

# Wildlife Explorer Pack Winter Edition!



**Lincolnshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# What's inside?

As the days become shorter and the frost starts to creep in, it can be easy to want to hibernate like our wild friends. That's why we've put together lots of wild activities to get you out exploring and help keep you busy. Although lots of our wild friends may have started to hibernate, many still need a helping hand to make it through the winter months.

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Keep a look out for the QR codes in the pack, scan them to watch 'how to' videos



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# Action for Wildlife

The winter months can be the hardest for our wildlife and this is why it's so important we do all we can to help them. Although we may not see them, they are still there, and every small gesture goes a long way. Whether it's providing a regular clean water source, or leaving out food that may otherwise go to waste.

## Did you know?

Some birds stand on one leg to keep warm. This means they can tuck the other up among their feathers and alternate them to stay toasty.

To find out more about winter birds head over to page 25

# How to care for Winter Wildlife

Whether you have a garden, a balcony, or local green space nearby, there are lots of small simple actions you can do to help wildlife this wintertime.

It's not too late to put up a bird box. Although they may not use it to breed it may still give much needed shelter.

Be sure to stock up on bird feeders, make your own pinecone feeders or if you have a cat-free garden you can ground feed. Ground feeding attracts birds such as robins and blackbirds and is easy to do, go to page 10 to find out more.

Make or buy a bug house to help our overwintering insect friends hibernate through winter.

Leaving designated leaf, branch or log piles can provide safe shelters for wildlife such as hedgehogs, frogs and even grass snakes over winter.

If the weather is mild, there may still be mammals such as hedgehogs looking for safe spots to hibernate. Why not think about making your own hedgehog hideaway?

Alongside food, birds and other wildlife need access to clean water. It could be a bird bath or shallow dish. As the temperature drops be sure to clear any ice away by breaking it.

Mammals such as badgers do not hibernate over winter and often struggle to find steady food sources. Therefore, leaving out left over food such as cooked meat, peanuts or fruit will be really appreciated by wildlife!



# Make a Christmas wreath for birds

## You will need:

- Pines cones



- Long twigs



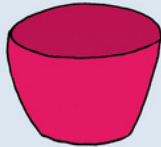
- Garden wire



- Soft lard



- Mixing bowl



- Holly and other leaves



- Bird seed, breadcrumbs and grated cheese



- Dried fruits or unsalted nuts



1 Twist together bundles of long twigs and fasten with wire into a ring.

2 Squish lard into a soft paste in a bowl. Mix in bird seed, breadcrumbs or grated cheese.



3 Smear over pine cones and decorate with dried fruits and nuts.

Make sure there's a clean supply of water nearby



4 Attach the cones to the ring with twisted wire.

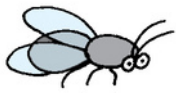
5 Decorate with festive greenery and hang up your wreath.

Somewhere to hang your wreath



If you want to avoid using lard, you can use coconut oil, or peanut butter. Both of which are healthy fats that are safe for birds to eat.



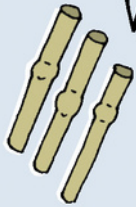


# How to Make an insect hotel



## the express way!

### What you need:



- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks



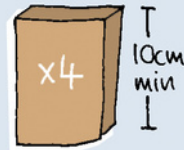
- string

- 1 Collect handfuls of stems, twigs and sticks.
- 2 Tie the bundles quite tightly in two places.
- 3 Post into a hedge / bush or hang in a sheltered place.

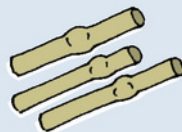


## the deluxe way!

### What you need:



- Small logs or untreated timber

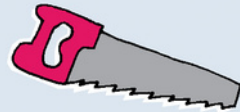


- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks

### An adult to help with tools:



- woodsaw



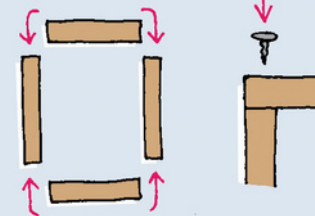
- nails and hammer or screwdriver and wood screws



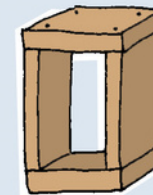
- drill and 5mm wood bit



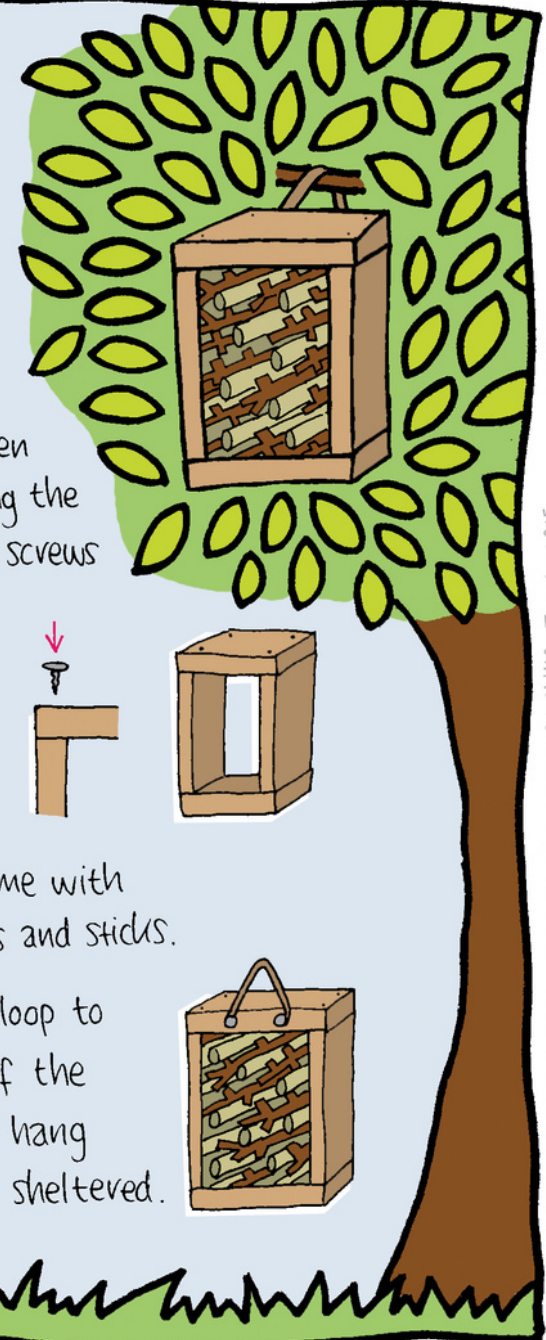
- 1 Make a wooden frame, fixing the wood with screws or nails.



- 2 Fill the frame with stems, twigs and sticks.



- 3 Fix a wire loop to the back of the frame and hang somewhere sheltered.







# 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

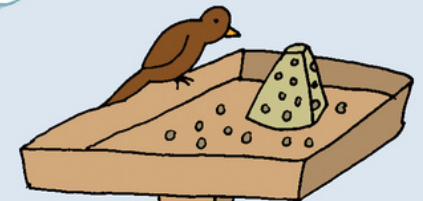
You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake

- 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



If you want to avoid using lard, you can use coconut oil, or peanut butter. Both of which are healthy fats that are safe for birds to eat.



# Go on a litter pick or beach clean

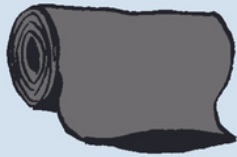
## You will need:

- an adult helper
- a group of friends (optional but useful!)

- thick gardening gloves



- strong bin bags



- brightly coloured clothes (for visibility near roads)



- suitable footwear (sturdy boots for rocky beaches)



Ask an adult to take you on a litter pick or beach clean.

Ask an adult if you're not sure whether to pick something up.

## Things to avoid

- broken glass
- sharp objects
- dog poo bags
- anything dirty or dangerous
- large or heavy rubbish
- bottles of liquid



Try not to overfill bags to avoid splitting.



You could try separating litter into different bags for recycling.

cigarette butts



bits of plastic



empty cans



crisp packets or wrappers



carrier bags



fishing net



paper



empty bottles





# How to help birds avoid windows

## You will need:

- card  A4
- black marker pen 
- scissors 
- thread or fishing line 
- suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape



You can find these on most shower puffs.

- 1 Sketch a large bird shape on your card, and colour it in with your black pen. Cut it out.



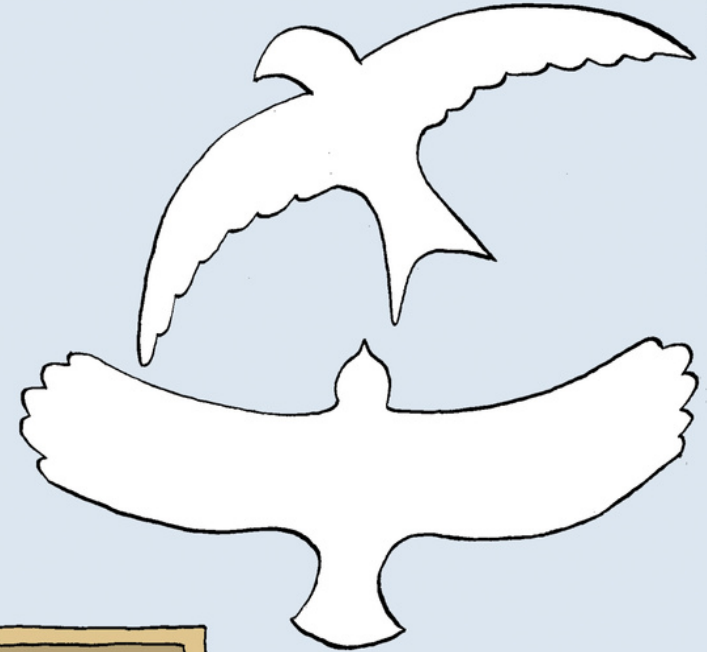
- 2 Make a small hole in the top of the bird and tie it onto a short thread.



- 3 Hang the bird outside a window to break up reflections on the glass. It will also move in the wind.



## Some shapes to try:



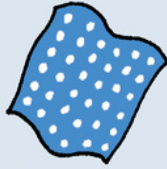
Attach with a suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape.

# Make beeswax wraps



## You will need

- 100% cotton fabric (washed and dried)



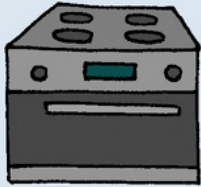
- Beeswax pellets



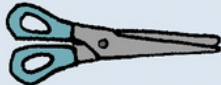
- Paint brush (new)



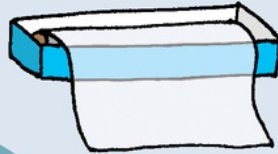
- Oven and baking tray



- Scissors or pinking shears



- Baking parchment



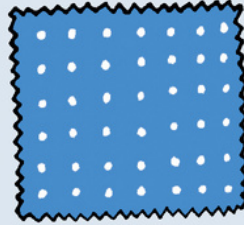
Don't forget to get an adult to help you



Reduce your use of plastic by making beeswax wraps for your food...

- 1 Cut your fabric to the size you want to make the wrap.

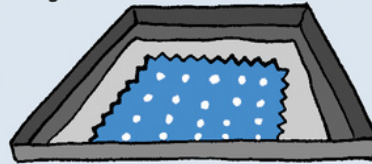
30cm x 30cm is a good size for wrapping your sandwiches!



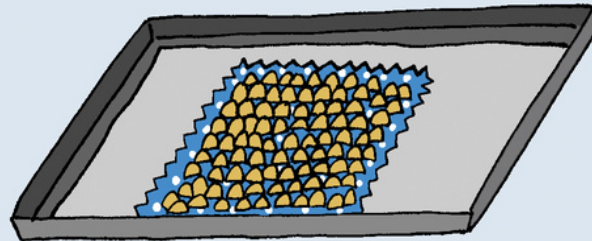
Pinking shears make a zig zag cut which helps prevent fraying

- 2 Preheat the oven to 85°C. Next, place your fabric on top of a sheet of baking parchment on a baking tray.

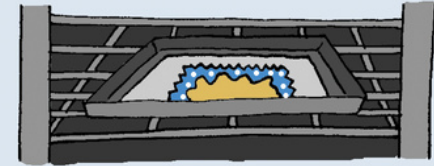
85°C



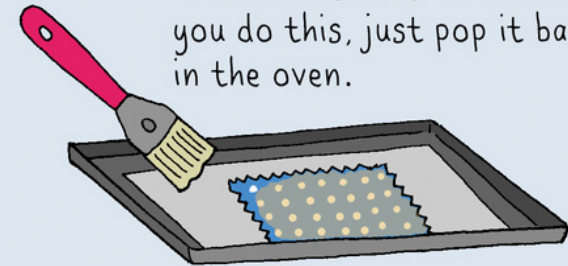
- 3 Spread beeswax pellets over the fabric... make sure they are equally distributed.



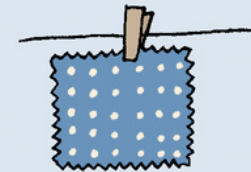
- 4 Pop the tray in the oven. Keep watching and take it out when the beeswax has melted, make sure it doesn't burn!



- 5 Use your paint brush to smooth the wax over the whole wrap. If the wax starts to harden as you do this, just pop it back in the oven.



- 6 Remove your wrap from the tray and hang up to dry – it shouldn't take long to set.



Avoid wrapping meat



# feeding ground-feeding birds

Some birds prefer to look for their food on the ground.

If a bird is called "soft-billed" it means their beaks are soft, so they prefer soft food, and can't crack open seeds and nuts. Birds like the song thrush look for snails, slugs and worms; and the dunnock, a secretive little brown bird, picks its way through the undergrowth looking for tiny insects and other minibeasts.

## How you can help...

- You can buy special "soft-billed" food, which often contains dried egg, small insects, including dried mealworms, fruit and seeds.
- Scatter the food on your lawn, or use a ground feeding tray (see box).
- Cut apples in half and place them on the ground. Spread them out in your garden because blackbirds and robins are very territorial.



## A ground feeding tray

Instead of scattering food on grass, you can make a special tray...

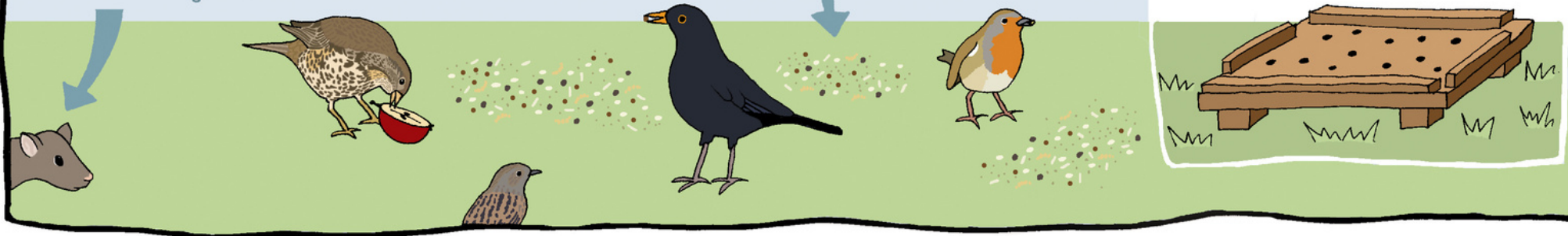
- It must be made of sturdy material, like wood, otherwise it will move or blow away.
- You need to add edges to stop the seed spreading.
- Add draining holes to prevent the food going mouldy, and remember to keep the tray clean and dry.
- If you fix it to little legs, no more than 10cm off the ground, it will be easier to move around.



Only put a little down at a time, otherwise you might find you are feeding rats!

Watch out for predators like sparrowhawks and cats – never feed in an open space or too close to shrubs. Some cover nearby is good though so birds can retreat if in danger.

Move the area where you put food down each day to prevent diseases building up.





# How to clean bird feeders

## You will need

- Rubber gloves
- Cold/warm water
- Veterinary disinfectant

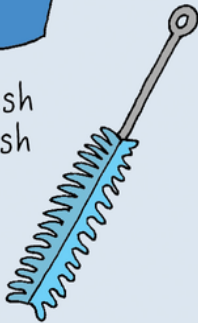


Only use disinfectant suitable for use with animals. A good version is available from [vinehouse farm.co.uk](http://vinehousefarm.co.uk)

- Bucket

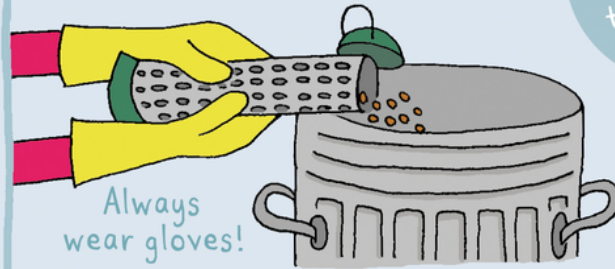


- Bird feeder brush or a bottle brush



Make sure you clean your feeders outside – don't bring them inside!

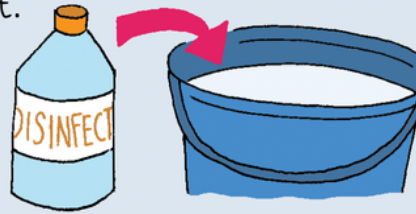
- 1 Empty all food in the feeder into an outside bin.



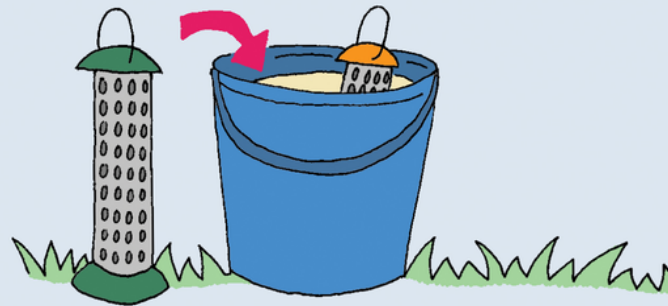
Always wear gloves!

Ideally clean every two weeks

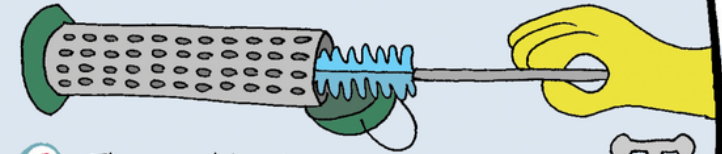
- 2 Following instructions on the bottle, mix the disinfectant with cold/warm water to make up a cleaning solution in the bucket.



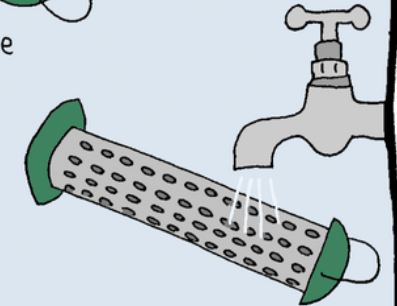
- 3 Soak your feeders in the bucket of cleaning solution.



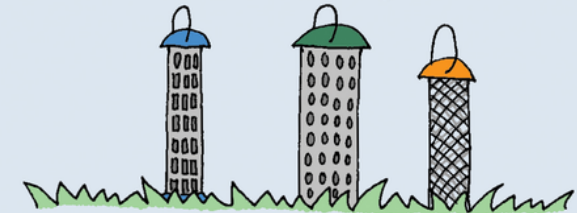
- 4 Use the brush to scrub the feeders until clean.



- 5 Thoroughly rinse in cold water (preferably from an outside tap).



- 6 Leave the feeders to dry outside.




- 7 Wash your hands and forearms after removing your gloves.




# How to make your own compost

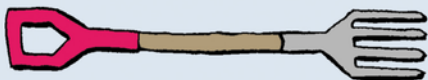
## You will need:

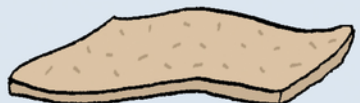
- a shady spot where a heap will stay moist

- some old bricks 

- long sticks or branches 

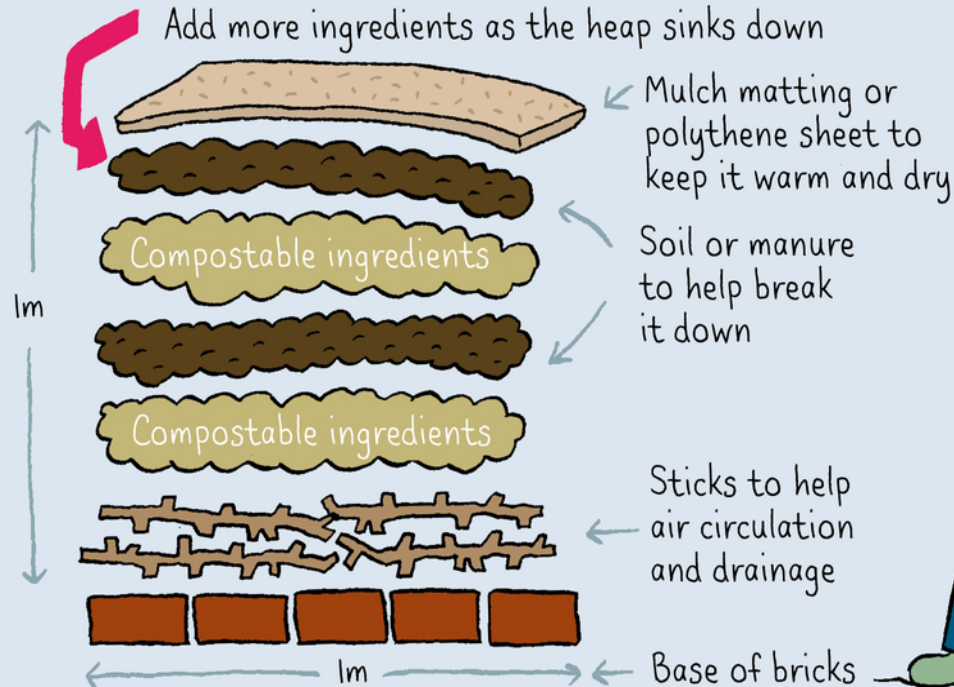
- soil or manure 

- gardening fork 

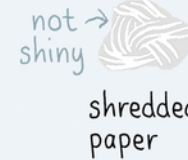
- a piece of mulch matting or polythene sheet 

- compostable ingredients!

Save up enough ingredients for a week or two until you have enough to build a heap in one day.



Wait at least 3 months and turn the heap once with a garden fork



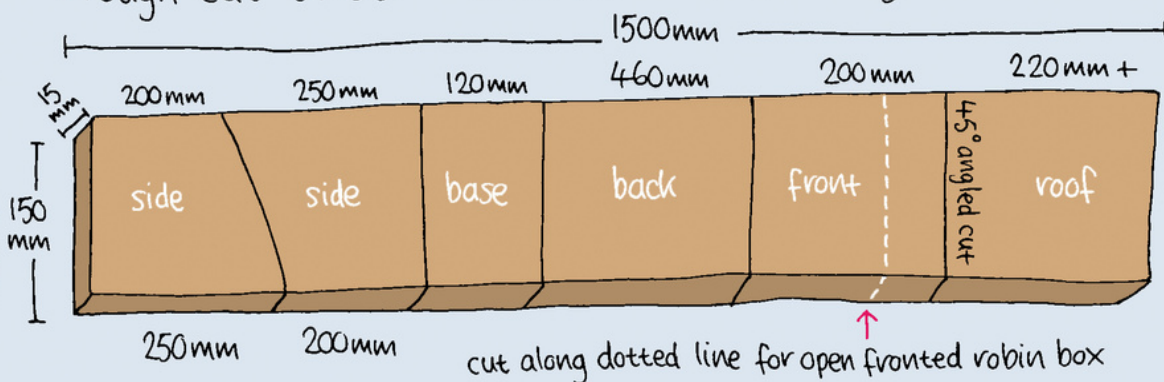




# How to make a nest box

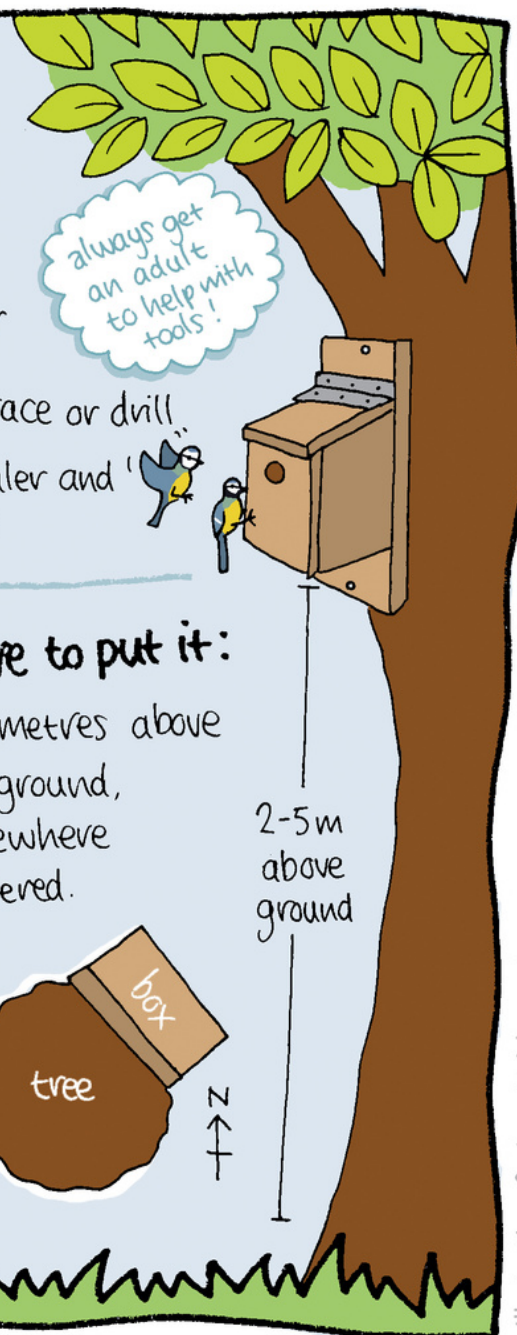
## What you need:

- 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.

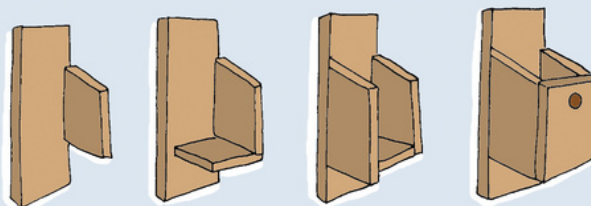
### 2 Choose your box type



hole fronted box:  
 blue tits (25mm)  
 great tits (28mm)  
 sparrows (38mm)  
 starlings (45mm)

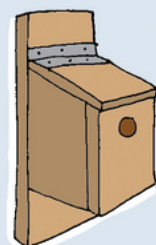


open fronted box for robins



### 3 Assemble the box

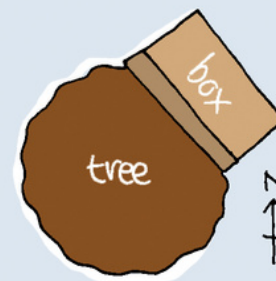
Nail the panels together:



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.





# Wildlife Discovery

There's still so much to spot during wintertime, we may just have to look a little bit harder! Winter walks can feel magical with touches of frost, crisp winter air and the bare trees uncovering secret wildlife hideaways. Although much of our local wildlife may have hunkered down, there are lots of new visitors coming for their winter holidays to the UK. So, what are you waiting for, get wrapped up and pull on your wellies, it's time to begin your wild winter!

## Did you know?

There are around 4,000 different species of bird that regularly migrate. This is about 40% of the total number of birds in the world.

To find out what migration is head over to page 23



Lincolnshire  
Wildlife Trust

# Make your own wind vane

## You will need:

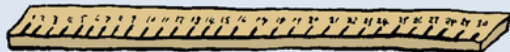
- a helpful adult
- garden cane
- long nail, metal washer and hammer



- piece of wood



- ruler



- saw



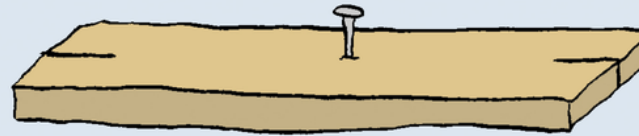
- old aluminium food tray or strong card



- scissors and glue

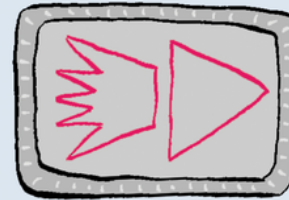


- 1 Saw a vertical slit at each end of the piece of wood.



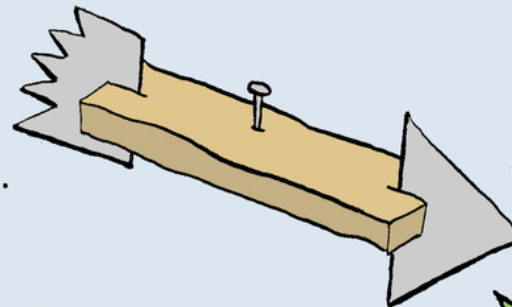
Hammer the nail through the midpoint of the wood, and spin the wood to make sure it turns freely on the nail.

- 2 Cut out a head and tail from the aluminium tray or cardboard.



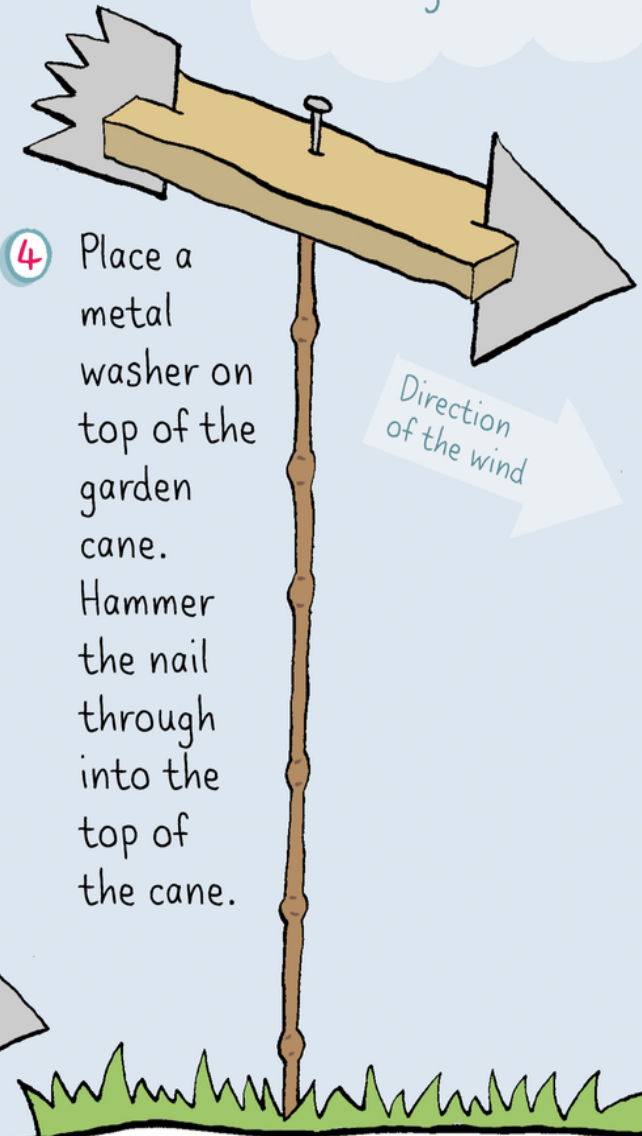
Be careful of sharp edges - ask an adult to cut the aluminium tray.

- 3 Glue into slots and leave to dry.



Choose a windy area for your vane.

- 4 Place a metal washer on top of the garden cane. Hammer the nail through into the top of the cane.





# How to make a bird hide

## What you need:

- old sheet or blanket (dark ones are best)



- one long and two short branches or poles



- string



- clothes pegs



- cushions



- warm clothes

- snacks



- bird feeders and food

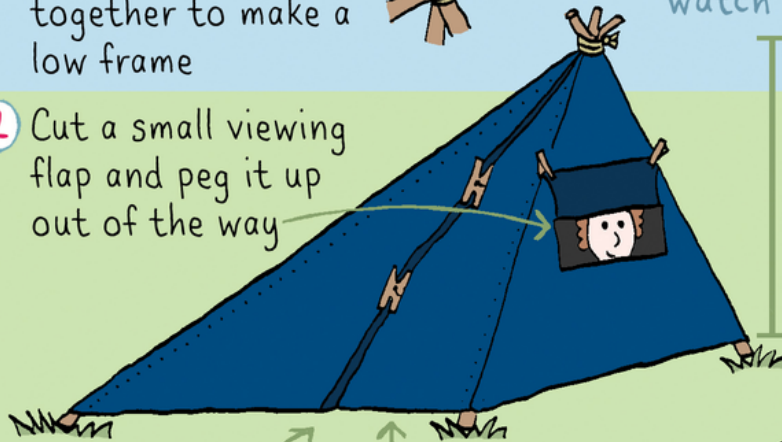


- binoculars (optional)

- 1 Lash the three poles together to make a low frame



- 2 Cut a small viewing flap and peg it up out of the way



Wear warm clothes, watch and wait...

- 3 Cover with a blanket and peg in place

- 4 Stock your hide with comfy cushions, a drink and snacks



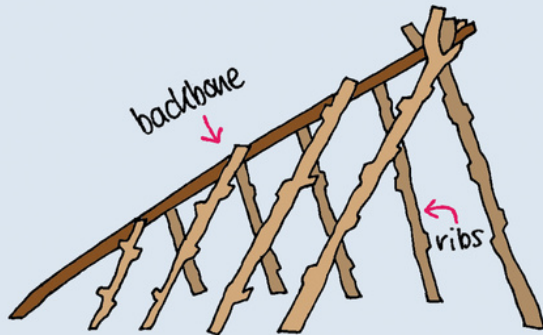
Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

# How to build a survival shelter

Have fun making your own survival shelter in the woods

- 1 Choose what kind of shelter to make:

## Sloping A-frame shelter



Use two shorter Y-shaped branches to hold up a long straight pole

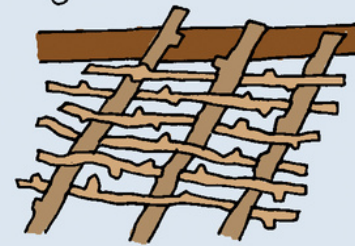
## A tent-shaped shelter



Find two trees fairly close together to rest a strong, straight branch between

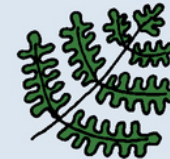
make sure there are no lumps or bumps on the ground

- 2 Add the ribs: Collect straight branches and line them up along the length of your shelter.



Then add some twiggy branches, weaving them between ribs to create a mesh.

- 3 Next add material to make it waterproof: work from bottom to top using whatever you can find on the ground.



Bracken is great but wear gloves before picking it



That's it! Now just crawl in and enjoy...

Remember: always take someone with you and let an adult know where you are going





# How to go stargazing

Read up on all the super interesting mythology and folklore surrounding the stars in our sky!



You don't need a telescope to see the beauty of the night sky...

## How to prepare

- 1 The first step is making sure to dress appropriately. It can get really cold at night so go wild with the layers!
- 2 Don't forget the essentials. You'll need something to lie on, like a picnic blanket, and also a compass so you know which way you're looking.
- 3 The non-essentials will make it an extra special evening: take a flask of hot chocolate and some snacks too. You could even take out a sketchpad, so you can draw what you see.
- 4 If you have a smartphone, download a stargazing app to help you pinpoint constellations. Remember to turn it, and any other lights, off when you're ready to stargaze. It takes some time for your eyes to adjust to the darkness.



## What to look out for

- 1 Watching the sunset is a magical start to any stargazing adventure.
- 2 If you're really lucky you might see a shooting star - don't forget to make a wish!
- 3 Look for constellations. One of the classics is Orion's Belt. Look towards the southwest and try to spot three bright stars close together, and then two stars to the north and to the south.
- 4 Canis Major (it means greater dog in Latin) is another constellation to look out for and is found down and to the left of Orion's Belt. It should be easy to spot as it includes Sirius, the brightest star in the sky!
- 5 Keep an eye out for satellites. These will be slowly moving across the sky and not flashing.



Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2022



# My street tree

Have you ever stopped to have a good look at your nearest garden or street trees? What sort are they? How old? Are they important for wildlife? Do birds roost or nest in them?

## You will need:

- Sheet of blank paper and clipboard
- Extra paper and crayons
- Magnifying glass or bug pot
- Minibeast ID chart or book
- Tape measure (optional)
- Leaf spotting sheet or other tree ID chart



1 Draw your tree in the middle of your paper. Use a leaf spotting sheet to help identify it.

2 Stick a fallen leaf on the paper, or do a rubbing using paper and crayons.

3 Use a magnifying glass, pot or pooter to check out the minibeasts living on your tree.

4 How thick is its trunk? Can you measure it at chest height with a tape measure? Can you hug it?

5 Does your tree have plenty of healthy leaves and soil around its trunk?

6 What other wildlife is living in the tree? Put all your findings on your tree drawing.

DATE: 17 June 2018

MY TREE: Oak

LOCATION: outside my school

HEIGHT: half the height of school

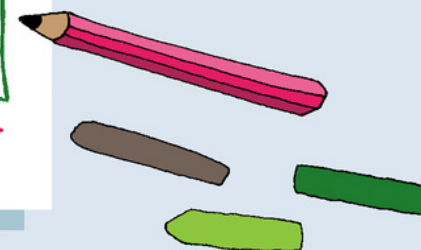


### MINIBEASTS:

- 1 green caterpillar
- 2 woodlice
- 2 ladybirds
- lots of aphids
- 2 spiders

bark rubbing

VERDICT: I think my tree is healthy







# Discover animal tracks and signs

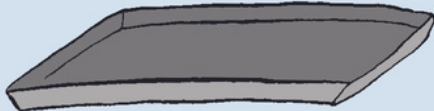
 <p>Look for animal footprints in mud, sand or snow.</p>	 <p>Owls spit out bits (pellets) of their prey they can't digest.</p>	 <p>Look for pine cones that have been stripped by hungry squirrels.</p>	 <p>Molehills are signs that moles are nearby</p>
 <p>Look under hedges and in banks for rabbit holes.</p>	 <p>Birds shed their feathers when they are damaged.</p>	 <p>If the trail is continuous, it's a slug. If broken, it's a snail.</p>	 <p>Mammals can leave flattened grass in their tracks.</p>
 <p>Animal fur can get caught on barbed wire and fences.</p>	 <p>Look for hedgehog poo with bits of beetles in it.</p>	 <p>Nests are a surefire sign that birds are breeding. Hooray!</p>	 <p>Song thrushes leave behind broken snail shells after meals.</p>



# How to make an animal footprint trap

## You will need:

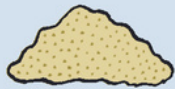
- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



- water



- low-sided dish



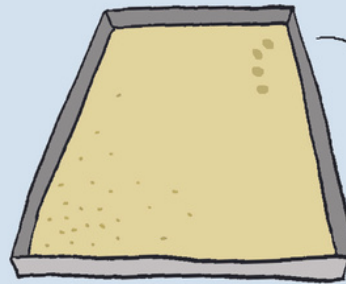
- meaty cat or dog food



- footprint ID guide

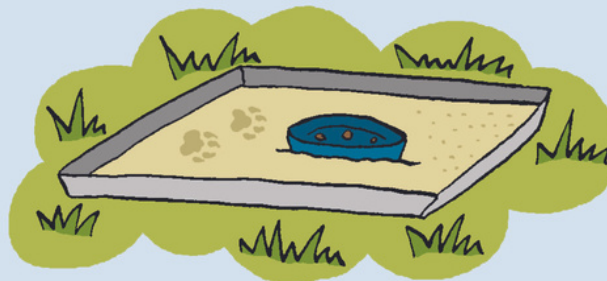


- 1 Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.

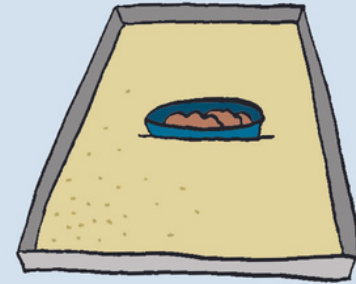


Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

- 3 Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



- 2 Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



hedgehog



fox



cat



bird



squirrel

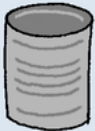


Nature is full of great opportunities in turning natural objects into musical instruments...

## Maracas

### You will need

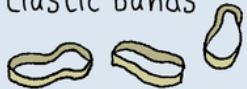
- An empty, clean tin can (with the label removed)



- A balloon



- Elastic bands



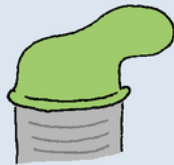
- A handful of seeds, rice, lentils, nuts or small stones



- 1 Put your loose materials into your tin can.

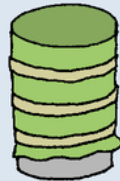


- 2 Stretch the balloon over the open end of the tin.



Be careful of sharp edges.

- 3 Once in place, secure it with elastic bands.



- 4 Give it go - shake your maraca!



## Grass whistle

### You will need

- A wide blade of grass



- Your two thumbs



- 1 Hold the grass taut between your thumbs.



- 2 Blow into the gap between your thumbs until you hear a whistle.

If you don't hear anything at first, try re-positioning the grass between your thumbs. Don't worry - it can take a bit of practice!



Scan me with your phone camera



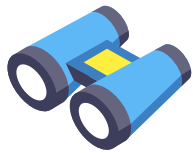
# Night Time Nature

It may be dark earlier, but dusk and night time can be brilliant times to spot nocturnal species that we may struggle to see in the day. Be sure to get yourself wrapped up, armed with a torch and get out exploring!



## Step outside and listen

Whether it's outside your door, in the garden or a local park, take time out to listen for nocturnal wildlife like owls, foxes and even deer. Tawny owls call more in winter than at other times of year. Listen for the familiar 'twit-twoo'.



## Take binoculars if you have them

or just look with your eyes and notice the detail of the craters on the moon or learn to identify some star constellations – Orion's Belt and The Plough are both good ones to start with. Some birds navigate by the stars, could you do this?

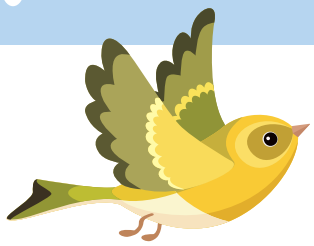


## Try switching off your torch to see how dark it is

Close your eyes and see what you can hear, smell, and touch. Imagine being a fox or badger, how would you navigate your way around your settings, what would you look out for?







# Winter Migration



## What is migration

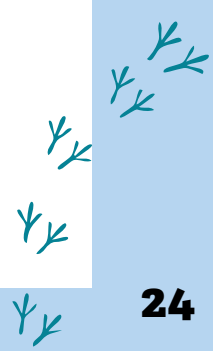
- The word migration means when animals move from one part of the world to another and come back again.
- When we think of migration we tend to think of birds, most of which migrate twice a year.
- Birds tend to migrate to places that are warm, have more available food sources, and are safer for breeding.
- Birds follow the same route of migration every year.



## Did you know?



Birds are known to use lots of different ways to navigate, from using landmarks such as rivers to using the stars, the sun, smell and even the earth's magnetic field.



# Winter Waterfowl spotting

There are lots of different species of ducks, geese and swans with winter being the best time to spot them. Find out more about them below and keep a look out for them the next time you're out exploring!



Canada goose

Look out for: black head with white cheek patch



Egyptian goose

Look out for: vibrant colours and brown eye patch



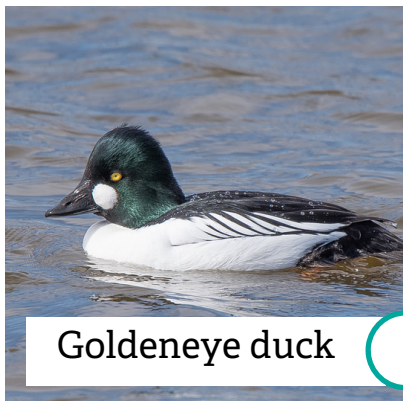
Greylag goose

Look out for: pale grey feathers, pink legs and orange beak



Barnacle goose

Look out for: no brown feathers unlike Canada goose



Goldeneye duck

Look out for: green head with a white cheek and yellow eyes



Shoveler

Look out for: their flat, shovel shaped bill



Mallard

Look out for: males shiny green head and curly tail feather



Whooper swan

Look out for: more yellow on its bill







# Murmurations

## What are murmurations?

A 'murmuration' is the name for a flying flock of starlings. During the winter large numbers of starlings visit Britain from other countries because the climate here is warmer. Each evening starlings set off for their roosts where they spend the night. As they do this flocks arrive from all directions, gathering in the sky above the roost sites. The numbers can reach the hundreds of thousands. The 'murmurations' take on incredible shapes in the sky - you'll know if you spot one!

## How do they do this?

When one bird changes direction, the seven closest birds also change direction. The whole flock keeps flying as one, like a giant three-dimensional Mexican wave.

## Where to see them?

Pick a clear, crisp evening at dusk for your best chance of seeing them.



To watch a real murmuration, scan this QR.





# Woodland wildlife in winter



Brambling



Robin



Coal tit



Holly



Wren



Woodcock



Jelly ear fungi



Siskin



Fox



Goldcrest





# Festive wildlife detective



A red-legged partridge  
(pear tree optional)



Two collared doves



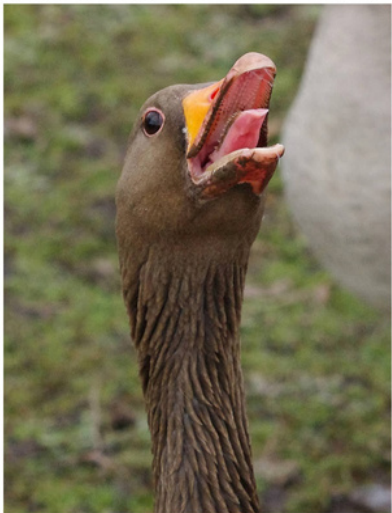
Three pheasant hens



Four calling birds



Five cold things



Six geese-a-braying



Seven swans-a-swimming



Eight glades-a-tinkling



Nine red deer prancing

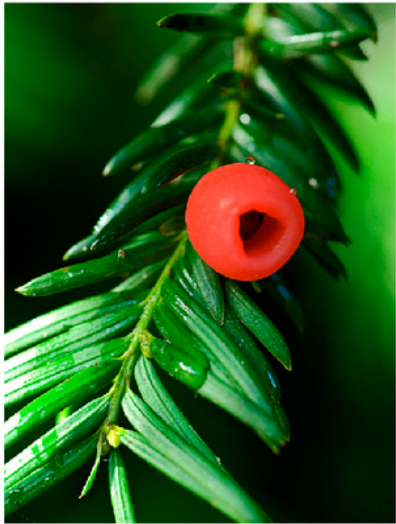


Ten paws-a-creeping





# Winter nuts and berries



Yew berries



Acorns



Ivy berries



Conkers



Rose hips



Beech nuts



Holly berries



Crab apples



Rowan berries



Hawthorn berries






# Wild Crafts and Cooking

Winter foraging can be slightly trickier, but don't worry there are lots of other ways you can help your local wildlife, including getting crafty. Christmas is the perfect time to get arty and cut down on lots of unnecessary waste and plastic. This could be by making your own festive decorations to homemade gifts, all using naturally found materials or environmentally friendly alternatives.

## Did you know?

Pine needles and seeds are a fantastic source of vitamin C and can be made into a tea to help soothe a cold.



To find out how to use pinecones to make your own pine cone creatures head over to page 35

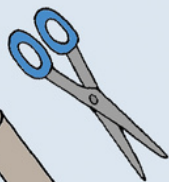
# How to make eco-crackers

## You will need

- Brown paper or recyclable wrapping paper (A4 size)



- Scissors



- Toilet roll tube



- Cracker snaps



- Double-sided tape



- Ruler



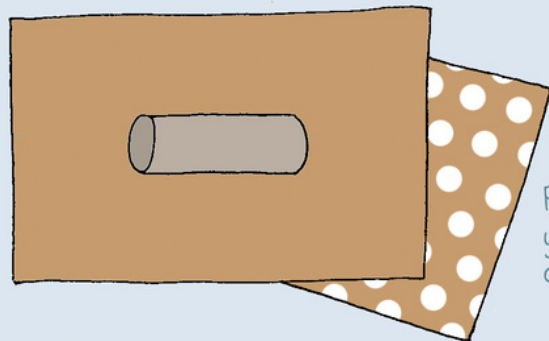
- String



- Plastic-free goodies to go inside!

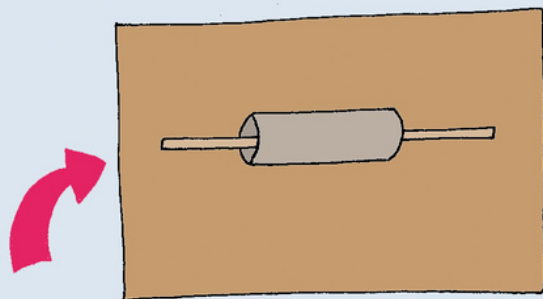


- 1 Put your toilet roll tube in the middle of your paper, as shown:



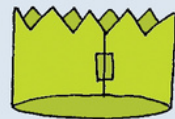
Paint or print your own pattern on brown paper

- 2 Put a cracker snap through the middle of the tube along with any eco-friendly presents you want in your cracker. Perhaps you could handwrite a joke or a wildlife fact!



Make a paper hat to fold up and put in your cracker

How do bees get to school?  
By school buzz!



- 3 Roll the paper around the tube and secure using tape.



- 4 Twist the paper at one end of your cracker carefully and then secure it with string. Repeat this for the other end of your cracker too.



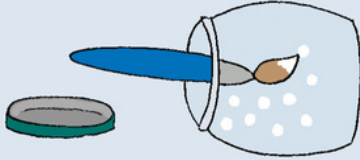



# Make a glitter-free snow globe


## You will need


- A glass jar with a lid 
- Unused small Christmas decorations 
- Craft glue 
- White tissue paper, cotton wool or moss 
- White paint and long brush 
- Decorations from nature
  - Twigs 
  - Pine cones 
  - Holly leaves 
  - Acorns 

Traditionally, glitter is made up of shiny microplastics that are really damaging to the environment and animals, especially in our seas. Try this glitter-free snow globe for an eco-friendly alternative!

- 1 Paint tiny white dots on the inside of your jar to imitate snow, then put aside to dry. 

- 2 On the inside of your jar lid, glue down crunched-up tissue paper or cotton wool to look like snow, or try dried moss for a natural look. 

- 3 Glue your decorations on top of the 'snow' or moss. This is where you can get creative! 

- 4 Screw your lid back onto the jar, and turn upside down to create a snow globe decoration! 



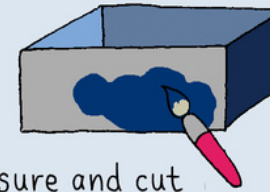


# Make a nature treasure chest

## You will need

- A shoebox with a lid 
- Paint and paint brushes 
- Felt tips or marker pens 
- Decorations – such as silver foil, old sweet wrappers, old beads 
- Single and double-sided sticky tape 
- PVA glue 
- Scissors 
- Cardboard from old cereal packets 
- An adult – to help with the fiddly bits!

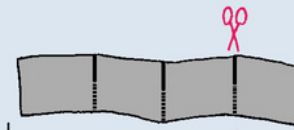
- 1 Paint your shoebox and lid inside and out, and leave this to dry.



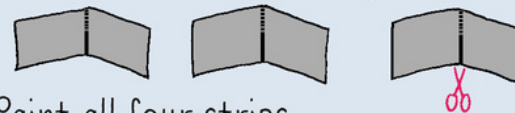
- 2 Make some dividers – measure and cut the following from your cereal packet:



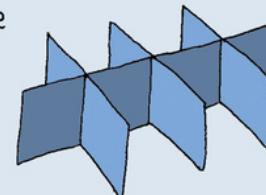
- 3 Fold the long strip in half, and then in half again. Open out and cut halfway up each fold.



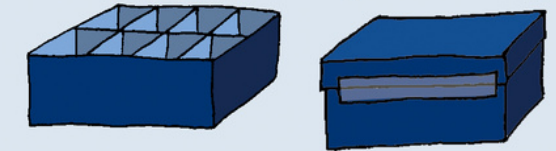
- 4 Fold the short strips in half. Open out and cut halfway up each fold.



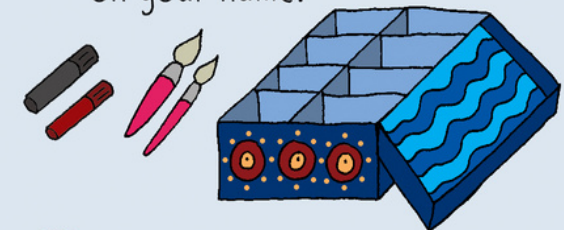
- 5 Paint all four strips then slot the three short strips into the cut folds of the long strip.



- 6 Place the dividers inside your treasure chest. Then put a wide strip of tape along the back of the lid to make a hinge.



- 7 Stick your decorations onto the treasure chest. You could even label the sections or paint on your name.



- 8 Go on an adventure walk to find some natural treasures – think of themes such as items which begin with S, or different objects which are soft, prickly, rough, smooth, shiny, red or smelly!





# Make your own cutlery pouch

## You will need

- Large piece of wool felt (ideally organic)



- Scissors



- Chalk



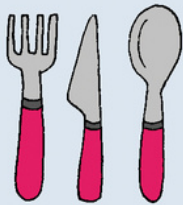
- Tapestry needle



- Thread



- Cutlery set

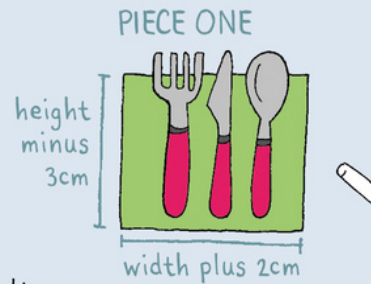


- Chunky button

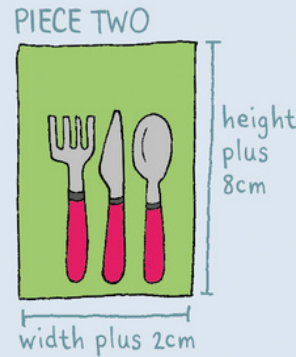
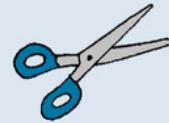


Cut down on using plastic cutlery by carrying your own set with you in this handy pouch.

- 1 Use your cutlery set as a guide to measure out two pieces of felt.

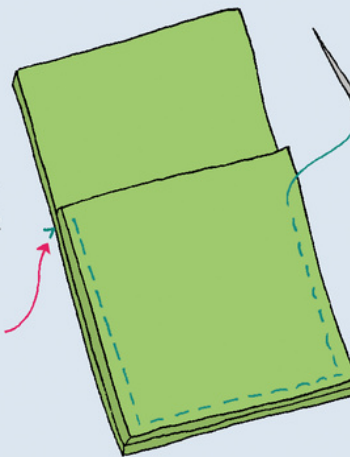


- 2 Cut out the two felt pieces – try to keep the lines as straight as possible!

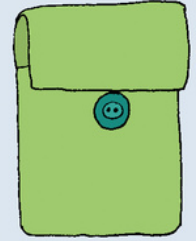


- 3 Lay both pieces of felt on top of each other and sew the along the left, right and bottom of the felt. Turn the felt inside out so that all the seams are hidden inside!

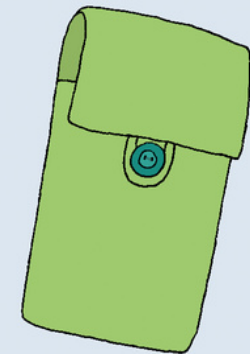
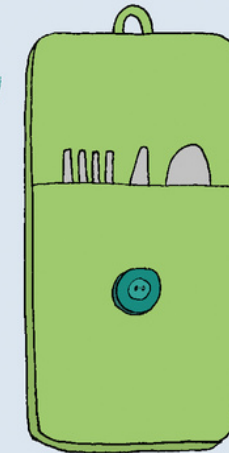
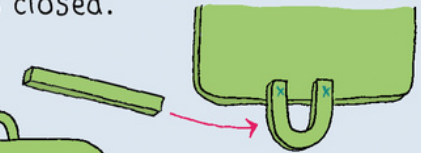
Don't forget to tie a knot at the start and end of sewing.



- 4 Next, put your cutlery in the pouch, and fold over the flap – mark just below where it ends. Sew the button on here (you may need an adult to help with this).



- 5 Cut a thin strip of felt and sew this inside the top of the flap so that it hooks around the button to keep the pouch closed.



# Pine cone creatures

## You will need

- Pinecones

- Craft foam, felt or card

- Scissors

- PVA glue and double-sided sticky tape



- Various things (as many natural as possible) to make your animal, such as:

- Leaves



- Acorn cups



- Berries or googly eyes



Always check what berries are before you pick them because some can be harmful to people!

- 1 Decide what animal you want to make. If you want it to stand, pick a pine cone that will stay upright and make and glue on the feet first.



- 2 Add legs or wings and eyes and ears using the materials you've collected.



PVA should stick most things, but ask an adult to help if you need to use a hot glue gun.

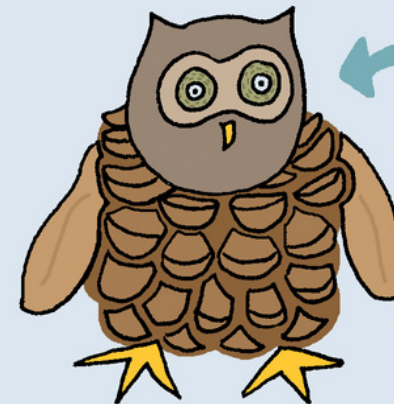
Here are a few examples to get you inspired...



mouse



fox



owl

Acorn cups with berries or googly eyes in the centre make great eyes!







# How to make ice decorations

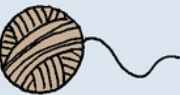
## You will need:


- Saucers 

- Kettle 

- Boiled water that has been allowed to cool 

- Natural items like leaves, feathers, berries and grass 

- String or wool 

- A freezer (if the weather isn't cold enough!) 

- 1 Place your saucers on a flat surface and put the end of your string into the saucer, making sure a long piece is left dangling over the edge.



- 2 Lay natural items in the saucer over the string.



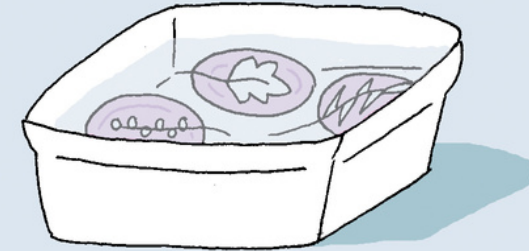
- 3 Gently pour in cooled water (boiling it first helps to remove any bubbles).



- 4 Put the saucers outside on a frosty night (or in the freezer).



- 5 In the morning put the saucers in a tub of cold water to separate the ice.



- 6 Hang them around your garden as decorations.

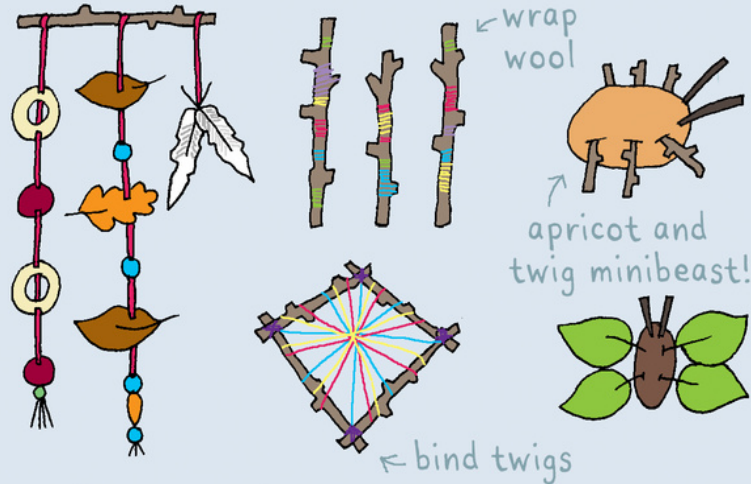


# Decorate a tree

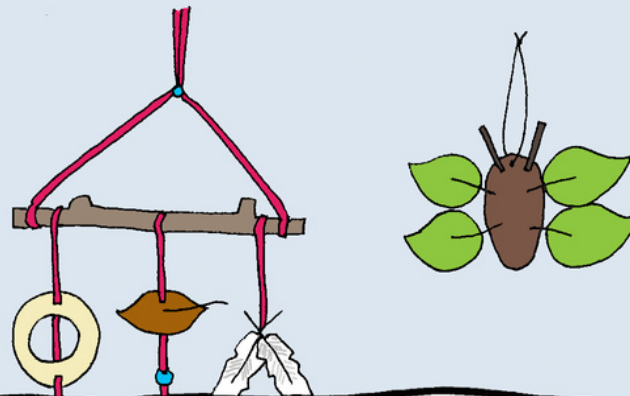
## You will need

- Ribbon or string 
- Scissors 
- Natural objects such as twigs, leaves, dried fruit, feathers 
- Coloured wool and beads 

1 Get creative! Use your natural objects to make decorations.



2 Attach the ribbon or string by either tying it around your decoration or by cutting a hole and threading it through.



3 Find a tree! Use your ribbon or string to attach your decorations to your favourite tree.







# How to make snow-hog biscuits

## Ingredients

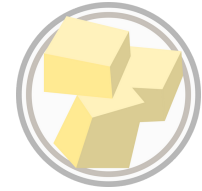
- 150g butter
- 125g sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 300g flour
- 1 pinch of salt

## Decoration

- 1 pack chocolate sprinkles
- Icing sugar or icing pens
- Water

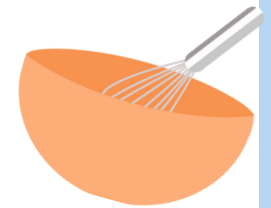


Mix together butter, sugar and vanilla extract. Add the egg, then the flour and salt and knead well until the dough is smooth.



Roll out the dough around 5mm thick and cut circles with a cookie cutter or a glass. Use your fingers to shape the hedgehog's pointy snout.

Bake the cookies on 160-180 degree Celsius for 10-12 minutes until they are golden brown.



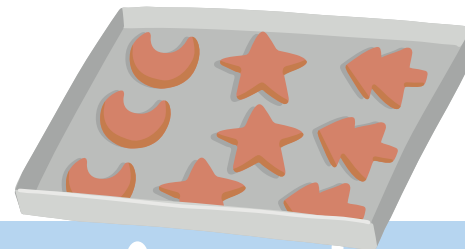
Follow the ingredients on the pack of icing sugar by adding water to the right ratio to make the water icing.



Let them cool until completely cold, then add three dots for the eyes and the snout and ice the back of the body with white icing sugar. Add the sprinkles as spines and your snow-hogs are ready to go!



Always make sure to ask an adult for help when needed



Scan me with your phone camera



# My Wild... ⇒ December ⇐

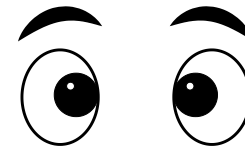


What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month





# My Wild... ➤ January ➤

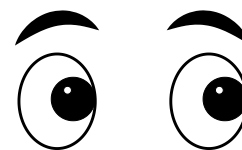


What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month



# My Wild... ⇒ February

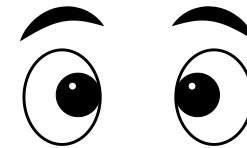


What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month





# Winter Wildlife Wordsearch

Can you find all 12 winter words?

O	R	M	I	G	R	A	T	I	O	N	U
O	N	S	C	M	N	U	S	M	H	A	A
R	N	Y	H	W	R	H	R	W	S	I	S
G	N	A	R	E	O	O	N	A	R	C	T
F	R	O	S	T	H	L	O	M	G	H	A
V	E	R	I	S	T	L	O	W	N	R	R
W	V	S	V	T	W	Y	T	I	F	I	L
O	I	S	O	F	A	I	A	L	N	S	I
O	T	W	A	V	H	R	O	D	O	T	N
D	S	H	A	R	N	T	U	R	I	M	G
L	E	H	W	S	O	R	T	M	V	A	S
A	F	T	O	O	F	O	X	O	R	S	O
N	R	O	B	I	N	H	E	N	O	U	E
D	R	M	W	H	U	S	R	A	N	I	M

Murmuration

Hawthorn

Frost

Snow

Woodland

Christmas

Festive

Starlings

Holly

Migration

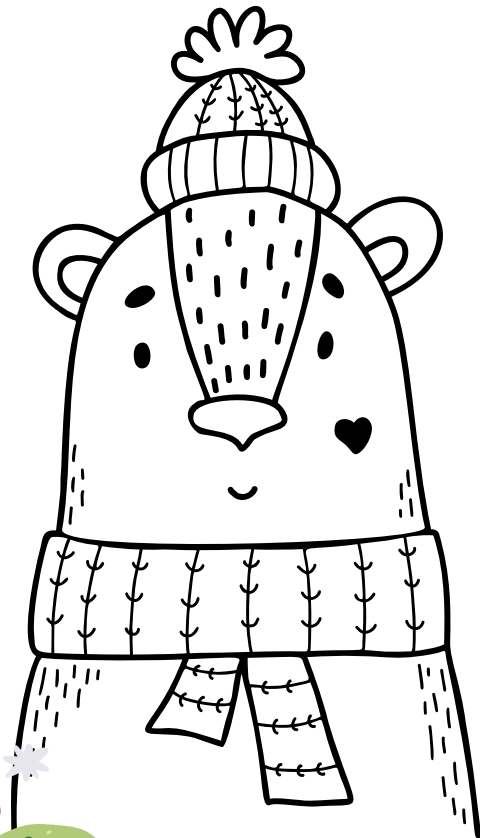
Robin

Fox



Can you unscramble all of the words and add color to the winter woodland creatures?

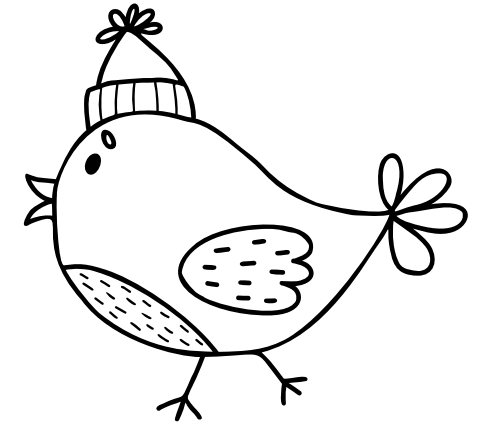
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rabged



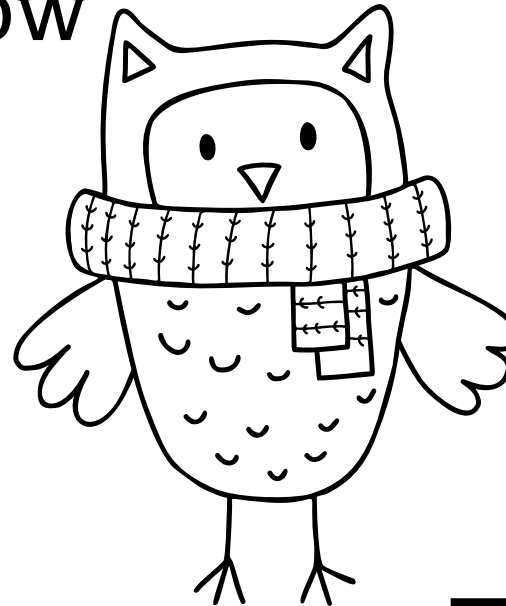
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oxf



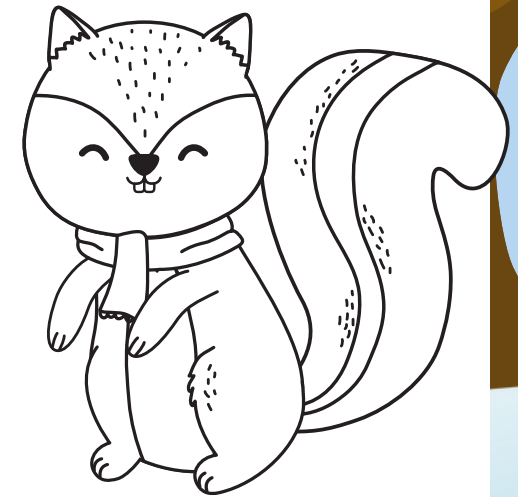
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norib



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low



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qirsurle





# Wildlife Explorer

Winter Edition!

# Pack 2022

## Enjoyed our pack?

We'd love to hear your feedback. Simply scan the QR code which will take you to a short questionnaire. This will help us to make the spring pack even better!

