

Preserving Biodiversity on Campus

James Cox, Levels B1 - C2

“Reduction in numbers of one animal can have a chain effect on other species that are important to human beings. All animals play an important role in the ecosystem. The loss or reduction of certain species can have a flow-on effect, including an effect on human food and water sources that are critical to our survival.” *Globalteer Website*

As a keen birdwatcher for more than 50 years, I have had the misfortune to witness the rapid decline in bird numbers and species. Bird populations in France have declined by a third in 15 years. Fortunately, conservation projects, bird management schemes, and an increasing number and diversity of bird feeders and nesting boxes in urban areas have started to turn this decline around.



There is increasing evidence of a positive relationship between a person's connection to nature and their health and wellbeing. In this class, we will be considering how best we can help not only the birdlife, but also wildlife in general (and also as a consequence, human life) on the ENPC campus. What can we do to attract insects, birds and small mammals? How can we increase their numbers and diversity? What can be done to encourage them to breed here? What effect does this work have on us as students, citizens and human beings?

Students will create a website/blog to inform other students and staff of conservation progress and species diversity on campus. We will also consider the importance of wildlife and eco system conservation on species in general and more specifically on human beings.

Building and installing nesting boxes, designing and setting up feeding stations, planting favorable vegetation, monitoring numbers and species, identifying visually or by song are examples of things we could and should be doing.

Autonomy project: The autonomous work can be carried out individually or in pairs and should present an appropriate subject which can be shared with the rest of the class in spoken (formal presentation, video, etc) or written form (newsletter, blog, poster etc).

Evaluation: Students will be noted on their participation/engagement (50%) and relevant project/autonomous (50%) work.