

Breeding Birds in Nestboxes, Wyre Forest, 2010-2019

ROSEMARY WINNALL WITH ANDY SPENCER

In March 2020 I had an email from Simon Roberts asking if we'd had successful breeding of Pied Flycatchers in Wyre in 2019 as he'd had none recorded in his Malvern nestbox survey for the first time since it started in the 1970s.

In the Wyre Forest Study Group REVIEW 2009 Andy Spencer wrote about the method and results of his Wyre nestbox scheme which he'd taken over from Dave Fulton in 2002.

https://wyreforest.net/wp-content/uploads/Bird_Articles/2009-Bird-Boxes-in-the-Wyre-Forest_optimize.pdf

So, I contacted Andy to obtain an update ten years on.

Andy studies the population dynamics and survival rates of Redstarts and Pied Flycatchers in particular and has nest boxes in Knowles Coppice, the Betts Reserve, New Parks and Town Coppice.

In 2009 he noted that Pied Flycatcher nests in his sites were decreasing and Redstart numbers were increasing. But in the next ten-year period numbers of nests have remained steady even with fewer nest boxes (see table below).

Andy also noted that his boxes often had other birds nesting in them such as tits and Nuthatches, and occasionally they are taken over by hornets and dormice (photos).

Unfortunately, Andy was unable to complete his survey in 2020 because of coronavirus restrictions. It will be interesting to see how these breeding birds fare over the next ten years.



Pied Flycatcher on eggs

Andy Spencer



Redstart nest

Andy Spencer

Year	No. of sites	No. of boxes	Redstart nests	Pied Flycatcher nests
2010	6	400	4	5
2011	6	380	6	6
2012	4	350	5	6
2013	4	340	6	5
2014	4	331	7	6
2015	4	321	6	7
2016	4	310	6	7
2017	4	290	5	6
2018	4	260	5	7
2019	4	232	6	7

Nest boxes checked in Knowles Coppice, Betts Reserve, New Parks and Town Coppice by Andy Spencer.

Wyre Forest Study Group

