

Install a sparrow terrace

Installing nest boxes provides extra areas for house sparrows to nest and so potentially increases the chances of successfully raising young. On Naturehood, you can find detailed instructions for building, installing and maintaining a sparrow terrace in your Naturespace.

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Why install a sparrow terrace?

Since the 1970s, house sparrow numbers have been gradually declining in the countryside and in our towns and cities too. The reasons for their decline aren't certain, but fewer insects during the nesting season and a lack of suitable nest sites are thought to play a part.

House sparrows are highly social and like to nest in groups. This means one nest box on its own is unlikely to be used. We recommend boxes that have space for three pairs to nest together. Even if they don't find it the first year other birds, like blue tits, may shelter there over night and other communal nesting birds like starlings may benefit too!

How to get started with your sparrow terrace

Building a sparrow terrace is a fun and cost effective way to help these wonderful birds. Head to the Naturehood platform for a helpful DIY guide. You can also purchase your own pre-made sparrow terrace, or put up a couple of nest boxes alongside each other to make your own sparrow neighbourhood.



As you install your sparrow terrace it's important to consider the direction it faces - avoid facing between south and west to prevent long hours of direct sunlight that can harm eggs and chicks. To raise the chance of sparrows moving in ensure the entrance hole is free from obstructions. For more tips head to the Naturehood platform!



Once your sparrow terrace is in place, make sure that you clean it annually between September and January. Sparrows and their chicks can leave the box in quite a mess, so cleaning it out helps to reduce the transmission of disease and parasites between years.



Make sure you tell us about your sparrow terrace! Head to the research tab on the Naturehood platform. Here you can record your sparrow terrace with the Me & My Naturespace survey and let us know if it's being used with the seasonal Naturespace Challenge. Taking part in this research will help to improve our understanding of how to help these wonderful birds.

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