

Making a bird table

Why build a bird table?

A bird table is an excellent way of offering food to your local birds and it also provides a better view for you, by enticing them back to the garden.

Gardens today are much tidier, so it is more difficult for the birds to find food. The preference for more colourful foreign plants also serves to reduce the native species where many birds find their food.

What you need...

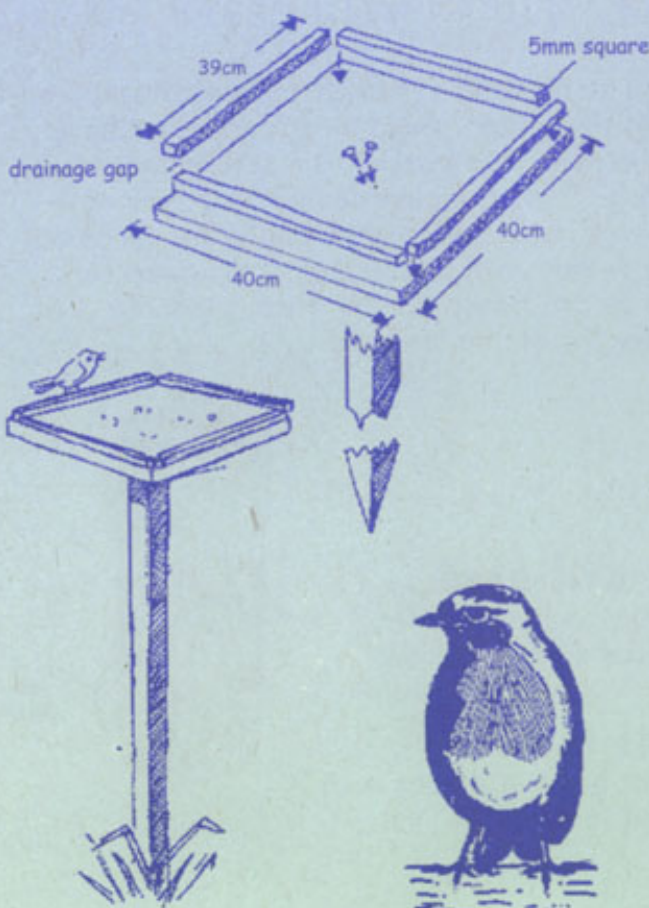
- piece of exterior plywood, roughly 40cm x 40cm. If this is not available, don't worry. Ordinary plywood won't last as long but it's easy to build a new table.
- a strip of wood about 1cm thick.
- a post about 1.5m high.
- glue
- nails
- a small hook
- saw & drill

What to do...

- 1) Drill a few holes in the plywood to allow for drainage.
- 2) Cut the strip of wood into 4 pieces of 40cm long. Glue and nail the strips of wood along the edge of the plywood ensuring that you leave a gap at each corner for cleaning purposes (see diagram).
- 3) Support your bird table on top of the post by nailing the plywood onto the post.
- 4) Attach a few hooks underneath the table and use them to hang bird feeders.

Tips for locating your bird table!

- Don't put your table within easy reach of a wall, fence or a tree from which a cat can leap.
- If possible place it near a bush which gives birds a place to 'queue up' for a place on the table, or to dash to if disturbed.



Making a bird bath

Birds need water all year round for both drinking and bathing. Putting a bird bath in your garden is another incentive for birds to visit.

Birds do not sweat as we do, they pant to keep cool by evaporating water from their mouths and lungs, rather like dogs.

During winter a bath helps them ensure that their feathers are in peak condition to help them survive the cold winter nights. It should be kept ice-free during the winter by breaking through the ice if necessary.

