

Nesting aids as small-scale structures

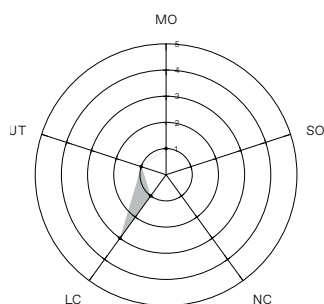
Nesting aids provide important nesting and breeding sites for birds, wild bees, and mammals in urban areas.



Definition

Nesting aids surrogate the increasingly disappearing nesting opportunities on renovated or newly constructed buildings and provide important nesting and breeding sites for birds, wild bees, and mammals.

Site requirements



Moisture (MO)

- 1 Dry
- 2 Fresh
- 3 Moist
- 4 Wet
- 5 Always/part. inundated

Soil (SO)

- 1 Raw soil
- 2 Mineral soil (gravelly)
- 3 Medium humus content
- 4 Rich in humus
- 5 Litter-rich humus (duff)

Nutrient content (NC)

- 1 Very low
- 2 Low
- 3 Moderately low/rich
- 4 Rich
- 5 Very rich

Light conditions (LC)

- 1 Full sun
- 2
- 3 Semi-shade
- 4
- 5 Shade

Utilization (UT)

- 1 Passive nature experience
- 2
- 3 Active utilization temporarily possible
- 4
- 5 Active utilization possible

Principles

Fulfilling these guidelines promotes the biodiversity of this habitat type.

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Structure | Install at a height ideal for target species |
| Maintenance | <p>Once a year cleaning between October and February</p> <p>Clean artificial swallow nests every 2 years</p> <p>Clean swift and jackdaw boxes every 3 to 5 years</p> |
| Utilization | No active use |
| Site | <p>Entry holes of nesting boxes for birds should ideally face east or south-east</p> <p>Sheltered from wind and potentially rain</p> |

Advanced requirements

By fulfilling these requirements, the biodiversity of this habitat type is additionally promoted.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Structure | <p>Nesting aids adapted to focal species</p> <p>Combine nesting aids for different species</p> <p>Install safeguards against unwanted predators, especially invasive predators such as squirrels or cats</p> |
| Minimum size | <p>Avoid territorial competition of species and individuals</p> <p>Ensure density is below thresholds which may exacerbate parasite/disease spread</p> |



Planning

- Consider nesting aids integrated into buildings
- Adapt nesting aids to the needs of the species to be promoted
- Plan near-natural habitats in the surroundings which support the nesting and dietary needs of the focal species

Implementation

- Install species-specific nesting aids
- Realize near-natural habitats in the immediate surroundings
- Realize nesting aids for insects in sunny locations

Maintenance

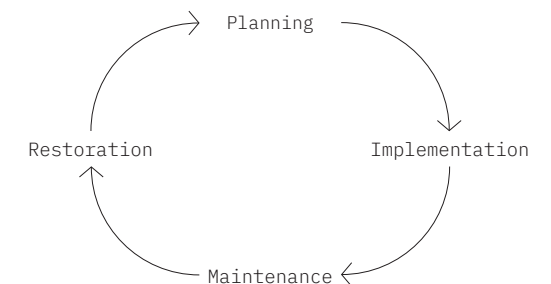
- Annual cleaning of bird nesting boxes
- Maintain habitats and the surrounding area near-naturally and extensively

Restoration

- Reutilization of material where possible
- Coordinate the timing of interventions with the needs of present species

Climatic requirements

No specific requirements. Various types of nesting aids exist. Choose location and placement according to the species to be promoted.



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Insect-Hotel (Valentin Klaus)



Artificial bird nests (Adobe Stock)



Common swift, Apus apus (Adobe Stock)



Barn swallow, Hirundo rustica (Adobe Stock)