

Why do birds build nests?

Expanding elastic!



There can be 2,000 feathers in the nest. A Long Tailed Tit can fly 600-700 miles collecting the feathers for its nest.

The nest of a Long Tailed Tit

The Long Tailed Tit makes a delicate nest. The nest is made from moss and spiders' cocoon silk. Then it is covered with lichen to camouflage it. It is filled with feathers to make it soft and warm. The nest is elastic and expands as the chicks grow inside.

Strong Sticks!



The nest of a Wood Pigeon

The Wood Pigeon uses sticks and twigs to build its nest. The sticks have been laid on top of each other.

- To lay their eggs in and keep them safe
- To incubate their eggs
- To raise their chicks
- For protection from predators
- For protection from weather

Birds are brilliant builders!

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour

The poster was devised by Anne Woodfield. Science Co-ordinator, Moss Park Infant School, Stretford. A.S.A.B. are very grateful to Prof. Mike Hansell (University of Glasgow) for kindly allowing permission to photograph nests in the National Nest Reference Collection at the Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow.

Photography by Anne Woodfield

Super Soft Moss!



The nest of a Scottish Crossbill

The nest of a Scottish Crossbill is made from twigs and moss. It is lined with soft materials such as animal fur and feathers.

Marvellous mud!



Birds use all sorts of materials to build their nests.

The nest of a House Martin

The House Martin uses mud to build its nest. The nest is lined with grass.

Fantastic at fixing!



The materials they use have different properties.

The nest of the Reed Warbler

The Reed Warbler lives in reed beds. The bird uses the reeds to support its nest.

Building by bending!



Birds and their amazing nests!

The nest of a Whitethroat

The nest of the Whitethroat is made from stalks of grass. The stalks have been bent to make the nest.

Lots of layers!



The nest of a Song Thrush

The Song Thrush uses twigs, moss and grass to make its nest. It lines its nest with a layer of mud.