



Grants for Bird and Bat boxes (National Nest Box Week)

Each year the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) runs **National Nest Box Week** from 14th to 21st February. St Valentine's Day marks the start since this is the traditional date when birds pair up for the new breeding season. The aim is to urge everyone with nest boxes to clean them out and check that they are in tip-top condition for the coming breeding season. This is also the very best time to put up new boxes.

Nest Boxes are important for birds and other wildlife - including mammals like bats and hedgehogs and insects like bees and hornets - because modern habitats are often very short of the holes and cavities they need to nest and roost safely.

The Scottish Golf Environment Group (SGEG) have some small grants available to clubs wishing to install bird and or bat boxes on their course.

We have grants of **£100 per club** to contribute towards the purchase or building of these boxes:

To purchase:

To buy bird or bat boxes you are looking in the region of **£20 - £40 each**. You can buy ready-made boxes from: <http://www.bto.org/nnbw/make.htm>

To build your own:

Making boxes is easy and an excellent team activity. The design and materials of a nest box are important since it needs to be well insulated and of the correct dimensions for the birds to be successful. SGEG have included an image below of a Barn Owl box erection at The Duke's course, St Andrews, with special thanks to Ranald Strachan of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (www.fifecoastandcountryside.co.uk).



Barn Owl Box, Positioned by Fife Coast & Countryside Trust at The Duke's Golf Club.

Further details of how to make, install and maintain nest boxes are on the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/nbw/make.htm>

More designs and advice are available for free at:

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/factsheets/nestbox.php#details>

For details on how to make, install and maintain bat boxes:

http://www.bats.org.uk/pages/encouraging_bats.html

If installing bat boxes you need to contact :

Anne Youngman, Scottish Bat Officer, BCT

Scottish Churches House, 1 Kirk Street, Dunblane, FK15 0AJ

Tel:01786 826792 Email: ayoungman@bats.org.uk

Rough guidelines for materials purchasing (you may get a better deal with your local supplier):

- The thickness of the plank should be about 25mm.
- For one standard length 5.1mx140mmx25mm = £17 (Highest quote: softwood /FSC/inc VAT) + stainless steel/galvanized nails - £17.50. **NO** wood preservatives should be used at all – the softwood boxes should last 10years without treatment.
- Hardwood (such as oak or beech) would be more expensive but will last longer, again no wood preservative should be used.
- This 5.1m length would make 4 bat boxes or 3 bird boxes – with some wood remaining.
- Therefore, £100 would buy enough wood at this quote to make at least **22 bat boxes** or at least **17 bird boxes** in softwood.



Requirements of funding:

- We require to see copies of receipts/invoices for boxes or materials purchased
- We require a map/plan of your course detailing where the boxes are being erected
- We would like photographs of the work in progress and after completion.
- If erecting bat boxes we need assurance that you have contacted Anne Youngman and established a monitoring program.
- If possible we would like future updates of the success of your project!

If you wish to receive the **£100 grant** please email Carolyn.hedley@sgeg.org.uk with the following information:

- Name
- Club
- Position at Club
- Contact Details
- Ideas for project

If you wish to discuss further contact Carolyn Hedley or Lynn Jopling on 01334 466477

Or email: info@sgeg.org.uk