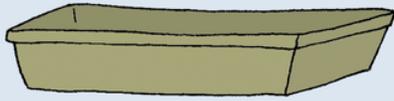
# Make your own nectar bar



No matter how big or small your space, there's lots you can do to help our insects!

## Window box nectar bar

- 1 You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.



- 2 Use peat-free compost in your window box.



- 3 Stock up on pollinator friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Choose from...



Lavender



Thyme



Sage



Early crocus



Oregano



Rosemary

- 4 Water regularly over spring and summer!



## A garden border

- 1 Identify a strip of your garden border that you can keep just for pollinators.

- 2 Dig up any old roots to prepare your border.

- 3 Choose your pollinator friendly plants. We recommend:

Back of border



Borage



Viper's bugloss



Buddleia

Front of border



Oxeye daisy

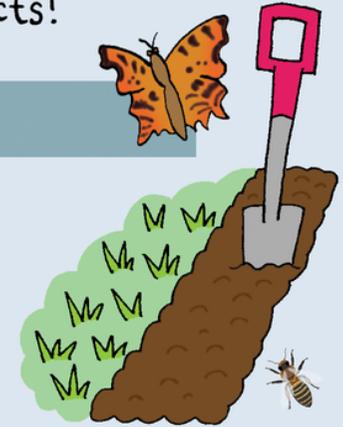


Yarrow



Lupin

- 4 If you have a fence, wall or tree stump grow ivy and honeysuckle against it! Ivy flowers in autumn so is a great source of nectar later in the year.





Remember to share online that you are taking part in the #WilderSchoolAward so that everyone knows you are an important part of #TeamWilderIOM.

Make sure to send photos each of the 5+ activities you complete to [beth@mwt.im](mailto:beth@mwt.im) to receive an official certificate to hang proudly in your school.



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