

Lymm Golf Club Wildlife & nest box scheme

Inspected May 18th 2010

	Position	Brood	date
No1	On green keepers sheds	Blue Tits (unable to access box)	May 18th
No2 black	Tree left 10 th fairway entrance	none	
No3	Left 10 th Tee above halfway house	4 Great Tits	
No4	Right 10 th Tee	none	
No5	Right of 9 th green	Nest built but no brood	
No6	Left 9 th Tee Tree creepers	none	
No7	Copse between 6&7 th F'way	8 Blue tits	
No8	Approach to 12 th Tee	9 Great Tits	
No9	Tree between 15&16 th F'way	9 Great Tits	
No10	East side of clubhouse	None	
No11	Right 2 nd Green	7 Blue Tits	
No12	Left of 8 th green	9 Great Tits	
No13	Tree left 4 th F'way	13 Blue Tits *	
No14	Tree between 3 rd green & 4 th Tee	7 Great Tits	
No15	Copse Rt. 18 th F'way towards green	5 Eggs in nest but abandoned. Possible squirrel disturbance	
No 16	Right of 3 rd Green	6 Blue Tits	

The nest box scheme was very successful this year, unlike a couple of years ago, the reason being that this year there was calm, dry weather for the weeks after the young birds hatched, which meant there was an abundance of insects, caterpillars etc, for the young birds to be fed on. Praise must go to Stuart and the golf committee for managing the course in an environmentally responsible way: leaving areas of natural grassland (which the R&A and STRI are pushing hard for golf clubs to do) has encouraged butterflies, insects, beetles, voles and field mice etc. which can only improve our enjoyment of the flora and fauna whilst playing.

There were only two pairs of Greenfinches nesting this year; both pairs used the conifer bushes on the practice putting green. Over the last five years there has been an alarming decline in the Greenfinch population due mainly to a disease called Trichomoniasis, apparently related to the disease that devastated T.REX (not the pop group!). It causes their throats to swell up, stopping them swallowing. Half a million are believed to have starved in 2007 alone.

Putting feed out for birds is essential to help sustain them during the winter, but can you please make sure you clean the feeders on a regular basis.

Whilst on the subject of feeding declining species, if you wish to help Hedgehogs, do NOT leave out milk or bread. Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant which gives them raging diarrhoea. The best food for Hedgehogs is dog food.

There was only one record of the beautiful Goldfinch nesting this year in a tree to the East of the clubhouse.

The Gold finch is well featured in medieval art particularly Italian motifs, and is depicted as Christ's role of martyr & saviour, often depicted on a thorn bush from which the crown of thorns was made.



Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Every year there is always one unusual nest: this year a pair of Blue Tits built a nest inside the backwall of the Coronation hut where a piece of the boarding had fallen loose.

Other nests were:-

Great Spotted Woodpecker raised two young in a tree to left of 15th fairway.

Long Tailed Tits left of 3rd tee in gorse bush

Carrion Crow behind 6th tee

Blackcap behind 7th tee

Whitethroat right of 12th tee in undergrowth and another pair on the bank in bramble to right of 11th fairway.

The best hidden nest was found by Johnny Johnson: a Chaffinch's deep in a gorse bush behind the 9th green which fledged five young.



Chaffinch in gorse behind 9th green

And finally in the field to right of 12th green, a rare Grasshopper warbler was heard calling regularly, which would suggest breeding.

Sadly no Blackbird nests were found this year which is probably due to the fact that they have an open nest and would have been predated on by the vermin squirrels.

Apart from the normal wealth of wildflowers I found another small stand of Marsh Orchid to the rear of the practice ground. These were translocated to the same area as the other orchid i.e. the wild area left of 18th path, the reason being that the practice area will shortly have a hard standing practice booth built there.



Taken July 10th 2010 rear of practice ground

Brian Ankers