

## Nest blocks and feeding grounds

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On our school area there are placed are some nest blocks (bird houses in German) and self-made feeding grounds for birds.

The feeding grounds are just to feed the animals with food and water while the nest boxes are created to keep the birds staying on our school ground.

### *Nest blocks:*

Nest boxes are built to create a protected place for breeding and let the birds take a break. Most birds have a body temperature of about 40°C. That is why they look for a shelter in winter. Not only birds but squirrels as well nest in these blocks.

Our nest boxes are created for cave bleeder such as tits or redstarts. They breed like their name says in caves. In the environment stone caves are very rare and are disappearing, there we can help with nest blocks.

### *Blu tits:*

Everyone has seen a blue tit at least once in the garden. They have blue and black wings and a yellow stomach. They are certainly appearing on our school area. The main food are insects which they find on trees or bushes. Caves and nests to breed are laid out with moss. In April they lay their eggs. Their main territory is the mixed forest. Nowadays we also find them in gardens and public parks. The blue tit stays here during winter, is not endangered and can fit itself to different conditions. In winter they eat leftover insects, nuts and seeds.

### *House sparrow*

The house sparrow can grow up to 16 cm, stays the whole year with us and is well recognisable because of its light stomach and the dark brown back. They nest in difference to blue tits in self-built nests in trees and bushes. Sometimes they also use nestblocks with big entrances. House sparrows aren't frightened of humans that's why they are so common and love to eat sandwich rests like pigeons.