

Nature Of Art In Wessex

Flying Bird Resource Pack



Nature of Art In Wessex is an innovative arts and nature project managed by **Salisbury International Arts Festival** which aims to increase communities' access to nature through art.

Funding until 2012 has been awarded by **Natural England** and the **Big Lottery Fund** to work with 6 communities in the South West and South East.

Nature of Art In Wessex addresses a growing need in Wessex for rural and urban communities to have good access to natural greenspace. The project encourages people to think about using their local natural spaces in creative and innovative ways.

For more information about **Nature Of Art In Wessex** contact
www.salisburyfestival.co.uk gjenya@salisburyfestival.co.uk 01722 331238

Salisbury
International
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Festival



FLYING BIRD RESOURCE PACK

Charlotte Moreton

A Nature of Art in Wessex Project

Make and decorate a flying bird for your garden or home

We are fortunate to have many species of bird native to this country. Lots of these live in our woodlands, hedges and gardens.

This resource pack guides you through making a flying bird that can be coloured to look like one of many thrush-sized birds, and can hang suspended from above or attach to a stick to go in a plant pot.

Those with access to the right tools can make a wooden version.

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Some of our garden birds
Try out some colourways
Cut out and make a flying bird
Template for flying bird
Make a wooden flying bird
More bird stuff

SCHOOL CURRICULUM LINKS

Science, design technology, art
Perfect for kinesthetic learners
Plenty of fun for all ages!



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FriendsLife

Dr. Elizabeth
2017-2018

NATURAL
ENGLAND

LOTTERY FUNDED

Here are a few of the many birds you may see around and about, and some rarer ones.

What colours would you like to use for your flying bird model?
The template is for thrush-sized birds but feel free to borrow colours from any bird or your imagination!

THRUSH FAMILY (21-27cms long, beak to tail)
You may see these in your garden or on walks nearby
Blackbird
Song thrush
Mistle thrush
Fieldfare
Redwing
Ring ouzel (you are unlikely to see these nearby!)

OTHER BIRDS OF ABOUT THE SAME SIZE
(and amazing colouring!)

Starling
Great spotted woodpecker
Golden oriole
Bee-eater (no, none in my garden either!)

BIGGER

Jay
Magpie
Green woodpecker or yaffle
Hoopoe

SMALLER

Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Bullfinch
Greenfinch
Robin
Sparrow
Kingfisher (by the river)



A juvenile blackbird found on the road. Take chances like this to study the shape of its wings.

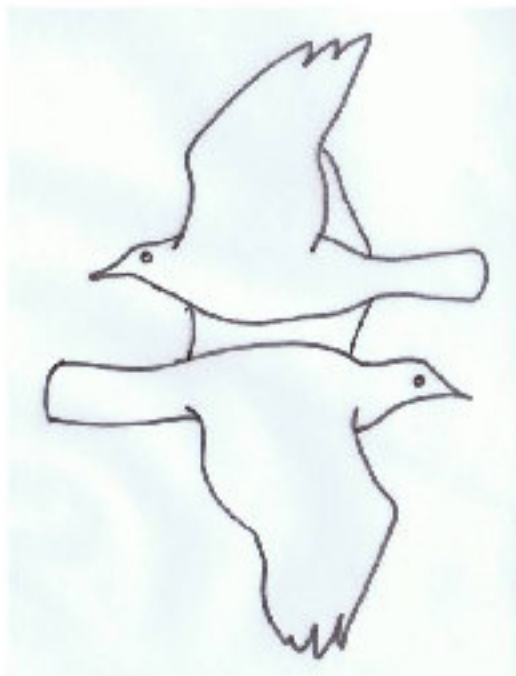
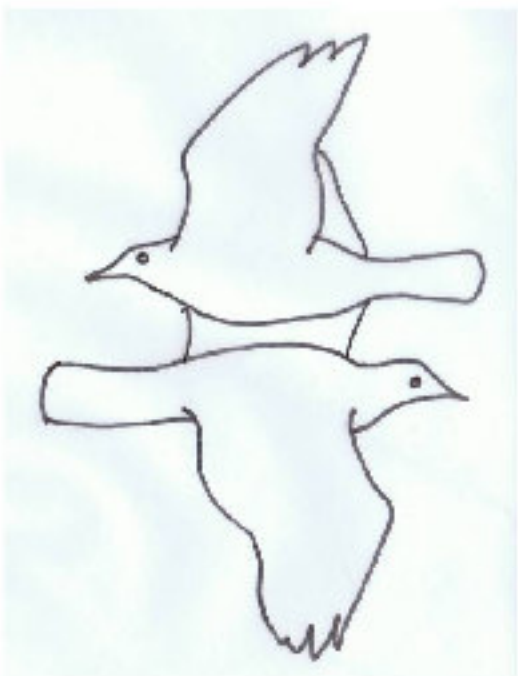
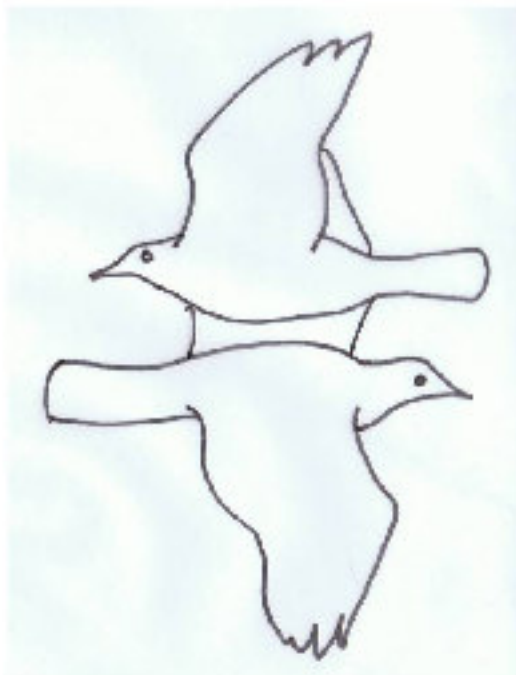
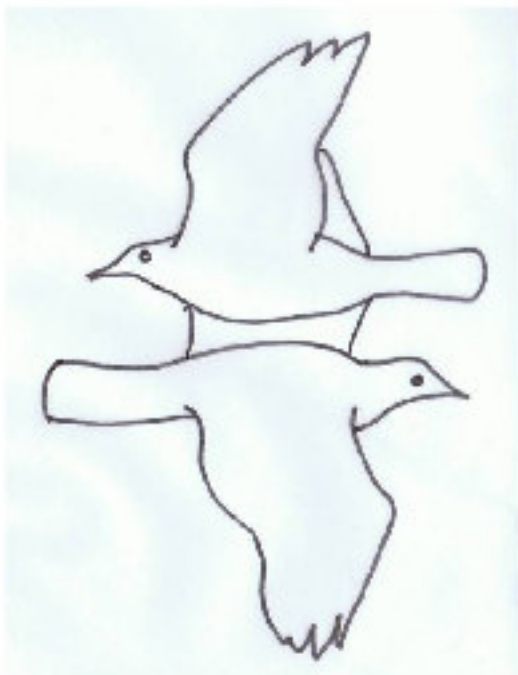
JUST A FEW THAT ARE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SIZE AND SHAPE,

Most sea-birds, with a smooth outline and long strappy wings.
Waders, with long spindly legs and often a long beak too.
Birds of prey have hooked beak and a less visible neck, and long fingery wings.
Swans, geese and ducks have a very long neck for grazing underwater weeds.
Swallows and swift, with sickle shaped wings and long forked tail.
Wagtails and longtailed tits have a tiny body and long tail, like a musical note!

Some native bird colour schemes



Try out some of your colourway ideas here



MAKING THE PAPER BIRD

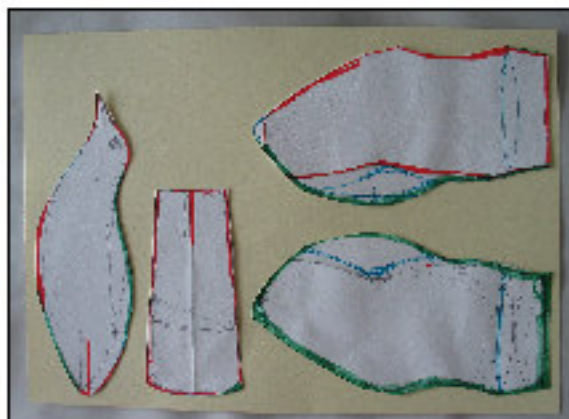
Trace, photocopy or draw freehand the bird design template onto card. You can also stick the paper shapes to card for strength.

Now's the time to adjust the design if you want your bird to be a different shape. You may need to adjust the position of the holes if the centre of gravity changes.

Colour your bird! Follow the wonderful markings of one of our native birds, or decorate in the most fanciful way you can imagine! Don't forget the reverse side.

Cut it out carefully, including the slots that join the tail to the body. Use clear tape to fasten the underside of the wing to the body, positioned along the dotted line. Tape on top too if you think it needs extra support.

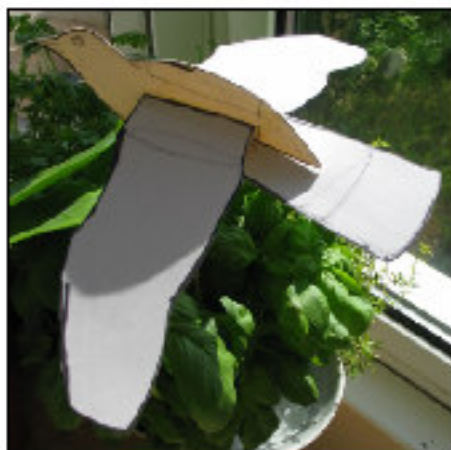
Make holes in the five places shown on the template: 2 at the base of each wing and one on the belly.



Thread string through the holes, tying a stop knot under each end. Make the wing loops the same length - about 30cms each. The base string can be shorter - try 20cms.

PLANT POT BIRD

Attach to a stick and put in a plant pot. A kebab skewer or light bamboo is ideal, or even a stray knitting needle!



HANGING BIRD

Knot some string through the holes and loop over a twig in the garden.



Hang a sea shell or other small weight from the bottom of the bird to help it to flap its wings with a bounce rather than flutter at the mercy of the wind.



WOODEN BIRD

The plywood version is a little more tricky to cut out, but worth it if you want something more durable for the garden.

Marine ply is recommended for outdoors (6mm thick).

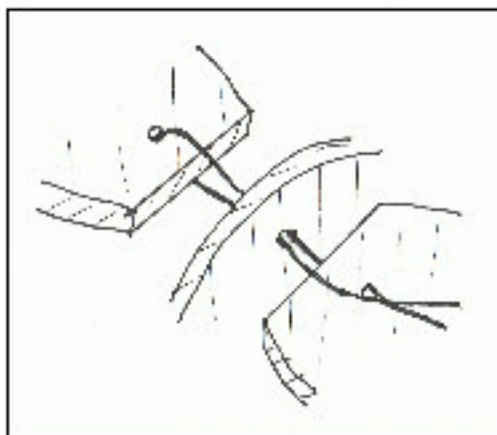
If you have the skills and safety equipment, cut out with a bandsaw or jig saw, or find a friend with the right tools to do it for you. How about a school Resistant Materials workshop?

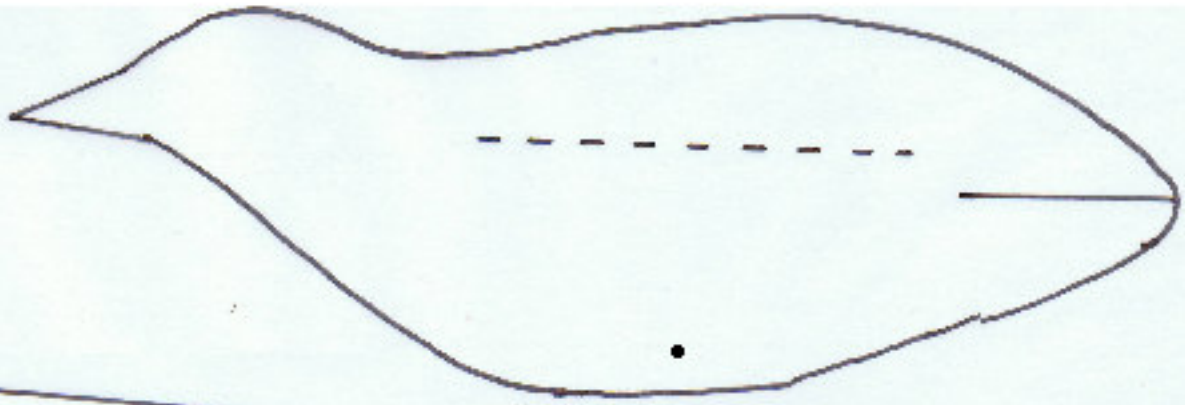
Drill holes where shown on the template. The holes are in different places to the card version because it is heavier.

Paint it as you like (acrylic paints or left over woodwork colours are best) and add a coat of varnish.

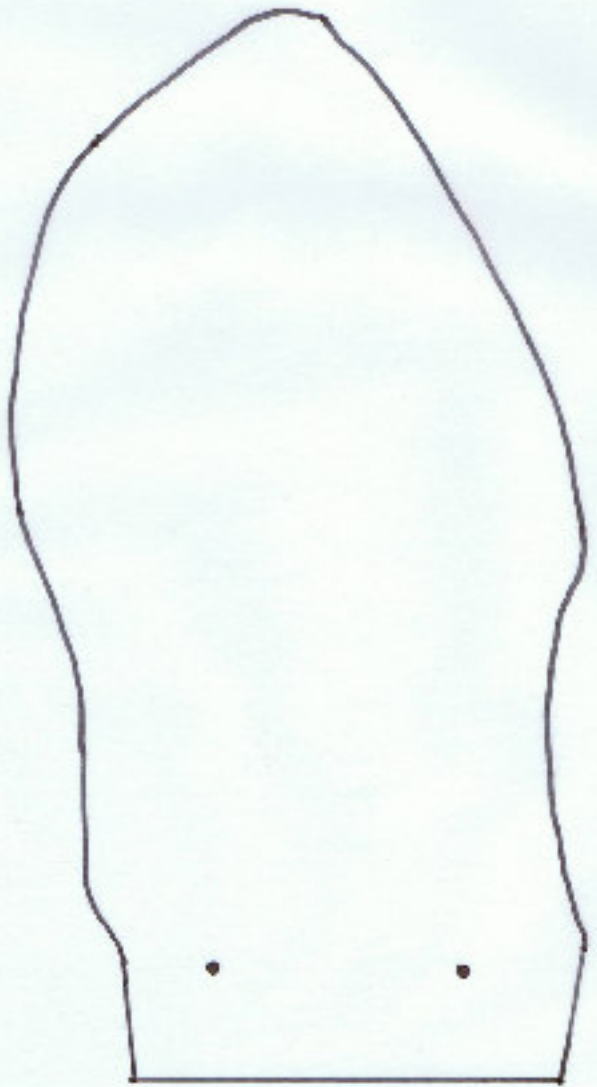
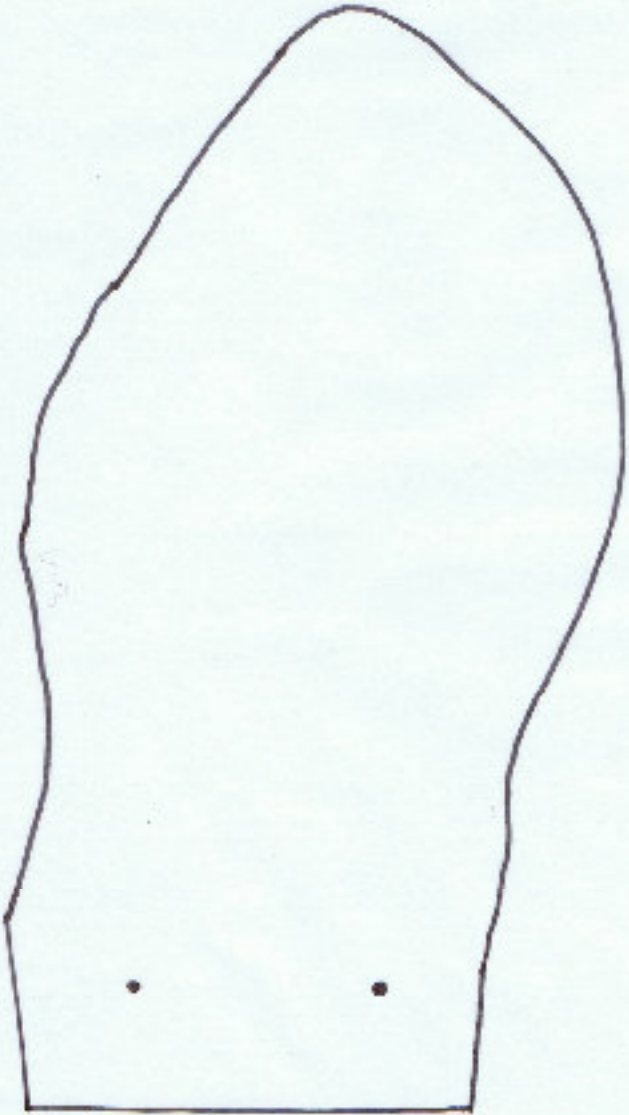
Use string, fishing line or electrical wire to tie the wings to the body. Pull tight and tie with a reef knot. Add two more strings, to suspend the bird and to add a weight underneath.

REEF KNOT





**FLYING BIRD PAPER
TEMPLATE**
Cut along the dark lines, including
the slots to fit body onto tail.
The dotted line is for positioning
the wings.



PLYWOOD FLYING
BIRD TEMPLATE



MORE BIRD STUFF

LOOK FOR BIRDS NESTS

Keep a look out for birds nests in the wild, but take care not to disturb them.

What might make a good nest site?

How about having a go at creating your own nest from twigs, leaves, moss and feathers?

It's quite tricky to make a nest that's as strong and neat as the real thing!



We cut hedges in late summer to avoid disturbing nesting birds. They may have more than one brood, so it's not just in spring.



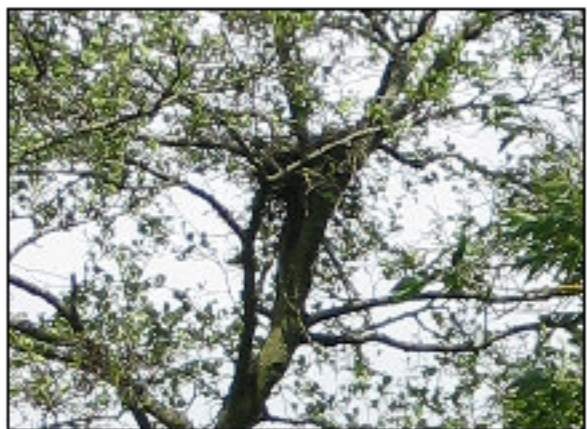
ENCOURAGE BIRDS TO VISIT YOUR GARDEN

Lots of our garden birds naturally live in woodland and hedges, so plant trees and shrubs for shelter, especially those that provide food too.

Plants with tasty berries for the birds (lots of these are poisonous for us):

Holly, elder (not too close to your washing line!), brambles, guelder rose, hawthorn, mistletoe.

Consider putting up a nest box and feeding the birds - you can get a huge range of bird feeders and food at local shops, and your unwanted toast may be popular too.



TUNE IN

Take time to sit quietly and listen. How many different birds can you hear?

