

Quakers Coppice Nest Box Breeding Results - 2009

Bill and I have recently 'taken on' the bulk of the work of visiting and recording the nest boxes in Quakers Coppice on the Business Park in Crewe. Previously Colin Lythgoe and Bryan Perkins undertook these duties, but their moral, technical and ornithological support continues and is much appreciated.

There are 22 small nest boxes and 15 larger hole (Stock Dove) boxes which were visited this year on a weekly basis from late April to middle of June – 9 visits in total. Not all of the boxes were occupied during the survey and the Stock Dove results are incomplete as their breeding season extends well beyond our visiting period.

Colin commented in Sept '08 newsletter that it was a "*disastrous year for breeding success*" - we are heartened to report that it has not been repeated in 2009. Both Tit species show the same number of nest boxes occupied, but an increase, again by both species, of eggs laid and chicks fledged. Consequently the 'productivity' has also increased.

What follows is a summary of the data compiled from the small hole boxes. A more substantial report will appear in the SECOS Bird Report 2009, space allowing, published early next year.

In keeping with tradition in this Newsletter, we offer the five years data for comparison ...

Blue Tit

Year	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledges	Productivity (i.e. fledges ÷ nests)
2009	10	111	94	59	5.9
2008	10	90	76	8	0.8
2007	12	108	86	55	4.6
2006	14	133	99	54	3.9
2005	12	103	84	26	2.2

Great Tit

Year	Nests	Eggs	Hatched	Fledges	Productivity (i.e. fledges ÷ nests)
2009	7	50	45	38	5.4
2008	7	45	32	12	1.7
2007	6	36	33	21	3.5
2006	7	50	20	16	2.3
2005	5	32	23	5	1.0

Blue Tit productivity is the highest since 2004 (7.4) average (since '85) 6.8
Great Tit productivity is the highest 2002 (7.3) average (since '85) 5.3

Stock Doves occupied 9 boxes, laid 18 eggs, 14 hatched and 6 fledged during the visiting period.

Bill Fox and John Thompson