

Nest Box Update - 20 September 2016

This update follows on from our Summer Newsletter. Some attempt to breed was made in 34 of our 36 large boxes during 2016. The most frequent users are Stock Doves. They have a high failure rate and one box may see as many as four attempts. Two boxes still have chicks in mid September. Mandarin are also frequent users. This has been a very productive year for them. They have benefited from our control of North American Mink since the 2015 season which was blighted by water-bird predation. In one box we had a very unusual event with one successful Mandarin nest being followed by another. Sadly the predation losses of young Mandarin once they are out of the box are high; so not all will make adulthood. Although Barn Owls were seen in both Whillett's and Pintail Point boxes no eggs were laid. For the first time for several years two boxes were used by Tawny Owls. 2015 saw our first use by Jackdaws. This year we had four nest but only one fledged young. There was a cold and wet period that adversely affected tits and other small birds.

Species	Failed Nest Attempts	Successful Nest Attempts	Young leaving box
Stock Dove	18	15	23
Mandarin	7	11	132
Jackdaw	3	1	3
Tawny Owl	1	1	3

Of our 135 small boxes, 54 were finally used, which is in line with normal expectations for tit box usage. But fledged numbers were lower due to the adverse spring weather. Blue Tit – 121 fledged. Great Tit – 73 fledged. Treecreeper - 11 fledged. Nuthatch – 2 boxes had broods that fledged successfully. Robin – 2 fledged from 1 box.

Phil Holland & Bob Johnson