

LET'S GO
OUTSIDE AND
LEARN



Nesting Birds

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Look out for
signs of
nesting
birds.....

It's now February and the start of the nesting season for many birds. To encourage wildlife into gardens many of us have nesting boxes.

Now is the time to clean out those boxes and remove any old nests, if you haven't already done so, ready for a new incumbent.

Nest shape.

The nests often take up the shape of the boxes. These two old nests were found in nest boxes last month. The blue patches in one are bit of a mystery. It could be that the birds have collected fluff from blue tennis- type balls thrown by dog walkers.



Birds build nests in a variety of shapes, from simple shallow scrapes to cups to elaborate hanging pouches or cave like structures.

The type of nest, size, location and building materials all help to identify the occupants.

Identifying different nests



This loosely built nest was found in the centre of a bay tree resting where the trunk had been sawn off to reduce the height of the tree. It is probably a robin's nest.



Help birds build their nests

One way to help birds during the nesting season is to provide them with nesting materials.

An easy way to do this is to stuff one of the nets that citrus fruits are sold in with a variety of things such as bits of wool or small scraps of material, hair, dry grass, moss, cotton wool, dry leaves, or short lengths of string or garden twine.

These can be hung from a branch or bush in the garden.

