

Making animal homes and feeders

For birds

Nest boxes

- Nest boxes can be made from wood with different-sized holes and entrances to attract different species.

Feeders

- Feeders can be made from wire mesh and/or wood.
- Seed and fat 'cakes' can be made to fill pots or fir cones.
- Fat mixtures can be painted on card to make edible pictures.

Baths

- Uprturned lids or shallow dishes make good bird baths.



For minibeasts

Homes

- Bundles of hollow bamboo cane lengths make good shelters for lacewings and solitary bees.
- Log, brick or stone piles attract a variety of minibeasts including woodlice, millipedes and spiders.
- Fill a plant pot with straw, then place it upside down on a cane to make a home for earwigs.

Feeders

- Soak cotton wool or colourful scourers in a strong sugar solution and place on a suspended platform to feed butterflies.
- Slowly heat and simmer ale or cola with brown sugar and black treacle. Paint cooled mixture on trees to feed moths.*

For mammals

Homes

- Wooden boxes with a tunnel entrance and ventilation hole can be built for hedgehogs.
- Build a roosting box for bats. These are similar to bird boxes but with the entrance at the base.
- If you put up a bat box, and it is used by a bat, it becomes protected by law at all times – not just when it is occupied, like a bird's nest. Even accidental removal of a box could be an offence according to the amended Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations, 1994.

Feeders

- Hedgehogs can be fed on cat or dog food (but not fish-based) from a shallow dish. Give water to drink from a shallow dish, but never give milk as it can cause digestive problems.

For amphibians

Homes

- Uprturned clay plant pots, or slates laid at an angle make good homes for frogs and toads.

Planting for butterflies

The following flowers will attract butterflies:

Buddleia	Ice plant	Sweet William
Globe thistle	Primrose	Forget-me-nots
Michaelmas daisies	Honeysuckle	Lavender
Campion	Ivy	Busy Lizzies

The following plants make suitable food for the caterpillars of butterflies:

Plant	Butterfly species
Nasturtium	Small White, Large White
Ladies smock	Green Veined White, Orange Tip
Stinging nettles	Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Painted Lady and Peacock

*source: [http://www.mothscount.org/uploads/Moth_Recorders_Handbook-finding_moths_without_moth_traps\(1\).pdf](http://www.mothscount.org/uploads/Moth_Recorders_Handbook-finding_moths_without_moth_traps(1).pdf)