

Deri Woods Bird Boxes 2025

Owl boxes

Tawny owl

None of the three owl boxes were used this year. They show signs of having been used by squirrels over the winter and contain a lot of twigs and leaves which may have put off the owls. The boxes require cleaning out and also need some minor repairs.

Passerine boxes

Due to a combination of the felling work, storm damage and vandalism seven of the 53 bird boxes were missing at the start of the breeding season. As a result of this, plus generally lower blue tit and great tit numbers, overall occupancy was down. A total of 15 boxes were unoccupied and a further seven were occupied by bees or wasps.

New replacement boxes have now been installed.

Blue tit

We had 15 blue tit nests – which is getting towards only half the number we usually get. However they did well with successful fledging from all but 1 nest box. The early broods were nearly 100% successful but later broods suffered about a 50% casualty rate.

Great tit

Great tits occupied just three boxes this year again about half the usual number. They had very poor outcomes. Two nests completely failed and for the other one it was difficult to tell if the chicks had fledged or been predated just before fledging.

Nuthatch

The nuthatches didn't use the boxes this year but this is not unusual.

Pied flycatcher

We had nine pied flycatcher nests in the boxes this year. This is only slightly down on the usual dozen or so we've had in recent years. Breeding was successful with six nests fledging successfully and only a few casualties. As with the blue tits it was the earlier broods which were the most successful. One nest was abandoned

before eggs were laid. In the other two the chicks died before fledging.

Ringling revealed that one male had supporting two different nests, both of which were successful. This is not uncommon behaviour.

Other nest sites

The dipper box wasn't used this year. We observed a spotted woodpecker nest in one of the tall trees above the main track. The adults were feeding the young at the nest hole entrance. We also observed many newly fledged song thrush, blackbird and robin chicks in the woods but we did not come across their nest sites.