

## Deri Woods Bird Boxes 2022

### Owl boxes

#### Tawny owl

As has been the pattern in recent years only one of the three owl boxes was used. A pair of tawny owls raised one youngster.

### Passerine boxes

Of the 53 boxes in the woodland 42 were used by birds this year which is about average. Hornets used one box and another was used by wasps. A new box was put under the road bridge this year and was immediately in use by dippers.

Quite a number of young died in the nests this year. This failure may be because of a run of cold wet days during the time a lot of adults were feeding young.

#### Blue tit

We had 19 blue tit nests, with 52 chicks fledging. In previous years from a similar number of nest boxes twice as many chicks fledged. 11 young died in box 13 (unlucky!) which was found on the ground probably as a result of squirrel activity.

#### Great tit

Great tits used seven boxes this year, again about average. 18 young fledged which, again, is somewhat down on previous years. There were no fatalities but the clutch sizes were very small. The largest clutch was five and the smallest just one.

#### Nuthatch

We now regularly get nuthatches using the nests boxes. They were first recorded in 2018. They used Box 48 and fledged seven young. Paul Roughley was able to ring the chicks and he was able to sex them too. There were three females and four males.

#### Pied flycatcher

The pied flycatchers had a difficult season. There were 13 nests, which is about average, with between five and seven eggs laid in each nest except one which remained empty. 41 young fledged but there were late stage casualties in most boxes.

All those that fledged were ringed by Paul Roughley and Paul was also able to ring some of the adults. The adult male using box 14 was a chick from box 36 back in 2018 and has not been recorded anywhere since. The adult female from box 27 was ringed as a chick at Wern To (near Newtown) in 2020.

Back in 2016 just four flycatcher nests were recorded in the woods. Over the subsequent couple of years this number rose to about 12 and has remained at about that figure since.

### **Dipper**

We put a bird box under the road bridge near the car park this year and very shortly afterwards a pair of dippers took up residence. They successfully fledged four young.