

Weir Wood Reservoir – West End Nature Reserve 2024 Small Nest Box Survey Results

Table 1 shows how our 109 small nest boxes were used.

Table 2 shows the results of the 61 full nests produced by birds.

The figures in brackets () represent the 2023 Survey results for comparison.

Table 1

Full nests by birds	61	(49)
Unfinished nests by birds	16	(8)
Used by bees	0	(2)
Used by mice	2	(10)
Not Used	30	(44)
Total small boxes	109	(113)

Table 2

Species	Boxes used.	Total Birds fledged	Birds Found dead in box	Cold eggs found in box
Blue Tit	35 (30)	130 (161)	55 (20)	9 (5)
Great Tit	23 (16)	97 (80)	0 (4)	12 (9)
Nuthatch	1 (1)	2+ (4)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Treecreeper	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)
Marsh Tit	1 (1)	6 (6)	1 (0)	0 (0)
Wren	0 (1)	-	-	-

The cold wet weather in the spring had an adverse effect on the number of insects and caterpillars.

Adult Blue Tits primarily feed their chicks with insects and normally rely on plentiful numbers of caterpillars. Lack of food was the probable reason for the high mortality rate seen in the Blue Tits for this year and the reduced number of fledged birds compared to 2023.

Great Tits seem to have fared much better.

More pleasing was another successful brood of 6 fledged Marsh Tits. Nuthatch successfully fledged young, total unknown but at least 2 young were seen. Treecreeper nest had eggs, but no fledging confirmed.