

## The Use of Nest Boxes Along the Emm in 2010

### Along the Emm

Type	Riverside Walk		Emmbrook Walk		Total		Comments
	Used	Not used	Used	Not used	Used	Not used	
<b>Small hole boxes</b>	8	0	6	0	14	0	A single egg in 5 boxes, so probably infertile, but 5 eggs in a sixth, so possibly something happened to at least one adult? One box (with 'spout', No. 13) occupied by a nuthatch – based on nest contents and construction.
<b>Open fronted</b>	1	1	0	2	1	3	This design seldom used. The occupied one sited under a bridge, an ideal location for grey wagtails. Plan to move some of these boxes.
<b>Tree-creeper</b>	0	1	3 (1*)	1	3	2	The unused boxes were not been used in previous seasons either, so were taken down and will be relocated. * One box contained a nest typical of a tit rather than a tree creeper. Must repair the fixings on No 16 – opposite the kingfisher box.
<b>Wren</b>	1	1	0	0	1	1	The unused box contained much fine, soil-like material and masses of the cast skins of earwigs.
<b>Kingfisher</b>	0	0	0	1	0	1	Still no success with the kingfisher box!
<b>Owl</b>	0	0	1	0	1	0	Bottom of the nest made up of solid, grey material, similar to that in one of the owl boxes in Holt Copse. No eggs or remains of prey such as small bones or owl pellets..
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>74.1 per cent of the nests were used compared with 73.1 per cent in 2009 (when one fewer box was examined)!</b>

The nest boxes were taken down, checked and cleaned between December 2010 – January 2011 and the results, with comments are shown in the tables. As in previous season, most nest boxes in all three areas were used, mainly by tit species (probably blue, coal or great tits). They not only used the boxes with small, circular holes intended for them, but they also used many of the boxes designed to attract nuthatches or tree creepers, although some of these boxes were also used by the intended species

All three owl boxes were used (possibly by tawny owls), but this cannot be positively confirmed. Some of the nest contents (building materials and droppings) were retained for future identification and comment by more experienced ornithologists.

**Mike Saynor**

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