

## Sharphill Wood nest box usage 2012

(based on survey January 2013 by John Elwell, Rod Jones, Joyce Malmo, Phil Miller, Richard Steer)

Boxes 1 to 27 were installed winter 2009/2010, and boxes 28 to 53 were installed winter 2011/2012.

Number	Area	Diameter (mm)	Signs of usage previous year	Signs of usage 2012
1	East edge		Some droppings	Empty
2	East edge		Blue tits seen and chicks heard during summer	Empty
3	East edge		Empty	Empty
4	East side	25	Empty	Nest present
5	East side		Some droppings	Empty
6	East side		Some moss (left in situ)	Empty
7	East side	25	2 unhatched blue tit eggs, nest containing badger or dog hair	Empty
8	East side		Some droppings	Empty
9	East side		Empty	Empty
10	East side	25	Empty	Empty
11	East side		Some enlargement of hole	Empty
12	East side	25	Empty	Nest present (Blue Tit?)
13	East edge	32	Some enlargement of hole (was 28mm)	Nest present
14	East side	32	Empty	Nest present
15	East side	25	Some moss (left in situ)	Nest present
16	East side		Hole had been enlarged by woodpecker	Empty
17	East side	25	Empty	Nest present
18	East central	32	Some enlargement of hole	Nest present

19	East side		Woodpecker damage	Empty
20	East central	32	Empty	Nest present
21	East central		Some enlargement of hole	Empty
22	East central		Woodpecker damage	Empty
23	East central		Empty	Nest present with 5 small whitish unhatched eggs (possibly blue tit)
24	East central		Empty	Empty
25	East central		Woodpecker damage, possible predation	Start of nest
26	East central		Empty	Empty
27	East side		2 dead chick skeletons	Nest present
28	East central		Not installed	Empty
29	East central		Not installed	Empty
30	East central		Not installed	Empty
31	East central		Not installed	Empty
32	East central		Not installed	Empty
33	East central		Not installed	Empty
34	East central		Not installed	Fairly large nest, with 2 abandoned chicks result
35	East central		Not installed	Nest present (lots of moss)
36	East central		Not installed	Empty
37	East central		Not installed	Empty
38	East central		Not installed	Empty
39	East central		Not installed	Empty
40	South end		Not installed	Empty
41	South end		Not installed	Empty
42	South end		Not installed	Empty
43	South end		Not installed	Empty

44	South end		Not installed	Empty
45	South end		Not installed	Empty, dead mouse on top
46	South end		Not installed	Evidence of visit, but no nest
47	South end		Not installed	Empty
48	South end		Not installed	Evidence of visit, but no nest
49	South end		Not installed	Empty
50	South end		Not installed	Empty
51	South end		Not installed	Empty

**Summary:**

There were nests present in 12 of the 51 boxes, 10 of which were in the 27 older boxes and only 2 in the 24 newer boxes. This suggests that birds may prefer more weathered boxes or more familiar boxes, or simply that nests were sought before we installed the new ones in January 2012. Usage of these older boxes appeared to be significantly greater than in 2011. How many of these nests led to fledged youngsters it is impossible to tell, but one contained dead chicks and another contained unhatched eggs.