

Holt Copse Conservation Volunteers (HCCV) : Use of Nest Boxes, 2022 (Year 17)

It was only possible to check about half of the nest boxes last winter when over 65 per cent were found to have been used. Eleven boxes (over 73 per cent) designed for tits had been used, and they had also used 4 boxes designed to attract other species. Most nests were empty or had a single egg suggesting most broods fledged successfully. One nest, however, contained the skeletons of 9 chicks that died most probably because some thing happened to one or both parents.

None of the boxes examined had been used by nuthatches, although the box used regularly by this species in previous years was not checked. Encouragingly both owl boxes had been used (almost certainly by tawny owls). Generally one or other but not both boxes are used. Tawny owls are highly territorial and we believed the boxes were too close together, so two years ago we moved one box into what we hoped was another territory and it will be interesting to see what happens in this and subsequent seasons.

Nest Box Locations

This year the team also recorded the location of the nest boxes using the mapping application “what three words” (WTW). This has allowed the team to create a map of the inspected nest boxes.

To use WTW you will need to install the app on your phone to access the list. The list can be found here: [what3words Link](#) and we encourage you to try to find them when they are in Copse.

Nest Box Type	Used	Not used	Comments
Small hole boxes (Stone)	10	4	One nest with 1 egg; one with an adult bird or almost full grown chick.
Small hole Boxes (Wood)	1		
Small hole with spout	1		One egg
Open fronted			
Tree creeper	1	3	But used by tits.
Nuthatch	2	2	Both used by tits; one with 9 skeletons.
Owl	2	0	One unhatched egg in each nest.
Total	17	9	c. 65 per cent of nests occupied, a slightly lower percentage than average.

Mike Saynor and the ‘Nest box’ team (Rowan Tizzard, Guy Grannum, Jose Gallart and Ian Hydon
April 2023

Map of Nest Boxes, 2022 (Year 17)



Full report of Nest Boxes, 2022 (Year 17)

Below is the full list report with direct links to the what three word location and a description of the nest.

Date	No.	Used	Type	Location	Comments
04/02/2023	53	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	ramp.rash.meals	
04/02/2023	1A	No	Small hole Boxes (Wood)	worked.ruby.tall	
04/02/2023	31	Yes	Tree creeper	paper.silver.elder	
04/02/2023	8	Yes	Owl	wide.handle.plots	1 egg
04/02/2023	9	Yes	Nuthatch	crass.served.fries	9 Skeletons flat nest blue or coal tit. No
04/02/2023	15	No	Nuthatch	when.groom.mint	Wasp nest
04/02/2023	13	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	basic.flesh.hurls	No eggs or skeleton
04/02/2023	62	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	even.clay.flock	Blue tit dead parent bird in nest
04/02/2023	6	Yes	Tree creeper	legs.marked.flags	Blue tits nest
04/02/2023	26	Yes	Small hole with spout	union.wiped.spout	Great tit 1 egg box full of moss
04/02/2023	14	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	bonds.turns.plays	blue tit no eggs
04/02/2023	43	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	sharp.oppose.stars	Used nest simple nest no eggs blue tit
04/02/2023	4	No	Tree creeper	those.played.outpu	Droppings
04/02/2023	2	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	asset.zest.dads	Great tit nest no eggs chicks or skeletons
04/02/2023	I 2	Yes	Small hole Boxes (Wood)	rocky.trendy.saints	Used needs drainage holes drilled
18/02/2023	11	Yes	Tree creeper	scans.bound.mats	
18/02/2023	33		Tree creeper	forgot.skills.pints	
18/02/2023	17	No	Small hole boxes (Stone)	flags.indoor.fortun	
18/02/2023	18		Small hole boxes (Stone)	preoccupied.branc	
18/02/2023	61	No	Small hole boxes (Stone)	plug.twigs.boom	
18/02/2023	29		Tree creeper	stays.rate.themes	
18/02/2023	41	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	fall.volunteered.ric	Great tit nest 1 egg
18/02/2023	40	Yes	Small hole boxes (Stone)	flows.trades.shows	Blue tit flat nest no eggs
18/02/2023	46	Yes	Nuthatch	funded.next.tribe	Large blue tit best 1 egg
18/02/2023	I3			shelf.fork.fees	New installation
18/02/2023	19	Yes	Small hole with spout	drag.dining.congra	Blue tit flat nest no eggs or skeletons
18/02/2023	36	Yes	Owl	drew.stamp.bags	Cracked front Owl box 1 egg no skeletons
18/02/2023	I1	No	Small hole Boxes (Wood)	rots.parts.couple	
18/02/2023	I4			season.pigs.album	New installation